

## Monticello ambulance contract denied again

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Jefferson Township Advisory Board members met Thursday night at the home of township trustee Harold Erdmann. Members decided to approach Carroll County Commissioners at Monday night's meeting to request permission for the second time - to contract with Monticello Fire Department to provide ambulance service for the remainder of the year. The same request was denied by county leaders at the April 6 commissioners' meeting. "I'm back again," Erdmann said as he approached the podium. "We'd like to ask for consideration again."

Erdmann said response time was the most important consideration for township residents. Many who appeared at the meeting in the hope of a different ending demanded county budgetary issues, procedure and protocol be explained. The sole commissioner who supported them in the first attempt to proceed with the contract also supported the action again. Bill Brown said the budget reductions which led to the elim-

ination of the ambulance based at Yeoman was the most difficult reduction to endure. He blamed the county council for not providing the funds for the service to continue at the previous level.

"We need to step up to the plate and pay for four ambulances in this county," he said.

Brown made the motion, which received no second, for the commissioners to support the contract.

"There is not one of us here who doesn't want you to have coverage," Pat Clawson, who is also a volunteer fire fighter, told the crowd. "It's not that we're trying to deny you ambulance service. I'm not so sure the township is going to get better service (with Monticello)."

Clawson noted the township contracts with Monticello for approximately \$55,000 for fire protection already. He said ambulance personnel and fire fighters are the same people.

"I hope and believe Monticello will honor the mutual aid agreement," he said. "We all took an oath."

Clawson and Brown told the Jefferson Township residents to attend county

council meetings during budget development and demand that council members appropriate enough money for more staffed ambulances in the county.

E-911 coordinator Jay Dee Cree explained the proposed contract would "piecemeal" the county because surrounding counties would expect to be paid to provide mutual aid to Carroll County. He said the arrangement with Monticello could lead to the depletion of income for the Carroll County service.

Jefferson Township resident Beth Rudd, who urged commissioners to allow the township to enter into the contract, questioned the significance of the threat of income loss. She said response time was more important.

"At the end of the day, it's not worth losing one person for \$40,000," she said.

According to Erdmann, the Jefferson Township Advisory Board will meet April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Yeoman Golf Course community building to decide how to proceed.

### Highway department

Highway engineer Paul Coutts explained the cost to the county to rehabilitate and raise the Tioga Bridge would

be \$36,700, or 40 percent of the cost for the entire project with the City of Monticello. He said Monticello did not seem to have enough money to complete the project. He said the city was "counting on stimulus money" to make up the difference.

"I question in my mind how beneficial the bridge is for Carroll County," he said.

Coutts said "speaking frankly" he was not sure how much Carroll County would gain from the project. He suggested gifting the county-owned portion to Monticello to allow that entity to proceed with the project if it chose to do so.

"I think that idea is the best," Clawson said. "We don't have enough money to spend on bridges we drive across. It's a liability instead of an asset."

"I wouldn't vote against giving it to them," Brown said. "The majority of the benefits are for White County."

Coutts was directed to pursue the possibility of giving the county-owned portion of the bridge to the City of Monticello. He was further directed to research the cost of demolition.

Coutts said because good weather is

expected, highway workers would address pot holes "in a big fashion" Wednesday through Friday. He encouraged residents to report pot holes by calling (574) 967-4244.

### Courthouse maintenance

Bid acceptance for renovation and repair of the courthouse (roof and tuck pointing) was tabled until the May 4 meeting.

### Cumulative capital projects

Council president Ann Brown detailed plans to establish a budget for the cumulative capital projects fund. She said a budget for the use of the money would provide for capital improvement purchases, such as new sheriff's cars on a regular basis, a new roof or repairs for Carroll Manor.

"It permits some planning ahead," she said. "In the long run, we think we can save money."

Brown said the council also proposed to establish a council budget, at least a part-time county manager and a budget for legal counsel for the county council. She said those items, although not nec-

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## Deputy prosecutor leaves position

### Full-time replacement sought

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Carroll County Prosecutor Tricia Thompson confirmed Tuesday that, as of Friday, deputy prosecutor Christine Smith is no longer employed with the county. Thompson said she is doing all of the legal work in the office this week. She said her brother, Lebanon attorney Troy Thompson, will provide professional support during the transition. The prosecutor said she does

not expect a disruption in caseload flow.

"I don't want to start speculation where there is none," Thompson said. "We parted amicably. I will advertise for someone to fill the position on a full-time basis."

"There will be no disruption of service in the county prosecutor's office because of this change," she concluded.

Thompson said she will search for Smith's replacement with the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council.



Smith

## Prediction: Tax bills to go out in July

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

There are seven steps involved in the process to prepare annual tax bills for property taxpayers each year. One of the most challenging hurdles to overcome is the certification by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) of the current year's budget appropriations. That is step number four. For that step, it will be necessary for the county auditor to send information to the state for approval. According to the DLGF Web site, Carroll County is working on step number three.

County auditor Beth Myers explained Tuesday to Carroll County Council members there is a computer glitch with the numerical interpretation of information provided by the assessor's office. She said she expected the issue to be resolved in a matter of days at which time she will be able to submit the budget for DLGF review.

"Carroll County tax bills are

expected to be ready for taxpayers in July," Myers said.

Myers presented the 2008 annual county fiscal report to the council at the meeting. The report, which will be printed in the *Comet* in the near future, indicates the county general fund began 2008 with \$474,493.20 and ended the year with \$1,569,308.16. Receipts for the

See *Tax bills* page 5A

## Roadside clean-up yields dividends in more ways than one



Sheriff Tony Burns supervised a crew of non-violent offenders from the Carroll County Jail as they pulled tires and other debris from county roadsides and ditches last Thursday. The county highway department worked in conjunction with the sheriff to provide the equipment needed to haul away the debris. Burns said while the crew was working on "Lovers' Lane" off of Bicycle Bridge Road near Delphi, a call was received from a resident in the Rockfield area requesting a crew remove debris from a nearby gravel road. "The inmates were glad for the opportunity to leave the facility on such a nice day," Burns said. "That it benefited the community was a big plus." The sheriff implemented the inmate worker crew program last year. He encourages residents to call his office at (765) 564-2413 to report large amounts of trash left on county roadsides and ditches. Burns said information found in the trash on Thursday led to a citation for Jeremy Rush, 21, of Rockfield. Photos provided



## Delphi UMC dedicates prayer field

Following worship services on Sunday, members of Delphi United Methodist Church gathered to dedicate a prayer field on the site of their future church. Although it was a cloudy rainy day the rain subsided long enough for the short worship service to take place. Pastor Todd Ladd led the people in prayers for the community and in a prayer of commitment to accomplish the large vision before them.

The prayer field is comprised of three crosses and some benches so people may gather at the site just south of Delphi Community High School. Members gathered to pray and talk about what will happen in the coming years as Delphi United Methodist Church plans to expand its current ministries by relocating to that location in a few years.

The purpose of the prayer field is for anyone to come,

pray and spend some quiet reflective moments connecting with God. In addition those connected with the ministries of the church are encouraged to use that site to pray for future work on the grounds, for safety during construction, and for good relationships to be built along with a solid building.

Ground breaking is not yet set as the United Methodist Church is still in early design phase work. At this time more work is needed to complete plans and conduct a capital campaign to raise funds for the new structure.

In the meantime, people are gaining excitement for the coming plans. Pastor of Out-

reach and Connections Sheri Rohrer said "These are exciting times as we lay a solid foundation of prayer in connecting the church and the world through innovative avenues."

The church is continuing its normal slate of activities including Vacation Bible School on July 20-24.



Church begins relocation process  
Delphi United Methodist pastor Todd Ladd leads a service Sunday dedicating a prayer field just south of Delphi Community High School. Photo provided



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