

## County fair opens Friday

### Comet staff report

The 2009 Carroll County 4-H Fair will open Friday evening in Flora and continue through the following Friday, July 17. In addition to 4-H activities and livestock shows, Flora Community Club will be sponsoring a free concert series, pony rides, and motorcycle stunt show. Food vendors will be set up throughout the week. Friday evening, July 10, the 4-H Fashion Show will be held at 7 p.m. in the show arena. The concert series will kick-off with 2008 American Idol finalist Amanda Overmyer. She will perform from 7-9 p.m. in front of the Merchant's Building. Overmyer is promoting her new album, "Solidify," a product of her grassroots approach to music. She uses local musicians in her band and will be available after the concert for autographs. Pony rides at \$5 each will be offered Friday through Tuesday. On Monday, July 13, there will be a Pet Parade at 5:30 p.m. on the basketball

court and at 6:30 p.m. an Antique Tractor Drive will take place inside the fairgrounds. The Merchant's Building is opening, too, on Friday evening and will be open each evening throughout the fair. The 52nd annual 4-H Fair Queen Pageant will be Saturday evening at 7 in the show arena. Nine young women are vying for the title. A bicycle rodeo will be held at 4 p.m. and a pedal tractor pull at 7. The 4-H Parade will be Sunday at 2 p.m., with line-up starting at 1 p.m. at Jackson-Lee-Pearson. The parade will continue up Clark Street, proceed north on Center Street, then east on Main to the park. Prizes will be given for first, second, and third place floats. Parade marshals are Merritt "Dude" and Maralee Hardt. This year's theme is "4-H - Discover Your Treasure." Carroll County Kid's Day will be Sunday, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Merchant's Building. Sponsored by the Tobacco Prevention Coalition, this

free event will feature health information and fun. The concert series will continue Sunday west of the tennis courts (near Shelter 15), featuring His Reflection and Malachi Jagers. His Reflection - Dan Galema and Ginny Yoder - will perform from 3:30 to 4:30. The pair has been singing together since 1985 and are committed to singing songs with positive, scripturally based messages. Malachi Jagers' concert will be from 7-9 p.m. Jagers is a soft-spoken music minister from Lafayette who uses a direct message and melodies to relate his life into scripture to uplift those listening to his music. The Little Miss & Mister Pageant will be held in the show arena, starting at 7 p.m. MCs are Bill Shidler and Miss Carroll County 2008 Kayleigh Morgan. Leadership Carroll County Class of 2009 will be serving a BBQ Beef Dinner in the park from 5 to 8 p.m. Local band Ramblin' Fever will

take the stage from 6-9 p.m. Monday. Carroll County Extension Homemakers will be serving daily lunch specials from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building. A Port-A-Pit Chicken Dinner will be served in the park by Carroll County Democrats starting at 5 p.m. Carroll County Antique Tractor Club will have a display. The club is also sponsoring free concerts and homemade ice cream on Monday and Tuesday nights. The Cowboy Church Band will perform at 7 p.m. Monday with homemade ice cream following at 7:30. Tuesday night's musical entertainment will be at 7 by the Cutler Band. Homemade ice cream will be served starting at 7:30. There will be inflatables for kids from 5-9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Inflatables include the Rotary's Moon Walk, Bungie Run, Obstacle Course, and a 6-in-1 Activities Center. Prices for the inflatables will be \$1 and \$2. Flora Community Club's fish fry will

start at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the park. To wrap up the Concert Series, Steve Trent and Small Town band will perform Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. Steve Trent and Small Town is based out of Lafayette. Their performance includes songs written by the group as well as ones written by Nashville's hottest songwriters. Special awards and champion trophies will be presented to deserving 4-Hers on Wednesday night at 7 in the show arena. The Carroll County Republican Pork Loin Dinner on Wednesday will be served in the park, starting at 5 p.m. The American Hellriders on the Wall of Death will be featured Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 15-17, with performances at 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. This motorcycle stunt show is performed in a barrel-shaped cylinder with viewing access on a platform around the drum, looking

See Fair page 5A

## 2009 EDIT spending set

### By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

After considerable discussion and thoughtful deliberation, Carroll County Commissioners arrived at a spending plan to utilize the available \$588,684.45 in Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) revenue for 2009. The amount included \$213,137.23 remaining from the 2008 highway appropriation. Commissioners president Loren Hylton commented that 2009 requests exceeded the amount available for distribution. County highway department was allotted \$363,137.23, including money not used in 2008. \$150,000 will be used for the county road extension of SR75 to the Hoosier Heartland Highway north of Camden. Highway engineer Paul Coutts said the county will need \$150,000 each year for the next four years as match money for project construction. Carroll County Economic Development Corporation was

awarded \$150,864 and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce received \$50,183.22. Support for both groups increased from the 2008 spending plans - EDC received \$96,266 and the chamber \$15,183.22 more than the previous year. Commissioners allocated \$19,500 for contractual services and \$5,000 for an ambulance service planning grant, utilizing the remainder of the revenue, which increased in 2009 due to a tax hike approved by the county council in 2008. HHH Hoosier Heartland Highway Project Engineer Jim Earl presented connection options for county consideration for the county road extension from SR75 to the new highway. Earl said the state is willing to construct the connections. Out of the five construction options presented, only one will not cost the county money. He said that to do the project, two access points to the new highway will have to be eliminated for cost purposes. See EDIT spending page 5A

## Canal Days tradition



With a little help, young Charlie Jameson of Lafayette built a birdhouse at Canal Days on Sunday. For a \$1 donation to the Canal Association, kids could build a birdhouse to take home. Charlie wanted to take his turn after older brother, Alex, built one. Rob Lawson, left, continues the birdhouse tradition started by his father-in-law, the late Jim French. The project location in Canal Park is still called Jim's Carpenter Shop. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald. See more weekend photos on page 8A.

## Delphi council fails to move on new city position

### By Debbie Lowe Staff writer

Delphi Mayor Randy Strasser's proposal to add a special projects coordinator position to the city payroll did not receive approval by the city council at Monday night's meeting. The position was already in the budget in 2009. The first time the mayor proposed to fill the position, no job description was provided to council members and the matter was tabled. The second time the position was proposed, a job description without salary information was provided and the matter did not receive action. Although Strasser presented a job description, which included a

\$15.11 to \$15.47, or approximately \$33,000/year salary, the third proposal received criticism from council members. "I am not in favor of adding another person to the budget," council president Carolyn Pearson said. She commented the job description listed "broad responsibilities" which included code enforcement. Pearson said she considered enforcement to be a responsibility of the police department. Brian Garrison said he agreed with Pearson. He called the job description a "wide-open description of responsibilities" with "a lot of things you expect one person to

cover." Garrison said it could be ill-advised to add another person to the payroll at a time when city funding is unclear. Dan Sterrett ascertained from the mayor that the new person would bring the city "one step closer" to providing animal control. Pearson explained the new person would not be providing the service. Strasser explained the salary would be paid out of utility fees and the benefits would be paid from tax money in the general fund. He further explained the street, water and police departments are understaffed. Strasser said without filling the position the work described would not likely be

accomplished. He suggested the council form a committee to discuss the position prior to voting to move forward with a hire. The matter was tabled. Jake brakes An ordinance to prohibit compression brakes, commonly referred to as "jake" brakes used in city limits was passed on first reading. Police chief Justin Darling said signs would be erected after adoption of the ordinance. He said the ordinance would allow for fines to be levied against violators. Additional appropriation A \$16,270 additional appropriation for terminal building renovations at the airport was approved in a three-to-one

vote, with one abstention. Airport board president Andy Coughill said 1984 was the last year any renovations were done in the terminal building. He said the building was the front door to the community for the airport. "We haven't spent money on the building for years," city council and airport board member Kyle Germond said prior to recusing himself from the vote. Strasser likened the airport terminal building to the city-owned Stone Barn on N. Washington St. He said both buildings need work done. Pearson agreed that the terminal building was the "first im-

pression" to the airport. "I'm in favor of the proposal," she said. Garrison said he considered the additional appropriation request for renovation similar to the request for the special projects coordinator position. "We don't need to be spending any extra money," he said prior to voting against the request. Pearson, Smith and Sterrett voted to approve the additional appropriation for the project. The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance must approve the appropriation before the money can be released for the renovation. See Delphi page 5A

## Flora approves EDIT increase for CCEDC

### Susan Scholl Editor

Carroll County Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Daryl Smith presented the 2009 proposed contract for Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) funds for Flora at Monday night's Town Council meeting. Smith said that the 2009 EDC budget addresses economic development for the county. He reminded the town council that the county council approved an increase in the EDIT rate for 2009. All the increased funds are budgeted for

EDC's programming and services, said Smith. His salary was not increased. "The EDC has been very aggressive in trying to push this county forward," Joe Moss, a representative for Flora on the EDC board, told the council. "We've been criticized for no long range planning and we're trying to address that." "Unfortunately Carroll County got hurt with the stimulus package because we did not have a plan in place," Smith added. The council approved giving EDC the increase from its share of the EDIT distribution for 2009. Flora is expected to

receive \$57,510 in the EDIT distribution with \$22,701 going to EDC and the remaining \$34,809 staying with the town. Clerk-Treasurer Joretta Tinsman was given approval to pursue a credit/debit payment program where the cost of the service will be passed onto the users/customers. She explained that the users will be assessed a percentage of the total fee which varies according to how payment is made (example: in the town office, online, or over the phone). Tinsman was instructed to obtain quotes for putting in a curb and sidewalk from Dr. Meek's office to just past the

group home on Third Street. Town officials told Tony Griffin, owner of Griffin's Service Center, that they will support his efforts to organize a Grand Prix style go-cart race in Flora for next summer. Griffin said that he got the idea from reading last week's Comet Looking Back column from 100 years ago. During Flora's Fourth of July celebration in 1909 an automobile race in Flora started and finished downtown. He believes a race could be a great draw and generate funds for the town and Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

Police department Marshal Paul Redmon issued a reminder to those driving golf carts and gators on town streets that it is illegal to operate them on roadways. Operators can be ticketed. He said that even though state statutes have changed regarding their use, it is still up to cities and towns to decide whether golf carts and gators may be used on roadways. Flora does not currently permit their use. For June, the police department's report included 12 arrests/misdemeanors, three felonies, 15 citations, one parking violation, 29 warnings. See Flora page 5A



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