

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

Consolidation of the Delphi Journal-Citizen (Est. 1839) and the Flora Hoosier Democrat (Est. 1897).

Published each Wednesday at 114 East Franklin St., Delphi IN 46923
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Delphi IN46923 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Carroll County Comet,
PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026 USPS 285-840

Published by CARROLL PAPERS, Inc. PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026
Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

Editor: Susan Scholl, editor@carrollcountycomet.com
Ad Director: Joe Moss, comet@carrollcountycomet.com
Editorial Writers: Susan Scholl, Chris Parker

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES in Advance - Per Year
Carroll County, Service People and Counties which border Carroll - \$27.00.
All other Indiana counties - \$32.00; All other states - \$35.00.
Addresses changed for seasonal residences - Add \$3.00
Address changes - subs@carrollcountycomet.com

Memberships include:



Hoosier
State Press
Association



National
Newspaper
Association



Indiana
Press
Association

Drivers and motorcyclists should use extreme caution

Last week's death of Carroll County native Jeremy Kuns near Americus is a tragedy. The 19-year-old had been visiting his family near Delphi and was returning to his home in Lafayette on his motorcycle when a motorist, passing a vehicle, struck him head-on.

With warmer weather and higher gas prices many people will be using motorcycles as a mode of transportation. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is urging all Indiana drivers to use extreme caution this spring and summer as motorcycles take to the road.

Motorcycle riders face unique challenges and dangers that drivers of other vehicles don't have to contend with. Motorcycles provide virtually no protection in an accident. For that reason, motorcycle fatalities represent five percent of all highway deaths each year, while only two percent of vehicles on the road are motorcycles.

Vehicles sharing the road with motorcycles must increase their awareness to prevent motorcycle accidents. To avoid hitting a motorcycle, drivers should expect to see motorcycles at any time, and search aggressively for them. In many car-motorcycle crashes, drivers claim they simply "didn't see" the motorcycle.

INDOT urges motorcyclists and motorists to follow these safety tips:

Motorcyclists:

- Stay two to four seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
- Always check your rearview mirror before slowing down.
- Always wear a helmet and protective clothing.
- Obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.
- Practice.

Car and truck drivers:

- Watch aggressively for motorcycles. Motorcycles can be easily hidden in traffic.
- Anticipate hazards that may confront the motorcyclist and predict how the motorcyclist may react.
- Follow at least two-seconds behind a motorcycle.
- Watch out when turning left. Most crashes between motorcycles and other vehicles involve turning left at an intersection.

Some situations, like the one that took Kuns' life, are out of the victim's control, but by following simple safety tips, everyone on the road can stay safer this riding season.

Web poll results

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed anonymously the following week.

Last Week's Results:

Do you agree with the county council's decision to not increase the Economic Development Income Tax rate?

68%-Yes

32%-No

Total responses: 28

I showed a condominium apartment to a father-son pair the other day. The son is headed to graduate school. He needs a place to live near school for a few years. My job was to help these out-of-town-ers find that place.

Figuring that grad students don't need fancy digs, for my first pick I chose a bargain-priced place to show the duo.

The apartment was clean and bright but located on a busy highway - thus the price. To my chagrin, the din of the constant traffic outside was overwhelming. It was loud from the moment the other real estate agent opened the front door.

The father-son pair are seasoned kidders, a running comedy routine really. They fell into an immediate banter about the noise and earplugs, loud music and their real estate agent's (namely me) lack of discretion and good taste.

All the while, during the gag routine, the apartment owner's agent maintained a clenched teeth smile. Nothing we three guys said could get her to utter a negative word about the place or the rumbly, vibrating ruckus passing by which made the home such a tough sell.

As is customary, the seller's agent accompanied dad, grad student and me out the door at the conclusion of our little tour. When we got to the curb the clenched teeth smile relaxed on the seller's agent's face.

"The owner has a tape recorder going during all the showings," the agent relayed to us, explaining her standoffish stance in face of the obvious. "The recording system is motion activated from the moment you walk in the door."

Oh my.

I trace my own paranoia about being overheard by the wrong ears back to the eighth grade. That's when many of us got our first visit to Washington, D.C., and the halls of Congress. Somewhere on the tour, in some grand lobby, a spot is pointed out where one can stand and hear what's being said by unsuspecting

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Overheard

come to town to spy on the situation and protect her interests in a contested matter where the various family members did not trust each other.

This call took place in the days before cell phones. The lady was calling me from a pay phone outside a grocery. The point of her call was to inform me that she was staying overnight in her recently departed mother's home. This residence was off limits to all family members. I had no authority to bend the rules about the house for anyone, and I told her so.

Her reply went something on the order that well now, I knew she was going to break the rules but she was going to keep the lights off and not park a car in the drive and no one would ever be the wiser if I didn't spill the beans. She didn't want her siblings to know she was in town, let alone staying in the mother's home.

Too bad for her. It turned out that of all the pay phones to use in the world, this clandestine heir chose the one next to a phone one of her nephews was using at the time. Her secret excursion from eight states away was quickly announced to various family members long before she unpacked her toothbrush.

The other day my cell phone recorded another person's lunch conversation. I was this lady's last call before she put her phone away in her tote bag. Somehow the phone got jostled, it redialed my number and my phone dutifully recorded the table talk.

Oh dear.

With all this listening I imagine going on, well I really must work on something more interesting to say

Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Urges public to learn about CAFOs

To the citizens of Carroll County, I would challenge all concerned of this wonderful and caring county to take a close look at what is happening in the agri-business industry and how it is going to effect our children and grandchildren for many years to come.

As readers of this newspaper know, a mega dairy factory is proposed to be located in Democrat Township, about one mile south of Cutler, just east of State Road 75. Kim Black is the owner of this property. I organized a meeting at the Cutler Fire Station on April, 12 to get rumors turned into facts so that we, as concerned citizens of Carroll County, can address what this mega dairy factory will do to our rural way of life.

As a concerned neighbor, I called Mr. Black and invited him to attend this meeting. As far as I know, he did not show up.

The concerned neighbors in the Cutler area gathered 75 signatures requesting a moratorium from the County Commissioners to stop issuing any more Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) permits until new ordinances can be in place to help protect the health, safety and

Letter continued next page

Marriage Licenses

Rodney F. Deaton, 24, of Madison, Ohio, and Sara B. Rinehart, 18, of Rossville.

Craig D. Blissitt, 37 and Andrea M. Overton, 24, both of Brookston.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

The following cases were dismissed: Rita M. Stout, Steve Arnold, Thomas A. Gray, Kendra L. Frame, Terry A. Marshall, Kristina L. Helms.

In State of Indiana vs. Kimberly Isley, 39, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, driving while suspended. She was sentenced to six months, suspended, and one year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Richard D. Daniels, 40, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, battery. He was sentenced to three months, suspended, and one year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Michael J. Mehrings, 19, Monticello, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, possession of marijuana; Count II, possession of alcohol. He was sentenced to eight months, suspended, and one year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Chad L. Wrightsman, 32, Brookston, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering. He was sentenced to six months, suspended, and one year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Kevin M. Collins, 19, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, possession of marijuana with a prior conviction; Count III, false informing. He was sentenced to two years, suspended, and two and one-half years of probation.

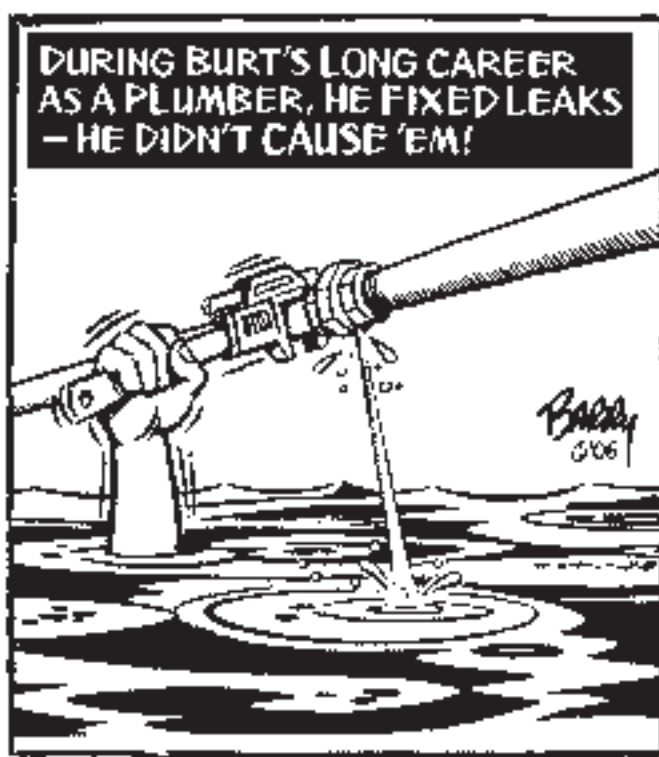
In State of Indiana vs. Steven M. Highhouse, 19, Lafayette, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, operating while intoxicated.

In State of Indiana vs. James A. Cripe, 56, Bringhurst, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, driving while suspended. He was sentenced to two months, suspended, and one year of probation.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Stephens 1613	5B
Proposed Tax Rates 1613	5B
Wagoner-Estate 182d	5B
Morgan-Estate 1812d	5B
Sheriff Sale-Cox 1813	5B
Sheriff Sale-Ashlock 1813	5B
Sheriff Sale-Stout 1613	6B
Bousum-Estate 1712d	6B
Rossville School-Request 1712	6B
Sheriff Sale-Roth 1813	6B
Alcoholic Bev. Board 1812	6B
NWINSWD 1812	6B
Sheriff Sale-Rush 1813	6B
IDEM-Public Comment 1811	6B
Sheriff Sale-Burdine 1813	6B
Commissioners-Request 1812	6B

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.



Web poll question

Do you agree that Carroll County's confined feeding operation (CFO) requirements (regulations for operations with a few hundred head) are adequate for today's larger concentrated feeding operations (CAFO)?

Yes

No

IDEM's requirements are strict enough

Need more information to make informed decision

Tell us starting Thursday
at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

The following were found to be in arrears of child support: Dale A. Babcock, \$16,191; James S. Prater, \$23,864; Kristina Helms, \$640; and Richard J. Ronk, \$6,367.23.

The following cases were dismissed: State of Indiana vs. Geronimo C. Vergara; Sharon K. Moore vs. H&H Lakeview, Inc.; and State of Indiana vs. Ralph E. Roberts.

A judgment in default was granted to the plaintiff in LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Vicki S. Leatherman. The plaintiff will recover \$835.31.

In GMAC Mortgage Corp. vs. Arlene V. Inman, a judgment and decree of foreclosure was ordered against the defendant.

In State of Indiana vs. Kimberly D. Mann, 31, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, neglect of a dependent.

In Rodney Tolle vs. Gregory Tolle, a judgment was ordered against the defendant for \$82,910.77.

In State of Indiana vs. Michael W. Gibbs, 47, the defendant had pleaded guilty to Count I, possession of methamphetamine; Count II, possession of a controlled substance; Count IV, carrying a handgun without a license. He was sentenced to seven years; with four years suspended, and four years of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Drew D. Brown, 19, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, theft. He was sentenced to one year, suspended, and probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Rick L. Hinton, 42, the defendant pleaded guilty to seven counts of child molesting. He was sentenced to 28 years, 10 years suspended, and 10 years of probation.

In Wells Fargo Bank N.A. vs. Wanda F. Rush and Joseph A. Rush a judgment of foreclosure was ordered.

Dissolutions: Melissa J. Cook and William D. Cook; Robert A. Lucas and Janell S. Lucas; Christina N. Meagher and Brian K. Meagher; Carey Land and Andria Land; Melissa R. Dinger and Robert L. Dinger; and Eldora L. Hall and Justin L. Hall.

Guest Commentary

Agriculture – the industry in Carroll County

"Like it or not, agriculture is the industry in Carroll County." These words were expressed at the Area Plan Commission meeting last Monday evening (April 24), and are important to remember as we consider the future of our county.

Carroll County needs economic development if its residents are to maintain the quality of life they have come to expect. Carroll County doesn't have a city like Frankfort, Lafayette, or Kokomo. Carroll County doesn't have much in the way of heavy industry, and cannot easily attract new industry.

Carroll County does have some of the most fertile soil in the state, and some of the sharpest minds in the agriculture industry. Carroll County is among the top ten counties in the State of Indiana for agriculture production, crop yield and swine production. Carroll County used to be the top swine producing county in the nation. Agriculture development is a natural opportunity for Carroll County.

To listen to the anti-farming folk, you would think that all our streams are polluted, and all you smell on a sunny spring morning is the stench of manure. Not in my backyard, and I have lived less than 1/4 mile from one set of hog barns, and about 1/2 mile from another set of hog barns for most of my life. But, don't ask me, ask my Elkhart-native husband. He will tell you that he rarely smells the two hog operations near us, and has never complained about living in the country for nearly 15 of our 18 years of marriage.

To listen to the anti-farming folk, you would think that farmers are only out for a buck, and they will dump manure anywhere and apply massive amounts of chemicals on the fields, regardless of where it might end up in the ecosystem. The anti-farming folk portray their farming neighbors as ignorant hicks, who neither know nor care about the impact their farm

operations have on the environment or the neighbors.

How wrong they are!

Despite the tremendous technological advancements in farming over the past thirty years, a career in agriculture is hard work requiring perseverance and intelligence. Every aspect of farming is permeated by government regulation. Crop farmers are required to test their soil regularly and keep careful records of the chemicals applied - where, when, how and how much. Farmers are required by law to maintain a certain distance from homes, streams, open ditches and wells when applying chemicals and manure. Application of chemicals and fertilizer is constantly adjusted to produce the most fertile soil and highest yield possible with the least amount of chemicals.

Think about it: Would Carroll County post record crop yields, year after year, if farmers abused and burned the soil with over-applied manure and chemicals? Would any sane farmer abuse the land that grows the product that pays the bills? Would any sane farmer pollute the water that runs to the well that supplies the house where the farmer's children live?

Regulation is even more strict in the livestock industry. The buildings, the land on which the buildings are located, and the land on which the waste will be distributed have to pass a rigorous government permit application process that costs the farmer thousands of dollars in geological and site surveys and engineering fees before the first nail is hammered. Records must be kept on how much waste is produced and when and where it is applied. Any spills must be recorded, including the procedure used for clean up. Farmers are heavily fined for violations.

Livestock farming is hard work! It's working with animals that can be stubborn, making sure they are fed and healthy, and cleaning up after them. It's never-ending paperwork for the government. It's constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and to coax a better product with

fewer resources and ever-increasing costs.

There is an important relationship between livestock and crop farming. The crops feed the livestock, and the livestock waste feeds the crops as fertilizer. With both industries located in the same area, transportation costs are reduced and efficiencies increased for each, and farmers rely upon each other for mutual benefit.

Farmers aren't in the agriculture business to pollute the soil or water or run off the neighbors. Farmers are in the agriculture business because they love the land, and love working with animals, being their own boss, and accomplishing something from their own efforts. Farmers are good neighbors, and will work hard to preserve a relationship with those around them.

Yes, agriculture is the industry in Carroll County. The number of people who walk the field or the livestock barn may represent a small portion of Carroll County population, but agriculture touches every person in Carroll County, from the roughly 70% of county property taxes that comes directly from the agriculture industry and pays for our schools, roads, and government services, to the local businesses that exist solely to supply or buy from the farm industry, to the local grocery store, gas station, and pharmacy owners that sell to farmers.

Agriculture is the industry in Carroll County. Every farmer I've met, and every person that works to help farmers (the folks at the co-op, the parts supplier, the seed supplier, the banker, the insurance agent, the real estate agent and all the people that help a farmer get through the day), have something in common: they are good people who want the best for their family, their friends, their community and, of course, the land where they live.

I wouldn't have it any other way.

Miriam Robeson, farmer and attorney,
Rural Carroll County