

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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New laws

On Saturday, several new laws took effect. One of note is the jury pool has expanded. Many groups such as dentists, veterinarians, and legislators are not exempt anymore. A prospective juror may, however, delay service for up to one year due to hardship, extreme inconvenience, or necessity.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is required to design a license plate with the words "In God We Trust" and make it available at no extra charge by Jan. 1. There will be no religious symbols on the plate.

The BMV can now be asked to put information about medical conditions on a person's driver's license, permit or ID card.

New laws will further restrict where some convicted sex offenders can live or work and require the Department of Corrections to put them on Indiana's sex offender registry before they leave custody.

Sexually violent predators will be placed on lifetime probation after their release and they will have to wear devices that use satellite technology to track their movements. These predators can include convicted sex offenders who suffer from mental abnormalities or personality disorders.

A new law makes aggressive driving or road rage a specific offense. It can now equal a year in jail with a \$1,500 fine.

Penalties were enhanced for criminal recklessness if it involves aggressive driving that results in serious bodily injury or death.

Those who own or license certain personal information about residents on a database must notify the people if a security breach occurs that could result in identity theft, deception or fraud.

Gun owners will now be able to obtain lifetime licenses for their firearms.

Possession of a knife on school property or school bus is a misdemeanor crime, or a felony if the offense results in injury to another person.

Consumers are being protected from unsavory home improvement suppliers with tighter rules and enhanced penalties for fraud.

These are just some of the new laws that went into effect July 1.

Don't do it just because you can

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling gives state legislators the freedom to redraw legislative districts as often as they want. Three words of advice to lawmakers: Don't do it.

As a constitutional question, the seven justices who sided with the court's majority opinion in a Texas redistricting case are undoubtedly right. There's nothing in the Constitution limiting states from redrawing legislative or congressional districts more than once every 10 years, when updated Census results are released.

But it's definitely not in the public's interest for lawmakers to use redistricting to manipulate the outcome of elections whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Indiana politicians might be especially tempted to fool around with gerrymandering in advance of an election because the state House or Representatives is narrowly divided between Republican and Democratic control.

In a sparsely populated nation, redistricting wasn't an issue the Founding Fathers needed to address in great detail in the Constitution. But now computers can be used to cement in guaranteed electoral majorities. Partisan redistricting turns too many general election contests into one-sided affairs while encouraging the primary selection of the most extremist candidates in either party. Unresponsive incumbents remain safe. Political compromise is discouraged.

The obvious solution is to turn over political map-making to nonpartisan or bipartisan commissions that can draw competitive districts representing traditional township, city and county lines.

Gov. Mitch Daniels supports such a solution. The Indiana House in the last session approved a bill to create a commission, but the legislation died in the Senate. House Republicans recently vowed to renew that effort next session. Voters should demand a similar pledge from every candidate, regardless of party affiliation.

It's a reform all the more urgently needed because of the Supreme Court ruling.

—The Indianapolis Star

Web poll

Do you volunteer your time and talent in Carroll County?

Yes, very active in one group

Yes, very active in more than one group

Yes, once in awhile

No, not at all

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

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Meagher 2513	4B
Tax Sale-Viney 2513	3B
Sheriff Sale-Read 2513	3B
Sheriff Sale-Stingley 2513	4B
Notice of Suit-Jack Smith 2513	4B
Sheriff Sale-Loy 2613	3B
Town of Camden-Adv for Bids 2612	4B
Sheriff Sale-Coup 2613	4B
Alcoholic Beverage-renewal 2712	3B
City of Delphi-Water report 2612	3B

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 results

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Wednesday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. Last Week's Results:

Is it time for Carroll County towns to pool their resources for Fourth of July fireworks and have one display a year, rotating among the towns?

58% Yes

42% No

Total responses: 55

COMMENT

These little towns should pull together and stop trying to be better than one another and fire works may be the start of better communication.

What did the fish say when he swam into the wall? "Dam."

The United States is now considered the last true super-power in the world. On this 4th of July celebration I've been contemplating the components of the USA's might. Military, economic, diplomatic, natural resources, invention and innovation- all of these are undeniable parts of the powerful whole. But the list goes on and on and on from there. There are so many different pieces to the country's combined strength.

I think one vital part of our nation's collective might is a healthy sense of humor. There is untold power in the ability to laugh, to see the humor, to find the irony, to relish the punch line. I think Americans have the need to get the joke. There is some kind of strength, some kind of energy in the humor of it all.

I showed an apartment to some prospective buyers the other day. The apartment was a loft space and it had a den with no windows. When we stepped into the room and turned on the light the space seemed to glow, and grow.

It turned out that the room was painted many colors of the same yellow spectrum. The darkest corner of the room, the corner opposite the entry, was painted with the deepest yellow. From that spot the yellow faded every so lightly, more and more, until the hue was its faintest at the farthest

The spectrum of that color gave a dark space a radiance. I think that humor falls into that color chart spectrum that contains joy and happiness. All of those colors fall into the color palate that somehow makes up strength.

Humor lets folks breathe. Laughter energizes.

The best speech I ever delivered happened because someone stopped me just before I was about to step to the podium. I was sporting a new

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Chuckling in the USA

Depending on her audience she can reduce folks to side-splitting tears over a seemingly simple event. Midge arrived early to the wedding ceremony of her friend and therefore she wound up seated in the very front of the church. Since she was early, there was time for Midge to adjourn to the ladies room. However, the sanctuary had filled up by the time she made her way back down the center aisle to her seat.

Shortly after settling in to her seat, Midge felt the firm tap of a finger on her shoulder. A stern looking nun sought Midge's attention. The woman leaned over and whispered a vital piece of information into Midge's ear.

It seems that after exiting the ladies room, a long piece of toilet tissue had remained stuck to Midge, fluttering in the back of her waist band and giving the appearance of a tail.

When telling the story, Midge looks heavenward when she describes asking the Lord to take her, right then and there.

Maybe, because we have so much space in this country, maybe there's room for the humor, there's space for the punch line to fill.

I don't pretend to have much insight into this matter. I just know that one of our nation's strengths is that we get the joke, that we have room to laugh.

It's one of our finest qualities, even if I do say so myself.



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.

In State of Indiana vs. Shawn T. Cranmer, 19, Osceola, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating a vehicle with Alcohol Content Equivalent (ACE) of .08 percent or more. He was sentenced to two months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Leslie J.

Bird, 40, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Counts I, II, III, check deception. She was sentenced to 18 months, suspended, and three years of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Darrell P. Williams, 26, Kokomo, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, auto theft. He was sentenced to three years, with 18 months suspended, and 18 months probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Lee M. Waltz, 22, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count IV, con-

version. He was sentenced to one year, with all but six days suspended, and 349 days probation.

The following cases were dismissed: Tiffany Leuck, Michela D. Fischer, Robert C. Knight, Angela M. Rose, Joseph M. Long, Jeremy S. Butler.

In State of Indiana vs. Misty Adams, 26, Colburn, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, driving while suspended. She was sentenced to six months, with 178 days suspended, and 364 days probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Joni Wright, 29, Kokomo, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated. She was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Eric A. Hyman, 27, Burlington, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated. He was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year

with Count I, child molesting; Counts II through V, child exploitation.

Faye A. Kessler was named administrator of the Calvin D. Kessler estate.

In Phoenix Credit Solutions LLC vs. Shelly Bennington, the plaintiff shall recover from the defendant \$4,176 plus interest.

In Legal Recoveries Inc. vs. Michael Hill, the plaintiff shall recover \$834.47 plus interest.

Marriage dissolutions: Jenny L. Maxwell and Darrell L. Maxwell, Chad L. Wrightsman and Amy J. Wrightsman, Brian J. Ropes and Jennifer M. Ropes.

The following cases were dismissed: Chase Home Finance LLC vs. Darin E. Lowery and Donna K. Lowery; Mitchell Kobitz and Charlene Kobitz vs. Dan N. Renfro vs. John L. Kiley Agency, Inc.; Rodney E. Tolle vs. Gregory Tolle; Farm Credit Services of Mid-America FLCA vs. Stephen M. Smith and Rita J. Smith et al.

A garnishment was ordered for James E. Turner.

A default judgment was ordered in Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Timothy J. Alford Sr. The plaintiff shall recover \$1,153.76.

A default judgment was ordered in Palisades Collection LLC assignee of AT&T vs. Edgar M. Stephens. The plaintiff shall recover \$525.93.

A judgment and decree of foreclosure were ordered in Wachovia Bank NA vs. David M. Woodhams and Wanda E.

Restaurant Inspections

Bresnahan's
Routine inspection: 6/23/06
Summary of violations: No violations noted

Flora Dollar General
Routine inspection: 6/23/06
Summary of violations: No violations noted

Subway
Routine inspection: 6/22/06
Summary of violations: No violations noted

Flora's Bar & Grill
Routine inspection: 6/20/06
Summary of violations: No violations noted

The Office Tavern
Routine inspection: 6/20/06
Summary of violations: 1 non-critical

There was no thermometer in the freezer in the kitchen. Directed to correct by 2 days.

The Landmark
Routine inspection: 6/20/06
Summary of violations: 2 non-critical

The refrigerator, chest freezer and upright freezer did not have thermometers. Directed to correct by 2 days.

The fish in the walk-in cooler was not covered. Corrected

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.

Praise given

Kudos to Mr. Siwinski and Glen Dillman for the interest in the historic log cabin and its restoration. I was a colleague of Glen's many years ago and was impressed then, as now, in his dedication to the community and its young people.

Marsha Callane Staples
Lewisburg, TN

Remembering Pappy

Dear Mr. Brokow,

I've read your book, "The Greatest Generation," but you seem to have missed an entire chapter. His name was Harold Stayer, or "Pappy," a name he was called from the time he went to his generation's war. He was an "already-married" man three to five years older than most of the men in his unit of 1051. He went into what we now call Special Forces or the Rangers and was sent to the South Pacific in a holding action until the "other war" in Europe was finished.

He was involved in three island landings of which one, their unit, was used as bait to lure the Japanese to one end of an island. They were pulled out at the last moment. Pappy was in the Philippines two weeks before the main American forces came ashore destroying fuel dumps and disrupting communications.

Mr. Brokow, he helped to liberate American POWs at one of those prison camps we now make movies about.

Near the end of the war, he was training to land on Japan itself and attack the sub pens. He said he was sure he would not survive this, but the two atomic bombs saved him to live another 61 years. So he and the remains of his original unit of just over 50, returned home in 1946 to restart their peacetime lives.

I met Pappy when I came to Flora to teach in 1969. He was the "barrel-chested, wiry little fireplug" that lived right next to the school and nobody gave him any crap. Eight years later, my wife and I bought a house just across from the school and Pappy became my neighbor. I spent a lot of hours together with this "old bird" and he unburdened many of the things he had experienced. I found him to be tough, yet gentle, so gentle that in his last days he was "Uncle Harold," the unofficial principal of Miss Mary's preschool, teaching confidence and shoe-tying and many other grandfatherly things.

As I taught at school, I'd be a rich man if I had a dollar for each time I heard a compliment on him or a story he had told my students who were in scouting activities. He was a hunter and fisherman. He could live in the wilds and he taught survival skills to hundreds and "living skills" to thousands. He had great faith and lived it, though he had seen unspeakable horrors.

Mr. Brokow, I understand why your book is called "The Greatest Generation." Pappy embodied greatness - to himself, to his family, to his community, to his nation, and to his God. He ran the course, and he fought the good fight. He saw friends mangled and killed, yet he still called them personally by name over a half-century later and related the details of their sacrifice. He shared his life with community boys and shaped futures through scouting.

He showed us all how to live. He was a hard worker and provider and loved his family. He was a gentle spirit who was haunted by shadows of a long distant, silent war that saved our world.

But in the end, he wanted to see his wife, Mary, and is happy now in the Lord's House forever.

Yes, Mr. Brokow, I have seen greatness of that generation. He lived on Main Street in my hometown.

Glen Dillman,
Flora

Marriage Licenses

Kevin R. Price, 22, of Burlington and Toni M. Johnson, 20, of Flora.

Rodney E. Scott, 31, and Stephanie A. Dykstra, 28, both of Monticello.