

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



A seatbelt is NOT enough!

Most parents and others who transport children think that they know how to properly secure a child or infant in a car seat. But statistics prove, that's not always the case.

Motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children of all ages. When properly installed, car seats can reduce the risk of death 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for children ages one to four.

Booster seats have proven to be an important means of protection in the event of an accident too, with research showing that children ages four to seven who ride in booster seats are 59% less likely to be injured in a crash than children restrained by a safety belt alone.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) advises parents and caregivers to properly restrain children on every trip, use the appropriate restraint for a child's age and size, use the rear seat for all children under age 13 and learn how to use restraints correctly.

Be sure to read the booster-seat instructions and your vehicle owner's manual carefully before installing a booster seat.

To help with this effort, Carroll County Farm Bureau Incorporated, in cooperation with Carroll/White County SAFE KIDS organization, is sponsoring a Car Seat Clinic on Aug. 5. A trained, certified technician will check car and booster seats for free from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Flora Community Park.

At last year's Car Seat Clinic, 52 child car seats were checked. Forty of the seats had some type of misuse and 22 seats were replaced free.

An additional safety measure to be offered that day is child identification cards through IDENT-A-KID. The ID cards have the child's photograph, fingerprint, weight and height, plus the parent's name, address and telephone number. The cards are a laminated, wallet-sized ID card, similar to a driver's license. There is a minimal cost for the cards.

So spread the work about child safety and how parents and other child caregivers can better protect children. Plan to attend the Car Seat Clinic on Aug. 5.

Misuse of safety equipment is no excuse. It's always better to be safe than sorry with our most precious resource, our children.

Capital Comments

It's costly to be small

By Larry DeBoer
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Democracy works better when people are informed. Voters might demand that their governments deliver services at lower cost, if they knew what those costs were and how they compared across jurisdictions.

That's probably what the Indiana General Assembly was thinking in 2005. It asked the state's Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to publish figures on the per person spending of each local government in Indiana. The report appeared in May and can be found on the DLGF Web site <http://www.in.gov/dlGF/pubs>. Click on the 2005 expenditure report in the data analysis section.

Probably the legislators want citizens to compare the spending of their local jurisdictions to others, then ask questions about why some spend more and others spend less. Are high-spending jurisdictions inefficient? Are low-spending jurisdictions failing to provide needed public services? These are questions people could ask their local elected officials, with a few facts in hand.

It's hard to know what to make of the reported numbers, though. DLGF says that there are inconsistencies in how different jurisdictions report their numbers. This makes comparison difficult. And only one spending number is reported for each government. Operating costs and infrastructure costs are combined. A county, town or school corporation that just built a new facility will show high per-person spending, even if its day-to-day operating costs are low.

Researchers have found patterns in spending numbers like these. Wealthy jurisdictions tend to spend more per person. They can afford it. Places that have more homeowner property tend to spend less, because homeowners pay more of each added dollar of property tax. They're less likely to support higher spending when they foot more of the bill.

For county spending, neither of these patterns show up in the DLGF numbers. There doesn't seem to be any relationship between a county's assessed value per person and its spending per person, nor between spending and the homeowner tax shares. Maybe the data inconsis-

tencies and combined operating and capital costs hide the patterns.

One pattern does show up, though. It's costly to be small. There are 11 counties in Indiana with less than 15,000 people. Nine of the 11 spend more per person than the typical county. The smallest counties averaged \$1,570 in spending per person in 2005. The other counties averaged \$1,090 per person.

This might be a symptom of "economies of size." The bigger you are, the cheaper it is to provide county services per person. Big counties can spread their costs over more people and more taxpayers. Small counties can't. This means that high per-person spending by small counties is not necessarily an indication of extravagance or waste. It may be a consequence of being small.

Or it may be that the numbers aren't right. Still, economies of size show up in a lot of research about local government. They've been found for Indiana school corporations and Indiana library districts. They show up in county general fund appropriations. In each case, really small jurisdictions have higher costs per person.

Consolidation is one solution to this problem. Combined, two small library districts or school districts may have lower costs than they had individually. But consolidation is often very unpopular, and it's not really an option for counties. County boundaries just don't change.

There's a new law on the books that offers another solution. It was passed as House Enrolled Act 1362 this past session, and it's going to be in Indiana Code 36-1.5 (but it's so new that it's not in the online Indiana Code yet). The code section is called "government modernization," and among its purposes is to encourage local governments to use cooperative agreements to provide services. Small counties could cooperate with other counties, other cities or towns, or other jurisdictions to deliver services. They might share equipment and employees or buy services from one another. Economies of size might be reached even though the county remains small.

There's even a section of the new law that allows voters to start a government reorganization effort themselves. To do that, though, they'd need a lot more information. So, to DLGF: thanks for the spending data. We want more.

We're saving the cost of paint and wallpaper in the kitchen these days. However, the method of this savings will never find its way into the home and garden decorating magazine. Honestly, I don't know how I've gotten away with the current state of affairs.

Let me explain. I'm a confessed newspaper article clipping fiend. I can't comfortably read a newspaper without a pair of scissors within arms reach. When I'm caught without a pair of scissors I resort to ripping out my articles, rather than pass up an opportunity to save some gem of a news item. I've earned some really annoyed looks from neighboring readers when I resort to the ripping method.

News article clipping is easy work. The activity rarely generates any calorie burning. I've never broken into a sweat during the process - not even on the Sunday paper. However, the habit does extract its toll. Let's face it; you've got to do something with all those articles.

In my work as an attorney I've been the executor of many, many decedent's estates. It's easy to spot a former chronic news clipper. The giveaway usually is a collection of paper grocery bags sitting on their sides gathering dust and overflowing with news clippings, dry, dusty, fading news articles waiting to go somewhere.

It's a chronic problem. Some of us with the clipping propensity gene like to look to others as our solution.

We use the U.S. mail to mask our problem. "Thought you'd enjoy reading this." "This made me think of you."

We pen innocent little phrases on the top of our clippings, pop them in the mail and go back to find the scissors.

But back to our kitchen nook near the phone. First, the wall was painted with semi-gloss scrubbable enamel. Second, when I started, the wall was plain and empty... a waiting canvas, or an untouched bulletin board.

The first article I taped up on the wall is dated Jan. 5, 2005. That doesn't seem all that old, just a year and a half plus back, but it sure looks old these days. Yellow and brittle it has become. The

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Wall-smart

others.

Quoting from the article: "anthropologists believe that ancient knowledge of the movement of wind, sea and birds," may have saved these folks. In other words, long before the waves hit, these islanders had headed for high ground. They already knew instinctively what was coming.

Every time I look at this article it speaks to me. It reminds me that in my own memory I have lessons already learned that will instinctively guide me... if I will allow that guidance.

How could I toss that article away? But alas, where does one put it?

Well, it was the first to find its home on the kitchen wall.

The next article that followed was about a guy who fought city hall in Chicago and won.

Quoting from the article by Abdon Pallasch and Steve Patterson for the *Chicago Sun-Times*: "County officials used to wince as they'd see Jones coming down the hall. Sometimes they would ask security to escort him out."

Jones was Charlie Jones of Michigan who fought on behalf of his Uncle Jeremiah Davison, who lost his home in a tax snafu. The county wound up paying Davison \$190,000, due to the nephew's sure persistence and tenacity.

Now I ask you, how could I part with this gem?

The fight city hall article was followed by one about Queen Esther in the Bible. A Volvo ad followed that. Recently I taped up an article about retirement accounts, followed by one on cabinet making.

I'm going to stick with the wall solution until my wife screams. After that it's probably the old standby of paper bags lying on their side, or that old sneaky method involving a little collusion with the postman...

"Thought you'd want to see this."



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.

A default judgment was ordered in CACV of Colorado LLC vs. Martin Trapp. The plaintiff shall recover \$3,536.06.

A judgment and decree of foreclosure were ordered in Wells Fargo Bank vs. Eric D. Stark and Jennifer Stark.

In Bill Harrison vs. Eugene Kruger and Jeremy Titus, the plaintiff shall recover \$2,000 and the defendant shall recover \$300.

The court finds for the defendant in Donnabelle K. Willis vs. Mark Kirts.

In Tom D. Huse and Daniel Boone vs. Jeff Canen and Kim Hitchcock, the plaintiffs shall recover \$3,600.

A voluntary garnishment was ordered in Beneficial Indiana Inc. vs. Lisa K. Adams for \$3,207.75.

New Filings
Shannon L. McKinley was charged with Count I, theft; Counts II and III, fraud.

Melanie H. Jones was charged with theft.

John W. Dove was charged with Count I, possession of marijuana; Count II, speeding 69/55.

Royce A. Smith was charged with Count I, driving while suspended; Count II, false and fictitious registration.

Shane E. Toole was charged with check deception.

Kristin S. Haberzette was charged with Counts I and II, check deception.

Vonda J. Kirkpatrick was charged with check deception.

Francisco Luna was charged with failure to respond to a summons.

Michael Cadwallader was charged with check deception.

Lee M. Turner was charged with driving while suspended.

Andrew T. Seibert was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering.

David E. Storey was charged

with Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count II, habitual substance offender.

Anthony P. Monaco was charged with Counts I and II, operating while intoxicated, endangering; Count III, habitual substance offender; Count IV, failure to return to the scene of an accident causing injury; Count V, operating without proof of financial responsibility.

Michea J. Knoth was charged with Counts I and II, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person; Count III, driving while suspended.

Randall Wireman was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering a person.

Lorenzo Coloa was charged with Count I, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license; Count II, speeding 70/55.

Max E. Miller II was charged with false informing.

Betty J. Hatton was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Dwight R. Shepherd III was charged with Count I, operating a motor boat while intoxicated.

Candace D. Spence was charged with check deception.

Michela D. Fischer was charged with check deception.

Julie M. Pullen was charged

clipping is an article written by Associated Press writer Neelesh Misra in the aftermath of the South Asian tsunami disaster.

Misra's article, written from Port Blair, India, tells how five indigenous tribes on the Indian archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar Islands survived the tsunami that took the lives of so many

Web poll

How important is it for Delphi's only doctor's office to stay open?

Very important?

Fairly important?

Not important?

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

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 the following week.

Last Week's Results:

Flora Community Club made an extra effort to bring in entertainment for this year's Carroll County 4-H Fair. Did you attend any or all of the events -- carnival, circus, and jugglers/cyclists?

8% Attended all the events

41% Attended some of the events

20% Attended fair, but did not attend these events

31% Did not attend fair

Total responses: 51

I think the Community Club did a great job with the fair this year. You can tell extra effort was put into the events. I wish I would have been able to attend more of the events.

Thank you for bringing the "fair" back for all of us, including the 4-H people. I just wanted to throw my 2-cents worth regarding the Carroll County 4-H Fair this year - commenting primarily on the carnival. First, it was good to have the rides and games, etc. for the children. Secondly, in my opinion, the carnival staff were very polite and professional. I'd like to see that company back again next year.

Restaurant Inspections

CVS Pharmacy
Routine inspection: 7/6/06
Summary of violations: **No violations noted**

Cleaver Family Farms
Routine inspection: 7/6/06
Summary of Violations: **No violations noted**

YMCA Camp Tecumseh River Lodge
Routine inspection: 7/5/06
Summary of Violations: **2 non-critical**

There was a wet wiping cloth on the food prep table not being stored in sanitizing solution. Corrected.

The sanitizing solution measured over 200 ppms. Directed to correct by 7/5/06.

YMCA Camp Tecumseh Lake Village
Routine inspection: 7/5/06
Summary of violations: **1 non-critical**

The concentration of the sanitizing solution measured over 200 ppms. Corrected.

Geno's Pizza
Routine inspection: 6/30/06
Summary of violations: **1 non-critical**

A food employee in the food prep area did not have a hair restraint. Directed to correct by 6/30/06.

Schoolhouse Auctions
Routine inspection: 6/30/06
Summary of violations: **1 non-critical**

The refrigerator did not have a thermometer. Directed to correct by 7/1/06.

Marriage Licenses

Robert A. Schmidt, 35, and Theresa A. Rayburn, 36, both of Monticello.

Gary W. Nunnally, 49, and Jean Gilman, 53, both of Delphi. Kevin M. Milakovic, 22, and Valin M. Lyons, 22, both of Camden.

Rustin W. Tinsman, 28, and Kayla Kistler, 23, both of Flora.

Tyrel Sloan, 19, of Rossville and Courtney L. Miller, 20, of Delphi.

Taylor N. Fife, 24, and Jennifer L. Sheets, 23, both of Flora.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Burkett 5B	2813
Sheriff Sale-Ashlock 5B	2813
Sheriff Sale-Garrison 6B	2813
Sheriff Sale-Slaybaugh 6B	3013
Jefferson Twp-budget 5B	3012
Burlington Twp-budget 5B	3012
Liberty Twp-budget 5B	3012
Carroll School-bus replace 5B	3012
Sheriff Sale-Henson 5B	3013
Workinger estate 5B	3012
Smith estate 5B	3012
Jackson Twp-budget 5B	3012
Clay Twp-budget 5B	3012
City of Delphi-budget 5B	3012
Sheriff Sale-Rohrman 5B	3013
Sheriff Sale-Best 5B	3013
Sheriff Sale-Shell 5B	3013
Sheriff Sale-Uberhol 5B	3013

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.