

## CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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### How to talk to your member of Congress

By Lee Hamilton

Sometimes, when it seems that a letter isn't enough, you just have to talk to your member of Congress. It can seem daunting, but it shouldn't be. Remember, for our system to work, you need to be willing to share your thoughts with representatives, and they need to be willing to listen.

In some ways, the easiest step is actually getting in touch. You may not get a member of Congress on the telephone right away, but leave a message, since most members set aside time each week to call back constituents.

Members also make time on their schedules for constituents, so if you're going to be in Washington, set up an appointment in advance. It's even easier to schedule a meeting back home, either in the district office or even at a local coffee shop, when the distractions of the Capitol are far away.

There are other avenues, too: public meetings in the district, virtual forums hosted by legislators, even inviting your member of Congress to speak to a local group to which you belong.

Then, once you're on the phone or face to face with your lawmaker, there are certain things you can do that will help you be more credible. Do research beforehand so you're knowledgeable about the issue, and do not overstate your case or try to mislead. Make your case with facts and figures instead of spin. And since you have limited time, be sure to stick to the most important points in your position.

Perhaps the most important advice I can give, though, and I speak from experience, is that how you say it is as important as what you say. It helps to be constructive, to find a way not only to raise a problem but also then help your legislator find a way to solve it.

Be patient, and be unfailingly courteous; knowing how to disagree without being disagreeable is the surest way I know to earn an elected official's respect. Above all, be open to compromise. Making some progress toward your goal is better than none at all.

Finally, relax! Say what you want to say, and enjoy your exchanges with your representative. We live in a democracy, and my experience has been that participating in it is both a privilege and a pleasure. I hope that's what you discover, too.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

My instincts are pretty good when it comes to knowing what I can and cannot afford. I've never even been inside a Mercedes dealership, nor have I spent any time trying on Rolex watches either. I figure I'm wasting time and energy if I'm where I don't belong, where the price is simply too high.

Everything comes at a price. Last month I joined some colleagues for dinner. I don't do business dinners much. I don't have an expense account for same. I was pretty mute when it came to picking the restaurant. I didn't care where we went and others seemed to be very opinionated on the choice. My lack of opinion and involvement came with a price. We ate way too late and way too pricey for my taste.

During the Clinton impeachment I wondered aloud over the cost the nation would pay for choosing to go down that route. Finger pointing and fault finding for sport, that's what it all seemed like to me. Consider the focus, the energy, the time and money that went into that effort. To what end? All the while problems much too hard to tackle went unaddressed. I think the cost of the Clinton impeachment was too great.

I subscribe to Time Magazine. At least I used to subscribe. This week's issue has a big picture of Hilary Clinton on the cover. In the lower left-hand front corner, right under Senator Clinton's picture, there are two open square boxes. Next to the boxes in block letters a choice is presented: love her or hate her.

Good grief, talk about extremists. At the same time that Time Magazine asks for ordinary folks to become extremists over a high profile politician, Fox News does them one better.

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### Too high a cost

where unspoken in the question is the war in Iraq. But I think this Fox news "George question" is the equivalent of Time's "Hilary question."

Fox was really asking: "Do you hate President Bush enough to wish upon him a failed presidency?" And I wonder aloud, do they mean a hopeless war, a wrecked economy, a mess of a legacy. Boy, that gives hate a power it really doesn't rate.

So I ask, hate, at what cost? I lean towards being an optimist, I prefer that glass half full. But I'll admit that Iran's atomic ambitions, North Korea's leadership, and the mess in the Middle East, well they've got my attention.

Given that, given that huge weighty issues face the world and that the world looks to the United States, I ask you this question. Can we afford the cost of either loving or hating our own leaders?

If belonging to one political party means hating those in the other, well then count me out and shame on somebody.

Frankly, I think a lot of it is pandering and it's something each and everyone of us should reject. A leader nation on the world scene cannot be successful in much of anything if the citizenry is reduced to loving or hating their leaders.

Shame on Time, shame on Fox. The price they ask us to pay for all this political sport is far too great.

Here's the polling question that Fox was asking last week: "Regardless of how you voted in the Presidential election, would you say you want President Bush to succeed or not?"

Come again?

Some discussions of the polling question suggest it was a bad question. Those folks say that lurking some-

## 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.

### Responds to letter

Regarding a letter to the editor on the Aug. 16 edition of *The Comet* from John Berkshire, "Where's the truth?" Mr. Berkshire states four ideas.

Point #2 states: The idea of an Israeli state in Palestine was borne in ignorance of Point #1" (Jesus has withdrawn from Israel both his favor and his spirit) and he makes mention of the Balfour Declarations. (For a good understanding of the Balfour Declaration and of Britain's betrayal of Israel and the Jewish people and the fact that Britain gave away 75% of the Jew's "mandated land," I recommend reading a book by Hal Lindsay entitled "The Everlasting Hatred, the Roots of Jihad.")

Zechariah 10:6-8 speaks of the future favor of God on the Jewish people and Israel. It says, "And I will strength the house of Judah and will save the house of Joseph and I will bring them again to place them for I have mercy upon them and they shall be as though I had not cast them off, for I am the Lord their God and will hear them. And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man and their heart shall rejoice as though wine, yea, their children shall see it and be glad, their heart shall rejoice. I will hiss (Hebrew word for hiss, sharaq, means to be shrill for, to whistle) for them and gather them for I have redeemed them and they shall increase as they have increased."

In Genesis 17:7-8, the Abrahamic Covenant is found. God is speaking to Abraham and He says, "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and I will be their God."

In Genesis 12:3, God tells Abraham, "I will bless them that bless thee and I will curse him that curseth thee and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed," referring to Jesus the Messiah and Savior.

Jeremiah 16:15 says, "But the Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands whither He had driven them and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers,"

Jeremiah 31:35-36 NIV (New International Version) says "This is what the Lord says, He who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and the stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar, the Lord Almighty is His name; 'Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,' declares the Lord, 'will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me'."

Nancy Rumbaugh Kokomo

Letters continued next page

## Web poll

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

Should the property tax be eliminated? If so, with what should it be replaced? E-mail suggestions to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com.

Yes?  
No?

## Marriage Licenses

Douglas A. Bower, 21, of Eaton, Ohio and Rachael A. Yost, 18, of Flora.

Joseph W. Brunton, 25, of Mount Ayr and Ashley B. Jones, 24, of Lafayette.

Nathaniel G. Hofmann, 30, and Elizabeth A. Weatherwax, 27, both of Cutler.

Shane O. Hanna, 23, and Amy L. Wolfe, 22, both of Delphi.

Joseph A. Wolfe, 25, and Brittney M. Garcia, 21, both of Monticello.

Phillip R. Bird, 23, and Rachelle A. White, 24, both of Yeoman.

Kevin E. Collins, 35, of Cutler and Carrie A. Bobilya, 36, of Fishers.

### Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Graves	5B	3313
Summons-Davis	4B	3313
Sheriff Sale-Briseno/Gutierrez	5B	3313
Sheriff Sale-Rudd	5B	3313
Sheriff Sale-Ridgeway	5B	3313
Commissioners-Delinq Taxes	3B	3313
Delphi School-Tax Levies	5B	3412
Sheriff Sale-Mendez	5B	3413
Sheriff Sale-Collins	3B	3413
Notice of Suit-Stewart	3B	3413
Sheriff Sale-Carozos	5B	3413
Delphi Sch-Not. to Bidders	5B	3412
Delphi School-Bus Rep.	5B	3412
Gerard Estate	3B	3412
Carroll Schol-Tax Levies	4B	3412
TL School-Not. to Bidders	5B	3412
Area IV-Notice	5B	3511
Town of Yeoman-Notice	5B	3511
Town of Yeoman-Notice	3B	3511
Livestock Eng.-Carter	4B	3511
Delphi Library-Add'l Appro.	5B	3511
Commissioners-Not. to Bidders	4B	3512
Sheriff Sale-Land	3B	3513
County Claims	5B	3511
Hwy. Dept. Claims	5B	3511

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.

## 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. Robert Gooch Jr., 39, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated. He was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Susan E. Penn, 48, Kewanna, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person. She was sentenced to six months, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Marion J. Gibson, 50, Flora, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating while intoxicated, endangering a person. He was sentenced to one year, with all

## 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:

Do you think the county should build a SR75 connector route/road to the Hoosier Heartland Highway?

33% Yes  
30% Yes, believe it will be a good economic move for the county

9% No  
28% No, am concerned with the county maintaining current road inventory

Total responses: 57

### Reader comments:

If the funds come from business or the Economic Development Corp wants to raise the money from a source other than property tax, then I would not object. The benefit from an access road would be more for businesses than individuals. Given the fact that Crossroads and the Economic Development Corp usually want to raise property tax for their projects, I say NO.

but four months suspended, and 245 days of probation.

The following cases were dismissed: Harry W. Jones DDS vs. Lisa Martin; Lafayette Bank & Trust Company NA vs. Karen S. Thomas nka Karen S. Thomas-Markovich and Sand Ridge Bank; Indiana Members Credit Union vs. Georgia Ashlock; Delphi Community School Corporation (DCSC) vs. Robert Morrison in two cases; DCSC vs. Kenneth Neff; DCSC vs. Mr. and Mrs. Kent Christian; DCSC vs. Anna Donnelly;

A default judgment was ordered in Norman Filburn vs. Keith Clute. The plaintiff shall recover \$1,352 plus costs.

In Millennium Supply, Inc., vs. Anything Goes Custom, the court finds for the plaintiff, who shall recover \$623.60 plus costs.

A default judgment was ordered in Harry W. Jones, DDS vs. Chad Wrightsman. The plaintiff shall recover \$65 plus costs.

An agreed judgment was ordered in Harry W. Jones, DDS vs. Frank Whitfield. The plaintiff shall recover \$64.40 plus costs.

An agreed judgment was ordered in Harry W. Jones, DDS vs. Edna Lucas. The plaintiff shall recover \$122 plus costs.

A default judgment was ordered in Harry W. Jones, DDS vs. Jonathan Caudill. The plaintiff shall recover \$164.80 plus costs.

In Pearson's Marina vs. Chris Riner, the court finds for the plaintiff, who shall recover \$2,000 plus costs.

A default judgment of foreclosure was ordered in Irwin Mortgage Corporation vs. Melvin R. McPherson and Christina A. McPherson.

A default judgment and decree of foreclosure were ordered in Washington Mutual Bank vs. Chase A. Miller and Summer R. Miller.

Garnishment was ordered in Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Merranda A. Hillary for \$944.77.

Garnishment was ordered in Argent Healthcare Financial Service vs. Florence C. Tyra for \$2,819.60.

Garnishment was ordered in Lafayette Accounts Service, Inc. vs. Darrell L. Miller for \$4,164.24.

Garnishment was ordered in Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Shirley J. Garrison for

\$2,575.80.

A default judgment was ordered in DCSC vs. Mike Weaver. The plaintiff shall recover \$94 plus costs.

A default judgment was ordered in DCSC vs. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Snowberger. The plaintiff shall recover \$292.93 plus costs.

An agreed judgment was ordered in DCSC vs. Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Garcia. The plaintiff shall recover \$215.43 plus costs.

A default judgment was ordered in DCSC vs. Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hampton. The plaintiff shall recover \$100 plus costs.

A default judgment was ordered in DCSC vs. Mr. and

## 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.

A judgment and decree of foreclosure were ordered in HomeQ Servicing Corp. vs. Jeffrey W. Huddleston.

The following cases were dismissed: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. vs. Kathleen F. Hyman and Regions Bank; GMAC Mortgage Corporation vs. Harold W. Denton and Cynthia K. Denton et al.

Dissolutions: Prentiss Johnston and Melissa Johnston, Barbara J. Piegza and John B. Piegza.

Taxes were paid in the amount of \$1,196,187.52 on the gross value (\$6,908,560.23) of the following estates: Audria Clements, Alfred Moss, Mildred Landis, Robert Clifford, Daniel Crawn, Opal Rothenberger, Rosemary Fitch, Mary Ross, Helen McCain, Mabel Mullin, Marsha Schmidt, Evelyn Leiter, Jesse Endress, Hertsel Livingston, Robert Meyer and Eileen Pullen.

A complaint for damages was filed in Ashley N. Miller vs. Kenneth R. Morgan.

A complaint was filed in Capital One Bank vs. Brandon T. Vibbert.

A complaint to foreclose mortgage was filed in First Financial vs. Jennifer Baughma as representative of the estate of Deborah Kirts and Robert V. Kirts, II.

