

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## Stiff cigarette tax is needed

By William B. Stephan

While we are enthusiastic about many features of the new health plan proposed by Governor Mitch Daniels, the American Lung Association of Indiana is especially supportive of his efforts to aggressively address tobacco related health issues and access to health care for the uninsured.

Commenting on a proposed increase in the state's tobacco tax, the Governor encouraged legislators to set the bar high: "The more you raise the cost of cigarettes, the more Hoosiers can be provided health coverage. I hope you think that big."

Recently, four health-related organizations – the American Lung Association of Indiana, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and Tobacco Free Kids – conducted an opinion poll among Hoosiers. **Sixty-two** percent of the respondents favored increasing the cigarette tax by one dollar per pack. **Eighty-two percent** said it's important that revenues from a cigarette tax increase be used to fund programs to keep kids from starting to smoke and help smokers to quit.

All around us, our Midwestern peers appear to understand that a stiff cigarette tax can be an effective weapon against smoking. While our current rate in Indiana is a mere 55.5 cents per pack, Michigan's rate is \$2 per pack, Ohio's is at \$1.25 and the Illinois rate is 98 cents. It's really costly to smoke in Chicago, where the state and local cigarette tax combined is a whopping \$3.66 per pack.

Indiana's adult smoking rate is 27.3%, the second highest of the 50 states. Sadly, 21.9% of Hoosier youth are smokers. It is a tremendous drag on our economy and quality of life, with Indiana healthcare expenditures due to tobacco use reaching more than **\$2 billion** annually.

According to the American Lung Association of Indiana, a 25-cent increase in cigarette taxes, an amount proposed by some, will prevent 22,400 youths from becoming smokers and will result in 13,200 fewer adult smokers. But a \$1 increase in cigarette taxes will prevent 102,900 youngsters from taking up the habit and will result in 48,100 fewer adult smokers.

Those numbers tell us that a \$1 increase will produce far better results than a mere 25-cent increase. Legislators are right to be cautious in considering tax increases in any form. But public support for stronger tobacco measures continues to mount. The cigarette tax poll found that voters are much more likely to back a candidate who supports increasing the cigarette tax by a dollar a pack. Support, the polls said, outweighs opposition by nearly a three to one margin.

This is a tax increase that is long overdue and pays for itself many times over.

(William B. Stephan is chairman of the board of directors of the American Lung Association of Indiana and senior vice president of Clarian Health Partners)

## Web poll

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

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.

**Do you agree with the American Lung Association of Indiana that to produce the best preventative results, the cigarette tax should be increased \$1 per pack?**

Yes  
No

### Last Weeks results

**Do you believe the county should continue to subsidize Deer Creek Park?**

63% Yes, we need to preserve our county parks  
37% No, it's costing taxpayers too much to maintain and operate  
Total responses: 51

### Reader's comments:

Our family has booked the great room (at Deer Creek Park) for the last three years for a family reunion. Some have come from Illinois. Everyone loves to fish, walk around the pond and enjoy the multitude of wildlife. The shedding bark from the trees has even provided the material for bird houses our grandkids build. We enjoy the park all through the spring to fall seasons. Please don't get rid it.

## Where to Write

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We were seated next to a table of three at the Pizza Hut in Monticello the other evening. Nice enough seeming folks - parents and a twenty-something year-old adult son. Plenty of pizza, and lots of refills made their way over to that particular table. And there was quite a little mess to clean up after they left. Oh sure, I'm nosey, but to my defense, the tables were real close and these folks were loud.

When the three got up to leave, old Dad pulled out his wallet and tossed a dollar bill on the table. I mean, come on fella. I'll admit I don't know the details of how the wait staff get paid at each and every restaurant. But I, and my pizza loving neighbors, we know the general rule. Those tips make up the majority of the wages.

Old Dad was a cheater, plain and simple. He hadn't paid the implied price of admission for service and a smile inside under the big red Pizza Hut roof. From the casual look of things, that was his standard operating procedure. And if he didn't want to pay his fair share, he had an alternative. He could have done the drive-thru and the threesome could have eaten in the parking lot.

Fair's, fair.  
I like folks who gladly pay the price of admission.

We got to the show late the other night - saw "Dream Girls" up close from the first row. The price of admission

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### Price of admission

was the money for the ticket, plus getting to the theater on time. We failed at the latter, and got what we deserved.

There are plenty of implied costs to the price of admission.

Fair's fair.  
Waiting for the bus the other day, I noticed that the lady immediately ahead of me was juggling a cane in one hand and a steaming cup of coffee in the other. I offered to take the coffee while the woman boarded. She was hearing nothing of my helpful suggestion.

Up at the driver's level, the woman and the driver conferred on when he would loop around next to this vicinity. A mutual time was struck between the two. After the lady sealed her return ride, she handed the driver the coffee. A favor, for a favor. It was quite sweet. The elderly lady was paying the price of admission to her round trip accommodation.

At the next stop the bus driver stopped and the perky old woman alighted.

The conversation immediately turned to the bitter cold

outside and the fact that the frigid temperature had not daunted the woman with the coffee. That's when the bus driver posed the following question.

"How old do you think she is?"

The answer was a whistle blowing 94. Ninety-four years old and still paying her own price of admission.

Over at the Panera lunch spot in West Lafayette last week, it was neither elder nor youth who got my attention. The gentleman who caught my eye was my contemporary, a businessman in suit, with briefcase. What made this gent stand out was his pair of shoes. He slipped them off while enjoying his lunch, pulled over a spare chair and proceeded to prop his feet up on the chair he had appropriated for his hassock.

Some folks think that by paying the stated price of admission, then anything goes once that initial bill has been settled. At the "all you can eat buffet" they waste food just because it doesn't come at an extra cost. At the festivity with a complimentary bar and no limit, they drink more than their share since the cost is on someone else's tab.

Be it pizza, or favors, or the entry gate, I like folks who make sure the cost of admission gets paid and that payment is adequate.

After all, fair's fair.



## 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.

### New Filings

The State of Indiana filed charges against the following:

Anne E. Douglas was charged with neglect of dependent and criminal mischief.

Valente Bautista was charged with operating a motor vehicle as a habitual traffic violator and speeding.

**Because the public has a right to know...**

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the *Comet* will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

√Carroll School Board: 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8

√Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building

Friday, Feb. 9

√Carroll County Council special meeting: 8 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 12

√Establishment of fire territory: 6 p.m., RHS Multi-Purpose Room

√Delphi School Board: 7 p.m.

√Delphi City Council special meeting: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

√Town of Camden public hearing on CDBG Rehabilitation Grant, regular council meeting following: 7 p.m., Community Building

Wednesday, Feb. 14

√Burlington Town Council: 7 p.m.

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

Sheriff Sale-Stewart.....3B  
Sheriff Sale-Pancake.....3B  
Sheriff Sale-Smith.....3B  
Myer Estate.....3B  
Sheriff Sale-Davis.....3B  
Sheriff Sale-Harshbarger.....3B  
Carroll Sch-Not to Bidder...3B  
Delphi Sch-Not to Bidders...3B  
Sheriff Sale-Bissell.....3B  
Sheriff Sale-Barnett.....5B  
Washington TWP-Tax.....2B  
Collier Trust.....2B  
IDEM-Wertz.....2B  
Town of Camden.....2B  
Sheriff Sale-Terrell.....5B  
Sheriff Sale-Spence.....2B

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.

The following were charged with check deception: Kimberly M. White, Terri L. See, Cassie N. Sexton, Mandy L. Sizemore, Ryan M. Johnson, W. Clay Hart (six counts), Michael E. Overman (three counts), Brianna M. James (two counts), Tasha L. Scott (four counts), Ashley Van-Hoosier (two counts), Kayla B. Britton, Keely N. Day, Teresa L. Fraser, Traci L. Hahn, Danielle M. Godby (three counts), and Robert C. Knight.

Mark A. Westlake, Gary J. Austin, and William T. Rodenbarger Jr., were all charged with public intoxication.

Carey L. Yard was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, driving while suspended and public intoxication.

Scot E. Fisher was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Richard L. Dulin was charged with possession of

marijuana and possession of paraphernalia.

Joshua S. Lytle was charged with domestic battery.

Jessica S. Stout was charged with driving while suspended and speeding.

Kenneth G. Couch was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, speeding and seatbelt violation.

Freddie J. McKay Jr., was charged with two counts operating while intoxicated - endangering.

Rafael Conde was charged with two counts operating while intoxicated - endangering and failure to stop after an accident resulting in damage to an attended vehicle.

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For alcohol-related convictions, the following were meted a combination of jail time, with some suspensions, probation with fees, community service, house arrest, participation in a court-approved drug and alcohol program, and suspended and/or probationary driving privileges: Richard Dulin, 19, of Delphi; Bryan E. Stephens, 19, of Camden; and Jonathan Kilgore, 26, of Thorsby, Ala.

Jesse Coronado, 24, of Logansport, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever having received a license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Jonathan Nieves-Esteves, 25, of Delphi, pled guilty to driving while suspended. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail and suspension of driving privileges for one year.

Charges were filed between the following:

Capital One Bank has filed a complaint against Edward McKenzie.

Colonial Credit Corp. has filed a complaint against William L. Fraker.

Domingo Bernardo has filed a complaint against Francisco J. Camacho.

A complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage was filed by Bank of New York against Travis Davis and unknown tenant.

A complaint on note and to foreclose on mortgage was filed by Regions Bank against Jeremy Sorrells.

Midland Credit filed a complaint against Paul Stout.

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## 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.

### Questions economic development

Once again, Economic Development Director Daryl Smith, who claims he does not represent IPC, proposes the sale of land owned by Carroll County taxpayers to Indiana Packers Corp.

I well remember Mr. Smith telling me that IPC does not employ illegal immigrants and that a simple pile of dirt will protect Carroll Manor residents from stench and noise!

Last fall, I submitted to Mr. Smith and Commissioners Loren Hylton and George Mears (Commissioner Brown was absent), extreme concerns of the effect of odor, trucking and related noises that expansion of this facility would place on Carroll Manor staff and the elderly residents who reside there.

According to these county leaders and Mr. Smith, a pile of dirt will rectify my concerns.

Now I am just a dumb, old, lightly educated country boy, however I do find it rather offensive if any individual considers me to be so stupid to buy this hogwash!

I would suggest to the leaders of Carroll County to ask of yourselves if you would live beside IPC behind a pile of dirt and if not, treat Carroll County elderly and their caregivers with the respect you think you are deserving of. Or are old people of less importance to you?

Also, I would remind our county leaders and Carroll County residents that at a fall 2006 commissioners' meeting you chose to disregard a *Comet* survey that by far the majority of responses were against the sale of this land to IPC.

Do not the people you are elected to represent deserve more respect than this or is it permissible to vote personal agendas rather than the will of your constituents after you are elected?

In closing, I emphatically urge all Carroll County residents to take a brief couple of minutes and call your county leaders to advise them that your thoughts are important. If you receive their recorded messages, leave necessary details and request the simple courtesy of a return phone call to address your concerns personally. It is their job!

A personal thank you to Council members Carl Abbott and Jerry Hendress for at least using common sense to address reservations about this repulsive proposal.

Galen L. Perry  
Delphi

### Appreciates how Dungy leads his team

I am writing with so much pride and joy for the Indianapolis Colts. We saw two coaches make history by appearing in the Super Bowl as Black coaches. One would be the first Black coach to win the Super Bowl. Both men have a real Christian impact on their teams. We are in need of positive role models in sports today and what a role model Tony Dungy is. Our high school coaches and Little League coaches need to take notice as to how these men coach their teams and do not rant and rave over the mistakes made on the field.

Someone said that Coach Dungy won the Super Bowl by not ranting and raving and swearing, but doing it the Lord's way. I am so proud of him and I hope coaches everywhere will lead their teams by his example. What a coach!

Richard Cromer  
Bringhurst

## Restaurant Inspections

**Maple Leaf Country Store**  
Routine inspection: 1/23/07

Summary of Violations:  
No Violations Noted

**Delphi Discount Tobacco**  
Routine inspection: 1/24/07

Summary of Violations:  
No Violations Noted

**The Burlington Locker Plant**  
Routine inspection: 1/22/07

Summary of Violations:  
No Violations Noted

## Marriage Licenses

David John Marshall Haas, 23, of Prospect Heights, Ill., and Jayme Lynn Miller, 24, of Rossville.

Sergio A. Chavarin, 18, and Krystle Rae Ramirez, 21, both of Delphi.

Brent Allen McCarty, 30, of Apex, N.C., and Jennifer Dawn Maynard, 31, of Camden.

John Joseph Nicholls, 37 and Kimberly Ann Murphy, 36, both of Delphi.