

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

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

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Memberships include:



Speak up, or forever hold your peace!

In times of financial stress and worries, communication becomes the glue that holds a community together. When contention abounds, reining in feelings and information is sometimes the inclination, but it is exactly what is not needed. It is always better to stand up and face the storm, even when doing so hurts.

You as community members are the ones who can influence and perhaps coerce government leaders to improve communication just by asking.

When you are sitting in a commissioners' meeting and you cannot hear what is being said, or when you are in a county council meeting and you cannot understand who is saying what (because half of the members' backs are to the audience and your view of those facing you is blocked by the ones not facing you), you can speak up.

Just speak up and say you cannot hear what is going on. It might take more than one time, but sooner or later you will be heard.

Remember the old adage, the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

You might have to suggest several times that the amplification system in the commissioners' meeting room be enabled.

You might have to suggest more than one time that council members all face the audience. Or, you might suggest they simply move to the downstairs lounge to give them space to face the audience and allow for larger groups of people who are sure to be attending as the 2008 budget is being developed.

Whatever you do, or don't do, remember the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, never changing anything, but expecting a different outcome.

It is up to you, county residents, to let your voices be heard...just like you want to hear your leaders!

visit us on the web

carrollcountycomet.com

I'll always remember the regular trips my mom took my sister and me on to the library. The library was our refuge from any woes, a quiet place with the promise of adventure or reflection or a good laugh.

Our library started out as an independent, not part of a library system, and it was shaped in the form of a mini-castle. There were matching turrets on either end made of rough stone. When you pulled up in front of the library you knew right away you were not in an ordinary setting. Alfred Hitchcock, Frank Lloyd Wright, even the fictional Harry Potter, they all would have loved the place, each for a different reason.

My parents were both avid readers. My mom read books, my dad read newspapers and magazines. Dad would bring home the paper at the end of the workday. He'd be done reading, but he left it out for my sister and me.

I guess I remember the reading times in our household as happy times. We were together, engaged in a manner, yet off in our own little worlds of interest.

I don't read like I used to, and I miss it.

I buy books, a lot.

I'll hear a review of a book on the radio and there I am in traffic scribbling down the name, the author. "A must have." I'll say to myself and then trot off to track the book down, buy it and then let it sit on the shelf or coffee table or

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Reading material

bookcase.

Several summers back I heard about an author who had written only one book, "a beautiful book" the reviewer said. The book, long forgotten, inspired a documentary of one fan's search for the author. My son Jeff and I went to see the documentary. It was terrific.

Jeff later went on to buy me the book - a 600 pager, no less. I got into the first four pages and couldn't go on. Jeff tried to read it, my son-in-law Jake tried, none of us could read the thing.

That book will be part of my probate estate.

It's funny how certain printed material commands more respect than others.

Newspapers, for the most part, need to be read, and tossed. The one you're holding is no exception. It's great when newspapers get a second chance at something - recycling, paper mache, package stuffing all come to mind. I remember reading how some hog farmer used newspaper for... and now I can't remember for the life of me what I know someone who manufactures insulation from newspaper. A lot of respect for one copy of a newspaper - no, not much. Too common.

Magazines, on an individ-

ual level, get more reuse than newspapers. I save magazines. I feel guilty just sending them off in the trash. I tend to give my magazines away. My aunt was always sending us home from her house with magazines. I know plenty of friends and relatives who trade magazines, pass them along when they are done. And then, think about waiting rooms. Those places give magazines a second life and then some. Not long ago I read an interesting article in a magazine in some waiting room. The article, something about the real estate market, became less interesting to me when I realized the magazine was eight years old.

Paperback books are funny. I don't have as much trouble parting with them as some magazines. I've got a favorite laundry room with a reading shelf and I just leave behind any paperback there that I need to part with.

But hardcover books - they're tough, no matter what the condition, no matter what the subject matter. I can't toss a hardcover book, it just doesn't seem right. So I pile them, and shelve them and dust them. Many I've chosen, fewer, I've read. I'll loan them out - but kind of keep track of them when they are away.

Maybe it's something deep from my childhood. Maybe it's just part of when life was simpler and a peaceful quiet came over the household as the pages were quietly turned.

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.

Objects to new conservancy district

Aside from what we might have learned from the articles in the *Carroll County Comet* most of the citizens in Jefferson Township have been kept fairly much in the dark regarding the establishment of the "Jefferson Township Conservancy District" (JTCD).

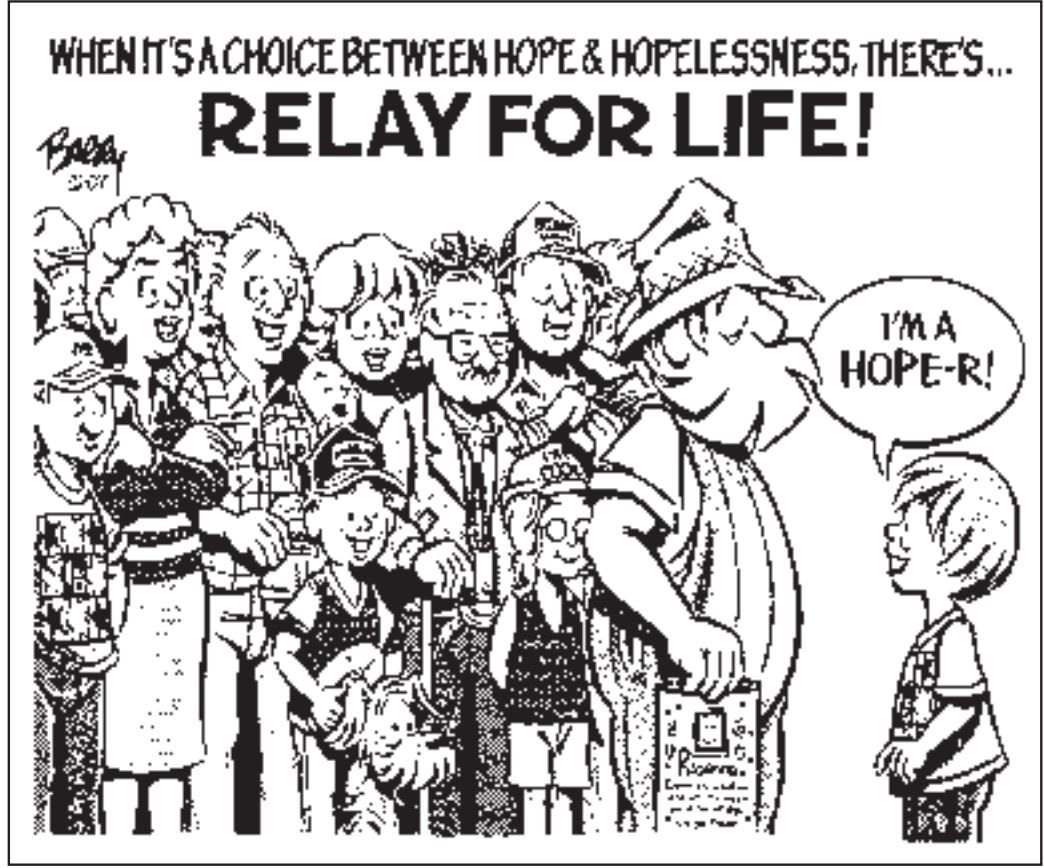
As I view it, a relatively small group, namely those on the Carroll County side of the Twin Lakes, objecting to the inclusion in the much disputed Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District (TLRSD), have ordained themselves to speak for ALL of us in ALL of Jefferson Township and are about to create an equally confiscatory entity. The very thing they are fighting in the TLRSD, they now seek to impose to ALL of the citizens in our township. It's the same taxation without representation that angered our Founding Fathers.

I cannot see what earthly good the JTCD could do for me when I, on the very eastern edge of the township away from the lakes, was totally unaffected by the machinations of the TLRSD. No one from the group called "Monticello COPT, Citizens Opposing Phase Three," the founders of the JTCD, has seen fit to inform those of us whose eyes they are trying to pull the wool over.

Fellow Jefferson Township folks: Watch notices in the *Carroll County Comet* and attend any and all hearings and meetings on this issue. If you are not going to gain from either the TLRSD or the JTCD you MUST make your voice heard before the judge and the commissioners. Also re-read Mr. Mills' Letter to the Editor in the 7/11/07 *Carroll County Comet*.

At press time you have already missed hearings before Judge Don Currie and the Commissioners on July 16.

Dieter Hantschel
Rural Delphi



Guest commentary: What is enough?

There have been previous articles in this paper which we have not responded to. But, we feel the time is now.

This letter is being written in response to clarify what was told in last week's article about Nick Keeler's sentence. The intent was not to reduce his sentence but to clarify it. The same amount of time will be served.

It seems ironic that last week's article would say in the caption: 'Keeler to serve original sentence,' as it was always intended to be in the "original sentence." Ten years D.O.C. time, three years work release in Liberty Hall Work Release Program, which became a women's only facility in January 2007, and two years in-home detention, equaling 15 years.

It was unforeseen that Liberty Hall would become a women's only facility. If Nicholas was a female, then this hearing would not have been necessary.

It is my belief, as evidenced by Judge Carey himself, he never envisioned this program would become a women's only facility. He stated in his letter that his intent was for Nicholas to be rehabilitated to a work release program, if eligible, qualified and accepted.

In the event that the work release program rejects the defendant, or he violates any term of the program after having been admitted and is terminated, then the defendant's entitlement to serve the portion of the sentence imposed in the program is null and void and he serves the balance of his sentence as prescribed by the Department of Correction.

Nicholas's executed sentence to such program was denied because Liberty Hall Work Release Program became a women's only facility.

The statement in last week's article was taken out of context. Important words of clarification were omitted. The only fault of the defendant was his gender.

This would, technically, not be a modification but a clarification. The clarification of the wording has prohibited him from being eligible for work release and further substance abuse classes.

Clarification means to make clear or pure, to free one's mind from confusion, to make intelligible or plain.

Nicholas's time served would be no less. He is serving his time, but unfortunately being punished for things beyond his control.

Nicholas has always shown remorse and taken full responsibility for his actions.

His conduct these last three and a half years has been exemplary. No write-ups, nothing at all to show that he hasn't worked to his fullest potential. He has worked hard at the Miami Correctional Facility with numerous certificates of accomplishment, kitchen duty, maintenance, visitation work which is an extreme honor as many correctional officers thought highly of him and his integrity, Godly character and excellent work ethics. If they needed a job to be done and done correctly, they knew they could count on him. Normally, men who get this privilege to work in visitation must prove themselves over a several year period and he was asked to do it in just one year. Many people, even the guards have seen the Godly, genuine, caring and giving man he has become. He has been an inspiration to many he has come in contact with and has done all one human can do to prove himself.

August 2006, Nicholas was transferred to Pendleton

CIC/CIF and has carried these same attributes and also has excelled in all that he has put his hand to do. Other inmates in this facility have even written letters in the monthly newsletter about his impact on their lives. He is currently in the Faith Dorm, which requires hours of classes per week. In order to obtain eligibility there, he must participate in and complete these required courses. He did all of this on top of going to college and taking the required rehabilitation courses he was able to take.

Nicholas has been a leader, not a follower, and is and will be a productive member of society. He earned an associate degree from Ball State University in May and was on the dean's list. He has also signed up for fall classes to continue his education to get his doctorate. This is very challenging as he has had to endure many life-changing situations while being incarcerated. It requires much

determination, perseverance and adaptation to the environment. Unless you have seen or been living in these surroundings, you will never know the full mentality of prison life. Most people are uneducated as to what really goes on in there.

Many men fall back into temptation because of the criminal activity inside the walls and see only destructive, negative and corrupt values and behaviors.

Our son and others have chosen to be above this. Families have been violated and destroyed because of the lack of compassion for those who want to change their lives. And it seems society does not want them to become better citizens, causing them to fail by labeling them forever with their convicted crime and taking away everything so that they cannot even begin to make it without the help and support of family and friends.

Nicholas has seen this firsthand. For him to rise above his

circumstances and surroundings says a lot. Fortunately, he does have the support of many God-fearing and loving family members and friends. He has learned much more than any of us ever will because he has lived it.

Why are prisons and county jails overcrowded? It's because they are not given a chance to be worked back into society so they can become productive citizens.

Without the support of someone who cares, prisons and jails will continue to burst at the seams. Tax dollars will continue to be misused. The penal system will continue to decay and justice will not be served.

Constructive methods can be used to rectify this situation: rehabs, halfway houses, mentoring, substance abuse and alcoholic treatment facilities, etc. Our only way we can see any change or difference is to make these more accessible.

Maybe someday soon, we can move in a constructive way to bring healthy, whole men and women back into society.

We are not in any way trying to do anything destructive to anyone. Our desire is to do something constructive with this tragedy and to see healthy principles applied.

We are not fighting with you. We desire to see justice just as you do. It is how you choose to look at it. We choose to use our energy and focus to help make this tragedy into something more positive for both families involved.

It is not just one family who is hurting deeply and suffering, but two families, broken down and beaten up. Neither of us would want to be in the other's shoes. We all grieve; we have all lost in some way. None of our lives will ever be the same. This will be on our minds the

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.

Would you prefer county council meet in the downstairs lounge of the courthouse?

Yes-the extra space would allow more community members to attend comfortably.

No-there is no reason to change rooms.

Last Weeks results

What is your favorite part of the county fair?

- 26% The animals
- 30% The food
- 11% The merchant's building
- 19% The projects
- 14% The carnival
- Total responses: 93

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, July 18
- ✓ Delphi Board of Works: 12 noon.
- Tuesday, July 24
- ✓ Area Plan Commission: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 26
- ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.-White County Gov. Building
- Tuesday, July 31
- ✓ County Council: 6 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Burton Estate5B
- NWINSWD-Budget.....5B
- Alcohol Permits.....5B
- Miller Estate.....5B
- Kubala Adoption.....5B
- Tippecanoe TWP-Budget.....5B
- Carrollton TWP-Budget.....5B
- TWP Library-Budget.....5B
- TL Reg. Sew. Dis.-Rates.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Cunningham.....5B
- CC Add'l Approp.....5B

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