

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Thank a teacher

“A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his influence stops.”

—Henry Brooks Adams

Teachers mold our future citizens through their guidance and education. They spend countless hours outside their classrooms preparing lessons, evaluating progress, and counseling and coaching students.

Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do.

Next week, May 7-11, is National Teacher Appreciation Week. It's a great time to show teachers just how much they are appreciated for what they do. Take the time to write a note of gratitude or encouragement. An e-mail would work just as well. Donate some supplies that they can use in their classrooms. Pray for them and their families.

National PTA established National Teacher Appreciation Week, the first full week of May, in 1984. The first Tuesday of the first full week in May is Teacher Appreciation Day. This year's theme is “Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools.”

National Teacher Appreciation Week focuses on the contributions teachers make to help children succeed in school and in life. Showing our teacher appreciation shouldn't be limited to this week and day.

Champaign taste on a beer budget

To continue to adhere to a county road plan, (albeit an amazingly well thought-out plan) that the county cannot afford is like repeatedly ramming your head into a brick wall. It hurts, the pain lingers and you don't want to suffer the consequential bruises after a few times.

County commissioners must align the road plan with county finances. The county has the ability to chip and seal roughly 100 miles of county road each year. It does not make sense to rebuild one mile of road and let the other county roads deteriorate and fall into disrepair. Turning roads back to gravel as is being done should not be an option.

The time to face reality is upon the commissioners. The council is in the process of that arduous task of sifting through the financial problems of the county and somehow fix them. This is not the work for those who want to be popular. It is the work of those who have the integrity and courage to do what is right, no matter how unpopular “right” is.

We again urge county leaders to work in cooperation with each other to address the financial situation upon the county.

Restaurant Inspections

Maple Leaf Country Store
Routine inspection: 4/12/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

YMCA Camp Tecumseh River Lodge
Routine inspection: 4/13/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

YMCA Camp Tecumseh Lake Village
Routine inspection: 4/13/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Gracie's Restaurant
Routine inspection: 4/10/07
Summary of violations: 1 non-critical

The stove in the back had an accumulation of soil residue. Directed to correct by 4/10/07.

Little Bit Country
Routine inspection: 4/10/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Save-A-Lot
Routine inspection: 4/9/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

The Office Tavern
Routine inspection: 4/9/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Camden Grocery
Routine inspection: 4/5/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Hollow Acres Golf Center
Routine inspection: 4/16/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

School House Auctions
Routine inspection: 4/16/07
Summary of violations: 1 non-critical

There was not any hand soap available at the hand wash sink.

Delphi Pizza King
Routine inspection: 4/17/07
Summary of violations: 4 non-critical

There were some cases (Chicken Tenders, Onions Rings, Poultry and Alaskan Pollock) being stored on the floor in the freezer. Directed to correct by 4/17/07.

The vents above the fryer had a

heavy accumulation of dust. Directed to correct by 4/18/07.

The ceiling in the back area of the deli by the fryer did not have a ceiling attachment. Directed to correct by 2 weeks.

The small freezer in the deli did not have a thermometer to measure the air temperature. Directed to correct by 4/18/07.

The Oakdale Inn
Routine inspection: 4/19/07
Summary of violations: 2 non-critical

There was not a thermometer in the chest freezer and the pizza freezer to measure air temperature. Corrected.

There was a food employee in the food prep area without a hair restraint. Directed to correct by 4/19/07.

Delphi Mara Mart
Routine inspection: 4/20/07
Summary of violations: One non-critical

There was a food employee in the food prep area without a hair restraint. Directed to correct by 4/20/07.

I guess you could say I've consumed more than my fair share of fast food over the years.

Just the sheer number of times I've made my way to the food counter has significantly upped my chances for food blunders.

It was the taste for a fish sandwich that did me in last Friday.

I pulled into the McDonald's parking lot, headed inside to the familiar confines and, in time, wound up at the front of the line.

I consulted the picture menu. I confirmed that the fish fillet and I had a lunch date. Confidently, I placed my order.

“A number 10 please,” I said, “and easy on the mayo.”

Ok, ok, stop right there. Let me be the first to admit that the McDonald's fish fillet actually comes with tartar sauce, and not mayonnaise.

But, kind reader, be honest here. Given the fact that there is one, and only one, condiment on the #10, do you kind of know, do you have a good guess of what I meant when I said “and easy on the mayo.” I wasn't talking horseradish, or steak sauce. I said mayo, I meant tartar.

The counter clerk was, however, having none of it. She was giving no benefit of the doubt.

“The fish fillet does not come with mayonnaise,” she corrected me.

I felt slightly filleted by the comment. I mean, sure, she has the right to hold me to condiment perfection. I'm just not convinced the correction was necessary for us to get from point A to point B.

But the transaction proceeded, with me corrected on

the whole mayo vs. tartar thing. But honestly, I enjoyed my #10 lunch just a smidgen less.

On, I proceeded, to the afternoon's activities.

My next destination was an hour lecture I was scheduled to attend. The meeting was held in a convention hall. There were many entrances, many directions to go, many, many different venues taking place in the vast and cavernous building.

I headed for the information booth where a tall woman with a bright pink headband sat in apparent readiness.

“Do you know where the green festival meeting is being held,” I asked?

There was the slightest of awkward pauses. I didn't get the problem.

“Do I know,” the lady said slowly?

“DO IIIIIIIIIIIII know,” she repeated?

Obviously, I had phrased my question incorrectly as far as the information lady was concerned. She wanted me to assume she knew the whereabouts of all meetings in her confines. Properly presented, my question should have gone something like, “Please direct me to the green festival meeting.”

Instead of rephrasing my question, I fled.

“I'll find it on my own, thanks,” I called to her as I ran from the booth that didn't seem



Correction

to offer much in the way of information.

I suppose I'm just as guilty as the next guy of correcting folks when they could just as well earn a pass. But those corrections sure come with a price.

How many great stories have been wrecked, their tempo shot, their cadence ruined because someone had to clarify, right then and there, that it was “Maple Street” and not “Elm Street” where the drama unfolded.

Decades ago I hailed the one and only cab in Paris I've ever taken. The “Louvre” I said to the cabdriver. Unfortunately, I pronounced the name of the famous art museum like the folding louver door one might find on a closet.

To this day I'm certain the cabbie knew exactly where I wanted to be taken. However, in reaction to my gaff he offered up a look both shocked and offended.

Corrected, I was, but at such a cost!

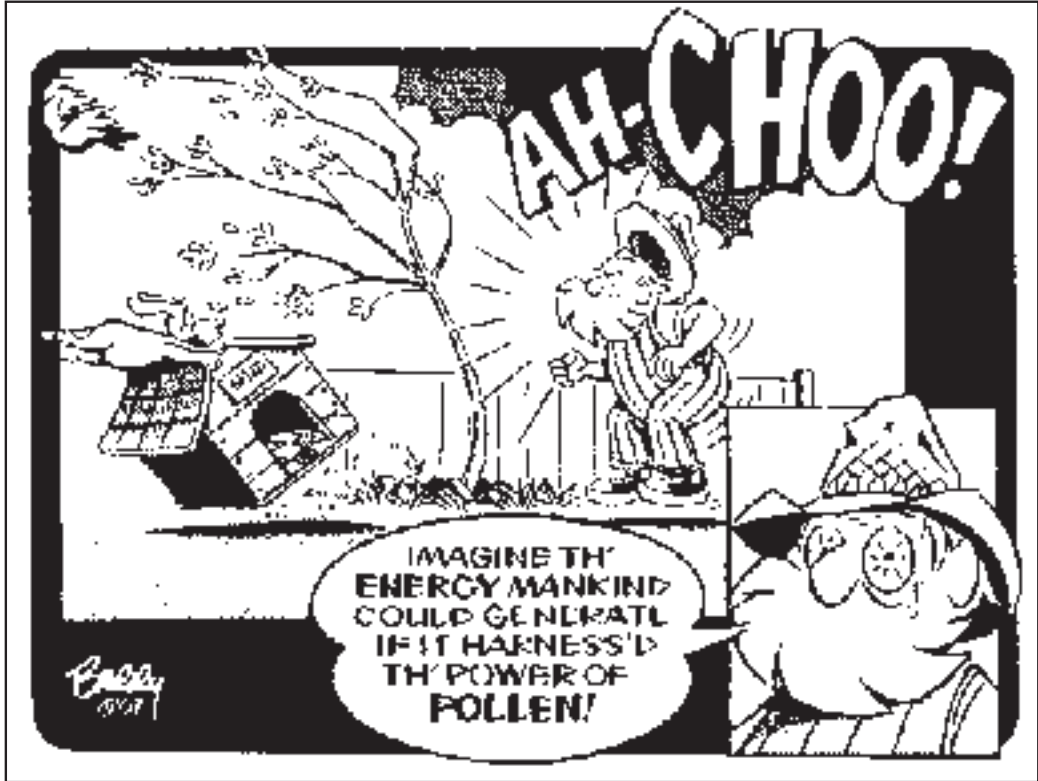
So I'm going to wrestle my own lesson from these recent corrections.

And as far as McDonald's, I suppose I should stick to ordering beef. Except the last time I did that I ordered a “Whopper with cheese.”

Oops, that's the signature burger of McDonald's competition.

On that occasion the counter clerk simply offered a tisk-tisk while feigning she had no idea whatsoever what I actually wanted for lunch.

With all these corrections, someday I'll learn the underlying lesson: something like - pack a sack lunch.



Capital Comments

Odds of recession

By Larry DeBoer
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We may have a recession in 2007 or 2008. Or we may not. Former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan made waves back in March by putting the odds of recession over the next year at one out of three. More likely than usual, but still unlikely.

But why do we need odds or probabilities? Why can't economists just give a yes or no answer to the question of recession? Will we have one or not?

One reason may be that the study of economics isn't advanced enough (or economists aren't smart enough) to provide the answer. But another reason is that recessions are caused by shocks. And shocks are, well, shocking. An unexpected event drags down the economy, and the economist looks at the ruins of his or her forecast and says, “I sure didn't expect that to happen!”

What are shocks? Asset mar-

ket crashes, in stocks or real estate. Foreign exchange crises. Wars and revolutions on top of the world's oil supply in the Middle East. Terrorist attacks. Weird changes in expectations by consumers or businesses. Ill-timed government policies.

All these shocks have played a role in recessions in the past. But shocks don't always bring recession. The stock market crashed in 1987. No recession followed. The 1997-98 Asian currency crisis could have ended the 1990s expansion early. It didn't. Shocks tend to cause recessions when the economy is already weak. Or, if you like, it takes more than one shock to bring about recession.

Consider the recession in 1980. The economy was already weak. The Fed had begun increasing interest rates by the end of 1979. The revolution in Iran was pushing oil prices to record levels.

Inflation was in double digits in 1980, and President Jimmy Carter wanted to bring it down. So, he had the Federal Reserve impose “consumer credit controls” to restrict credit card borrowing by consumers. If consumers spent less, retailers would have to cut their prices. He announced the new policy in a speech in March. He scolded consumers for going into debt to try to beat inflation. That just made the problem worse, he said.

The controls weren't very tight, and economists didn't think they'd have much effect. But people quit spending. Some cut up their credit cards and sent the pieces to the White House. Perhaps consumers felt guilty about buying so much on credit, and the President's speech had tapped into that guilt.

The drop in spending pushed an already weak economy into recession, because consumers responded to a small policy change in a big way. It was a shock.

Consider the recession of 1990-91. The economy was already weak. The Fed had increased interest rates. The savings and loan crisis had led to a “credit crunch,” so banks were reluctant to lend.

Then, on Aug. 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The first Gulf War was on. Oil prices increased for a time (they dropped again before the war ended).

Consumer confidence dropped. Consumer spending fell. Perhaps consumers remembered that oil price hikes had preceded the previous three recessions, and figured they'd better not commit to buy a car or house if a recession was coming. So, they held back on their spending. And a recession came.

What's our situation today? The economy is already weak. The Fed has increased interest rates. Oil prices have risen. Output has been growing by less than 3 percent for several quarters. And we've had our shock. The housing boom has collapsed. In many markets, home construction has dropped, home sales have slowed and real estate prices are falling.

We don't know yet how severe this shock will be. Will it lead to a credit crunch? It might. Business spending on buildings and equipment has slowed along with housing construction. Perhaps, they're having trouble borrowing money for these big investments.

Most important, though, is how consumers will react. With housing prices falling, will consumers stop spending? Will they take out fewer home equity loans? They haven't so far. Consumer spending has continued to grow.

Odds are consumers will keep spending. The housing market shouldn't have that big an effect on consumers. What if it does? That would be a shock.

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.

For convictions related to alcohol, 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: Devin A. Montono, 30, of Delphi, public intoxication; Michael E. Steele, 21, of Kokomo, public intoxication; and Daniel Steele Jr., 21, of Burlington, public intoxication.

William Ramirez, 28, of Delphi, pled guilty to false informing. He was sentenced to one year in jail, seven days suspended, and 351 days supervised probation.

Kelly N. Day, 28, of Frankfort, pled guilty to check deception. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Derrick W. Shuman, 20, of Peru, pled guilty to theft. He was sentenced to three years in jail, all but 138 days suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Daniel J. Peters, 27, of Flora, pled guilty to theft. He was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, all but 134 days suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Jacob A. Lewis, of Peru, pled guilty to driving without a valid license in possession. He was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

Danny K. Moyers, 33, of Delphi, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle as an habitual traffic violator. He was sentenced to three years in jail, two years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Carlos Garcia Huerta, of Monticello, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. He was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

Eduardo Navarro, 23, of Logansport, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Rhonda K. Lawson, 39, of Monticello, pled guilty to failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicle damage and driving while suspended. She was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, all suspended, and one and a half years supervised probation.

Trista M. Moser, 22, of Delphi, pled guilty to battery resulting in bodily injury. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation. She was ordered to have no contact with her victim.

Stephen T. Gascho, 27, of Burlington, pled guilty to criminal trespass and criminal mischief. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Robert B. Guerrero, 22, of Lafayette, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license and disregarding a stop sign. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended.

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.

Monday, May 7
√County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
√Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
√Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8
√Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9
√Burlington Town Council: 7 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-Tyra5B
- Sheriff Sale-Thatcher5B
- Sheriff Sale-Marchand5B
- Sheriff Sale-Powers5B
- Sheriff Sale-Myers5B
- Delphi Schl-Add'l Appro5B
- Austin Estate5B
- Sheriff Sale-Smith5B
- Sheriff Sale-Gallaber5B
- Sheriff Sale-Veach5B
- Sheriff Sale-Mote5B
- Sheriff Sale-Flint5B
- Orem Estate5B
- Sheriff Sale-Little5B
- Highway Claims5B
- County Claims3B
- Sheriff Sale-Woohams5B

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

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.

The cost of rebuilding one mile of county road per year is equal to chip and sealing roughly 100 miles of road. Which are you in favor of?

- Rebuilding, because it will make the roads last longer
- Chip and sealing, because more miles of roadway will be improved

Last Weeks results

Will you visit one or both of the county parks this summer?
35% Yes, I'm excited to check them out!
20% No, I will not be visiting the county parks.
45% Not sure...what are those directions again?
Total responses: 20