

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

Consolidation of the Delphi Journal-Citizen (Est. 1839) and the Flora Hoosier Democrat (Est. 1897).

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Memberships include:



## What did you say?

Once again, we appeal to the Carroll County Council to rethink their position on sitting around a table to conduct their meetings.

There were times at last Friday's meeting when the noise was so loud council conversation was inaudible. Because some council members sit with their backs to the audience, which blocks from view those sitting across the table, the crowd could not see what vote was cast by those sitting at the far side of the table when a hand-vote was taken.

Voices of those on the far side of the table were blocked too, making it difficult to hear and understand what some council members were saying.

If taxpayers are to understand the workings of the council, they must first be able to see and hear what is going on. They cannot fully appreciate the hard work each council member, as well as the county auditor, contributes when they cannot see all or hear everyone.

The council is doing an excellent job of facing the financial problems created in the past and should be widely applauded for their efforts. We implore them to extend that effort to make sure the public is fully informed of what they are doing.

Please, council members, work with the commissioners to rearrange the commissioners' meeting room to fully accommodate those who you represent.

## 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.

Robert Potts and Marjorie Potts filed a complaint against J&K Watson Enterprises Inc.

Countrywide Home Loans filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Andy D. and Regina R. Clause. LaSalle Bank National filed a complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Ronald E. Brown and Deborah Brown.

First Financial Bank NA filed a complaint to foreclose mortgage against Stanley Hyman et al.

Midland Credit Management filed complaint against Guadalupe Martinez.

Roswell Prop. LLC Ltd. filed a complaint to foreclose mortgage against Timothy P. Cade, Della L. Cade and Wells Fargo Bank.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Alan De-vault.

Hudson and Keya LLC filed a complaint on installment promissory note against Christopher Leigh Klinker.

Industrial Federal Credit Union filed a complaint for foreclosure of mortgage and on note against Tracy L. Burge, John Doe, Jane Doe and Treasurer of Carroll County.

Thomas L. Marchand was charged with intimidation (two counts), attempted residential entry, domestic battery, battery resulting in bodily injury, criminal mischief, public intoxication and criminal trespass.

## 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.

**If you won the lottery, how would you take your payout?**  
One lump-sum  
20-year annuity

### Last Weeks results

**Should the county take active steps to enforce bridge limits to reduce damage from overweight truck traffic?**

85% Yes, why have them if we don't enforce them?  
6% No, we don't have the manpower and it wouldn't be worth it.  
9% Offenders could be reported and fined after the fact.  
Total responses: 86

#### Reader's comments:

As the delivery driver for the Stone Quarry I had to really consider my answer to this question. Part of the time we get directions that lead you to cross these bridges. It would help for there to be better signage at the start of the roads with limited bridges, but not every driver pays attention to the signs when they are posted.

## Where to Write

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**BRANDT HERSHMAN**  
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Ind State Senate  
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visit us on the web  
carrollcountycomet.com

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



## Ruck up

who serve and have served in our military.

Ruck up. I'd never heard the expression until Monday. That was when General David Petraeus testified before the Armed Services Committee in D.C. concerning the war in Iraq and the troop surge. In one of his comments he used the term "ruck up" in discussing the attitude of soldiers in Iraq doing their daily duties.

I inferred that the term had to do with enduring something - more on the stiff upper lip kind of demeanor. I was wrong.

Ruck up is a military term that means: grab your gear and go. A ruck sack is another name for a back pack according to the on-line Urban Dictionary I consulted.

And during this word exercise it occurred to me again how much we ask of the folks in our military. At a moment's notice we ask these men and women to grab their gear and go. Ruck up is part of the job description.

These days it's fashionable for all politicians to preface re-

marks about our military with the statement that they "support our troops." Then, after that pledge of support, said politician will go on a rant about the war, the cost of the war, money better spent, etc., etc.

But what is this "support our troops" talk from both sides of the political divide?

What does support mean? Every report I hear tells me our military is stretched beyond capacity. We are extending tours of duty. We are redeploying units. There's real concern that the National Guard is overtaxed and not sufficiently available here at home to cover much of its intended mission.

We do not have enough folks in uniform to carry out the military missions that Congress and the Bush Administration want accomplished.

If we are truly to support our troops, I'm certain that means we need to offer sufficient pay, incentives and conditions to recruit and employ enough men and women in uniform to get the job done.

Why is this not a national priority?

It seems to me our military does one incredible and necessary job. And it seems to me that our first duty to our citizenry is to those who serve and have served.

We expect them to ruck up. What can they expect of us?



## 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 following were charged with check deception: Jennifer L. Barnes (four counts); Katrina L. Boughton (10 counts); Leslie L. Field; Marion Wright; John Hecker; Kristin S. Habertzette; Kristin S. Whitworth (four counts); Kyle Burkhalter (three counts); Candy A. Schneidt (three counts); and Dakota J. Horn.

Michael R. Long was charged with possession of marijuana.

Derek R. Ramsey was charged with public intoxication and possession of marijuana.

Ashley Wallace was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering and operating with an ACE of .08 or more.

Johnny F. Ovalle was charged with harboring a non-immunized dog.

Alisa M. Straws was charged with driving while suspended.

Larry J. Smith was charged with public intoxication.

Carl D. Timmons was charged with criminal trespass. Thaddeus J. Nelson was charged with arson, intimidation and criminal mischief.

Brandon C. Kelly was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering.

James R. Dillman was charged with strangulation and domestic battery.

Rita Lopez was charged with possession of marijuana and speeding.

Juan A. Hernandez was charged with operating a motor

vehicle without ever receiving a license.

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James David Lucas, 36, of Flora, pled guilty to maintaining a common nuisance and possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to two years in jail, all suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Rebecca Coy, 45, of Cutler, pled guilty to receiving stolen property. She was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, all suspended, and one and a half years supervised probation.

Antonio Landeros, 29, of Delphi, pled guilty to resisting law enforcement, public intoxication and false informing. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

The State of Indiana dismissed cases against the following: Erika Zamora; Josey R. Chittick; John W. Dool; Kristin S. Habertzette; and Aaron D. Herendeen.

The following cases were dismissed: PHH Mortgage Services vs. Steven D. Ogle and Ramone S. Ogle; RTO Central Indy LLC vs. Robert Long and Sara Luse; and William C. Homan vs. Pearson's Marina.

In a default judgment, Marvin Edwards was ordered to make restitution to Applied Card Bank.

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: Juan V. Martinez, 46, of Kokomo, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person; Sheila S. Maloney, 34, of Delphi, operating while intoxicated - endangering a person; and Rafael Conde, 43, of Monticello, operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person (prior conviction).

Michael L. Fischer, 39, of Rossville, pled guilty to domestic battery. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Maria Villagrana, 35, of Delphi, pled guilty to driving while

suspended. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Molly J. Isom, 36, pled guilty to operating a vehicle with a schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in the body, possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. She was sentenced to one and a half years in prison.

Jeremias Valdez, 29, of Colburn, 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.

Valente Bautista, 47, of Frankfort, pled guilty to operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator. He was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, all but 82 days suspended, and 465 days supervised probation.

Saul Franco, 28, 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.

Mark A. Westlake, 41, of Brookston, pled guilty to two counts of public intoxication. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Leslie Field pled guilty to check deception. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation. A second charge of check deception was dismissed.

Robert W. Campbell, 33, of Flora, pled guilty to two counts of theft. He was sentenced to three years in jail, two years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Hugo S. Colquehuanca, 43, of Delphi, pled guilty to disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 84 days suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Alfrado Perez-Ayala, 49, of Delphi, pled guilty to disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 84 days suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Brenda Hollon pled guilty to check deception. She was fined \$10 plus court costs.

Telena J. Birden pled guilty to check deception. She was fined \$10 plus court costs.

## 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.

## Are local government services for people or property?

The sudden public interest in property taxes and local governments makes me think about what services local governments provide and for what purposes. A recent report from the state's Department of Local Government Finance, "Report on Expenditures per Capita," opened my eyes.

For example, of Indiana's 92 counties, Clay County had the lowest county government expenditures per person at \$215.62, while Newton County had the highest at \$2,809.40. Of the 1,008 Indiana townships with populations ranging from 44 to 167,055, Wabash Township in Gibson County had the highest per capita spending with \$694.44 per person.

There are 293 Indiana school corporations with student populations ranging from only 30 to as many as 38,018 students. The highest per-student expenditure was River Forest Community School Corporation in Lake County at \$1,072.96 and the lowest in the state was Western School Corporation in Howard County at \$7,460.01 per student.

Obviously there is great variability in the level of services provided and many explanations for that variability. But I also wonder if it would make more sense to assess property taxes for services based on whether the services were relevant to the property.

Agriculture is different from other types of economic activity in that farmers are entirely dependent on land as a major component of our business cost. Farmers can't farm without farmland. Arguably, farmland does benefit from police, fire, roads, judicial, county administration and other services. But farmland does not use services for education, welfare, libraries, parks, airports, cemeteries or many other services provided by local government.

To be fair, those are largely services for people, not property. In the coming discussions about how we pay for government services, we should seriously consider whether the service is relevant to the property use and property type.

Ironically, many local government services create demand for more and larger property protection services. Specifically, schools, libraries and other governmental buildings don't pay property taxes but do require increased police and fire protection services. Property taxpayers pay multiple times for those facilities: their initial construction, their debt service and their ongoing maintenance and protection.

So, as we debate property taxes and local government services, I would ask our public policy decision-makers this question: Are local government services oriented more toward people, or property? How we answer that question will directly influence how much property tax we will still be forced to pay.

Don Villwock, president  
Indiana Farm Bureau

## Restaurant Inspections

### Carroll County VFW

Routine inspection: 8/30/07  
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

### Wildcat Creek Bed & Breakfast

Routine inspection: 8/31/07  
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

### Parrett's

Routine inspection: 8/30/07  
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 1 Non-Critical  
Critical

There was some meat in the walk in cooler not dated with a date of seven days. Directed to correct by one day.

Non-Critical

The wet wiping clothes were not being stored in sanitizing solution. Directed to correct by one day.

## Marriage Licenses

Chadwick William Henricks, 26, and Michelle A. Dillinger, 26, both of Yeoman.