

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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

Published each Wednesday at 114 East Franklin St., Delphi IN 46923
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Delphi IN 46923 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Carroll County Comet,
PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026 USPS 285-840

Published by CARROLL PAPERS, Inc. PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026
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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES in Advance - Per Year
Carroll County, Service People and Counties which border Carroll - \$30.00.
All other Indiana counties - \$36.00; All other states - \$40.00.
Addresses changed for seasonal residences - Add \$3.00
Address changes - subs@carrollcountycomet.com

Memberships include:



Dairy overload? Is it time to revisit special exceptions?

When the first mega-dairy in Carroll County was proposed, Carroll County Area Plan Commission debated - at length - the need for CAFOs to be made special exceptions in the zoning ordinance. Ultimately, they decided against that notion.

Special exceptions are approved by the board of zoning appeals in a public meeting. Special exceptions are a way for the county to control its own destiny.

When a second dairy was proposed near Burrows, neighbors and Cass County residents became alarmed about the project. But again, local zoning ordinances do not require attention by county leaders. If the CAFO was to be located in an unfavorable place for the county for any reason, there is nothing the county can do about it.

There is now a third dairy rumored to be located near Range Line Rd. on CR550N. in Tippecanoe Township. This could very well become the straw that breaks the proverbial camel's back. That camel is Carroll County and its back is the critical financial situation the county is currently experiencing.

The roads in that area are not built for truck traffic. They are winding and hilly. There is only so much money in the highway department budget for road repair. There isn't enough money now to repair roads the way most residents want them done. How can the county afford this new stress? It can't.

Road conditions are only one cost consideration for the county for such a project.

APC should revisit the special exception decision and re-evaluate the need for Carroll County to control its own destiny.

Are you listening, county leaders?

Last week's Web poll question in the *Comet* was simple. "Do you believe the county finance committee is releasing too much information about the county's financial woes?"

Results as of Tuesday showed 114 of 117 responded the committee is not revealing too much. In fact, 89 of those indicated public officials should be held accountable for their actions while in office.

Three poll respondents said it was better to take care of matters privately. None said there was no financial crisis. For some county leaders, this is your wake-up call.

The county's money problems would have been avoided had elected officials performed their jobs properly, but we would not be in this position at all had their feet been held to the fire as soon as problems arose. Our elected officials must discuss their errors openly and immediately and continue to do so until existing problems are solved.

Taxpayers are already paying for these errors through loss of services. They should be the last to have to worry about fixing these costly blunders. Those who accepted the responsibility of the positions should be held accountable.

The people want transparent government and they want it now. It is the only way to ensure our elected officials serve taxpayers responsibly and efficiently.

The people have spoken. Are you listening, county leaders?

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.

Sipriso Zarate Gonzalez, 45, of Brookston, pled guilty to identity deception. He was sentenced to one and a half years in prison, one year suspended, and one year probation. Four other counts against him were dismissed.

Veronica M. Vargas, 22, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Lucas Temple, 29, of Lafayette, pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to

one year in prison. A charge of possession of marijuana against him was dismissed.

Athena L. Dulin, 26, of Delphi, pled guilty to driving while suspended. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed: State of Indiana vs. Ernesto Gonzalez Hernandez; State of Indiana vs. Hoby A. Hays; State of Indiana vs. Michael T. Stone; and Jackson-Lee-Pearson vs. Scott Albaugh.

Delia Keay was ordered to pay \$7,098.20 to Cavalry SPV 1 LLC, an assignee of Ford Credit US.

In an agreed judgment, Rachel Hatfield was ordered to pay \$563 to Jean A. Sales.

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.

What kind of Christmas tree do you have at your home?

- Real - cut down ourselves
- Real - buy at the store
- Artificial - like a real one
- Artificial - ceramic, silver, etc.
- None - bah humbug!

Last Weeks results

Do you believe the council finance committee is releasing too much information about the county's financial woes?

- 3% Yes - it's best to take care of matters privately
 - 0% Yes - there's not a financial crisis
 - 21% No - Problems need to be aired to be solved
 - 76% No - public officials are and should be held accountable for their jobs
- Total responses: 117
Reader's comments:

It is a sad situation when the county auditor doesn't feel it is her responsibility to share financial information with the County Council. Council members should not have to ask for financial information that is needed to make informed decisions for the county taxpayers.

My wife and I don't rush our Christmas shopping. We let the calendar turn to December and the days quietly progress until the music of the season and the scents in the air combine to set the mood. When visions of sugarplums actually dance in our head, well then the panic sets in and we get going.

Posing as one of Santa's helpers, I snagged some interesting catalogues at the print section of the recycling bins the other day. I thought the catalogues might save us some non-quality time at the shopping mall. I got a J. C. Penney's cook's catalogue. It's all things kitchen and cooking - very interesting. I also took a Harry and David - home of the famous fruit and chocolate tower. But the real find, the inspiration for this year's gift giving theme was "Winter Silks."

Yes, Christmas 2007 in our house will be the year of the long johns.

But it's not as easy as it sounds. We've got color, size, style, weight and material choices to deal with.

As the company name implies, Winter Silks emphasizes silk as the material of choice. However, the other choices include cotton, silk and synthetic blends and something called "ThermoKnit" which sounds really toasty. So there's choice one.

In style, we have men,

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Long johns

woman, and unisex. Hmmm. Choice number two.

Unique to the choices for tops is the crew neck and the V. In this case the V is a real plugger, if you get my drift, and personally, I think it's a drafty choice for number three.

Our fourth choice is the color. Their choices include the standards like white, black, grey. But there's also cream and meadow violet and a whole palate that requires an interior decorator's advice. Did I mention you can mix and match. Perhaps a grey on top and a little meadow violet on bottom?

The warmth index for these long johns is rated by snow flakes. No, I'm not making this up. A one snowflake rating equals warm. Two snowflakes is warmer. Three snowflakes is warmest. The catalogue promises that with the 3 snowflake rating "Jack Frost doesn't stand a chance." Sounds warm to me! That's five choice factors and counting.

Finally, coming in at choice factor number six is size. Size is the potential ticking bomb in gift giving and probably the

most common cause for gift returns. When it comes to guessing someone else's size I am more often wrong than right. And when you add in five other variables, well we decided this was the year to take orders for long johns, rather than guess. I mean, there you are, Christmas morning with a two snowflake rated, ladies' medium, silk in tan with a plunging V neck when your heart was set on meadow violet with a crew neck.

So we're taking orders and it's decisions, decisions for the family members on our list. And nobody just fires off their preference and then sticks with it.

"I'll have to get back to you."

"Could I see the list of all the colors?"

"Say, can I still change the neck style?"

But the deadline is looming.

Stay tuned is all I can say.

And if you see at the post office on the 24th - and I'm loaded down with a dozen boxes labeled "Tower of Fruit," well then you'll know folks just didn't get their orders in.

But if I'm sweating a lot as I wrangle those boxes into the car. Well then you know I'm sporting my silk, men's medium, 2 snowflake rated long johns with crew neck in a color that will just have to be left to imagination.

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.

Well deserved honor

I just wanted to congratulate Bud Cripe on his years of service and thank the City of Delphi for honoring Bud, he deserves it and more. I have known Bud for a lot of years and worked with him for a few. He's always friendly, happy and works hard. Naming a street after Bud is a great tribute to a very good man. In these times, where hard work, attendance, loyalty and dedication are cast out, ignored or taken advantage of, this is a good thing to see and read about.

Kenneth Stuart Emery, S.D., former Delphi resident/employee

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, Dec. 10
 - ✓ Delphi School Corp.: 7 p.m.
 - ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District-interviewing engineering firms (Hannum Wagle & Cline) for Phase IV: 6 p.m.
- White County Gov. Building
- Tuesday, Dec. 11
 - ✓ Carroll County Council: 8 a.m.
 - ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District-interviewing engineering firms (Greeley & Hansen, GRW, Wightman Petrie) for Phase IV: 6 p.m.
- White County Gov. Building
- ✓ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 13
 - ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Marshall Sale-Noble.....5B
- Sheriff Sale-Warf.....5B
- Hwy Dept. Bidders Not4B
- Rogers Estate4B
- Kubly Estate4B
- Rossville Sch-add'l appro...4B
- Notice of Intent.....4B
- Sheriff Sale-Martinez4B
- Rossville Sch-Not to Bidder4B
- Howard Cty Plan Comm.4B
- 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.

Where to Write

Indiana Senate
BRANDT HERSHMAN
District 7
Ind State Senate
200 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, In. 46204
800-382-9467 (toll-free)
317-232-9400
e-mail: S7@in.gov

Indiana House
RICH MCCLAIN
District 24
Ind House of Representatives
200 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, In. 46204-2786
800-382-9842 (toll free)
317-232-9600
e-mail: R24@in.gov
U.S. Senate
EVAN BAYH
717 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1404
10 W. Market St., Suite 1650
Indianapolis, In. 46204
202-224-5623 (office)
202-228-1377 (fax)
317-554-0750 (Indianapolis)
e-mail: bayh.senate.gov/webmail1.html

U.S. Senate
RICHARD LUGAR
Room 1180
10 West Market St.
Indianapolis, In. 46204-2964
317-226-5555 (office)
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-225-5037 (office)
e-mail: senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov

U.S. House
JOE DONNELLY
207 W. Colfax Ave.
South Bend, IN. 46601
US House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Bldg. 1218
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3915 ph
202-225-6798 fax
Web Site: www.donnelly.house.gov

visit us on the web
carrollcountycomet.com



Guest commentary:

Dairy factories and your health

By Thomas R. Anderson M.D.

As a health-care provider in Carroll County, I am concerned that many citizens are unaware of the magnitude of the decision to build multiple dairy factories in Carroll County. These dairies, commonly called "CAFOs" (concentrated animal feeding operations), have extensive health, environmental, and economic repercussions that I have not seen addressed in our community.

There is sufficient documentation to have grave reservations about the affect these dairies will have on our entire community. First of all, we have been warned by geologist/hydrogeologist, Prof. Emeritus of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Darrell Leap, Ph.D. from Purdue University, that plans to establish such operations in our county "are fraught with potential environmental problems that are serious enough to warrant denial of a permit by IDEM and cancellation of planned operations of this activity in this locality."

Dr. Leap concludes his extensive 12-page report about a Carroll County CAFO by saying, "The Vreba-Hoff Optima Dairy planned for Liberty Township of Carroll County, Indiana, should not be permitted because potential environmental problems are too numerous, too great and too dangerous to humans and animals that will come in contact with the large amounts of manure that will be stored and spread on fields." (A copy of this report is available to the public at the Camden Medical Office, 132 W. Main St, Camden.)

One of the reasons the danger is so great is due to manure seepage into ditches, streams and ground water. Cattle frequently carry E. Coli 0157:H7 which is shed in manure; this is the strain of E. coli that causes severe, bloody diarrhea and 8% acute kidney failure in patients requiring medical treatment of which 3-5% of these patients die from this illness. The young and the elderly are at greatest risk.

As a physician, I must inform you that medical science has no cure for this type of bacterial infection; if contracted, it must be allowed to run its course.

Even one dairy factory in the county means this bacteria could be released in a manure spill and could be contracted by playing or wading in a downstream creek,

by eating or handling fish from the creek, by eating deer or any livestock drinking from the creek or groundwater.

Another health hazard is the poisonous gas emissions near confinement areas, sewage pits, or sewage disposal fields, said Bryce Oates in an article for *Immotion* magazine. Oates cites that according to a 2002 Air Quality Study from the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, "large manure lagoons pollute the air with many gases that can be harmful to human health, including hydrogen sulfide. Exposure to hydrogen sulfide can cause nausea, headaches, vomiting or diarrhea, and even life-threatening pulmonary edema."

Dr. K. Kilburn of Utah is a leading authority on hydrogen sulfide. He states that "even one exposure to the toxin is enough to cause irreversible brain damage."

He also says, "the operational size of today's mega-farms is the reason they threaten public health."

I think it is also in the public's best interest to know that on Jan. 9, 2004, the American Public Health Association released the following:

The American Public Health Association has issued a resolution urging federal, state, and local government health agencies to impose a precautionary moratorium on all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) - also known as factory farms - and to initiate and support further research on the health impacts of air and water pollution from such operations.

Negative economic effects on rural communities; health problems associated with air pollution and contaminated drinking water from manure runoff; increasing antibiotic resistance caused by routine use of antibiotics in farm animals; and serious respiratory problems found among CAFO workers and among neighboring residents are identified as the main reasons for calling for the moratorium.

Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, have been inundated with CAFOs since 1990, when Europe encouraged dairy farmers to come to the American Midwest. Large corporations like Vreba-Hoff own the dairy and hire someone else to run it for them.

"Vreba-Hoff Development Co., . . . has been repeatedly cited and

finned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ind. Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Mich. Dept. for Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the Ohio Div. of Wildlife for manure seepage, discharge of contaminated water into local storm drains, ditches and lakes and violation of the Clean Water Act."

Although CAFOs are touted as an economic boon, Oates writes that research proves otherwise. "An Iowa State study has found that family farms provide greater positive fiscal benefits on communities than factory farms do. Family farmers create 23% more total local revenue, produce 20% more net revenue for the state and pay 7% more property taxes than does one large unit of equal production. A University of Missouri study found that factory farms create a net loss of employment because they drive family farmers and the local merchants that depend upon them out of business."

Research also indicates that "CAFOs are causing devastating loss of rural residential property values in Michigan. The loss of taxable value by as much as 70% has been documented due to CAFOs. In reality, many rural residents living in the vicinity of CAFOs and their disposal fields are unable to sell their land at any price."

As a physician, I recognize the danger this kind of economic and financial stress poses to the mental and emotional well-being of my patients, as well as to their physical health. I would ask the citizens and local government of Carroll County to seriously consider the implications of allowing dairy factories to be established in this county. Other states and counties have committed to dairy factories and leave a wealth of experience for us to learn from. Unfortunately, the track record looks pretty devastating for public health and welfare.

For anyone who would like further information, Paula Foster is a local contact person @574-652-4401 or pf5100@yahoo.com.

Dr. Thomas Anderson is a Rock Creek Township resident and a practicing physician with an office in Camden.