

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Tax tips for holiday charitable giving

Many donations are made to charitable causes at this time of year. The IRS cautions taxpayers to keep some important points in mind when making donations with the expectation of deducting them on a federal tax return.

Taxpayers can deduct donations only if they make them to a qualified tax exempt organization. Generally, organizations other than churches and governments must apply to the IRS to become qualified as tax exempt.

Taxpayers can search for most tax exempt charitable organizations online at IRS.gov with Publication 78. Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals.

Generally, organizations can let donors know whether they are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code and eligible to accept tax-deductible donations.

It is necessary to file Form 1040 and itemize deductions on Schedule A to receive a charitable contribution deduction.

To deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record, credit card statement or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks, bank or credit union statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity and the date and amount donated. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity, the transaction posting date and the amount donated. Prior law allowed taxpayers to support their donations of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation. Those types of records are no longer sufficient.

More information about charitable donations can be found online at IRS.gov, or by calling, toll-free, 1-800-TAX-FORM.

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.

The estate of the late Jacquelyn D. Frye was admitted, probate will only.

Angelica Alanis, 31, pled guilty to forgery. She was sentenced to four years in prison, all but two days suspended, and four years probation.

Villado Chavez, 33, pled guilty to forgery. He was sentenced to four years in prison, two years suspended, and two years probation.

In a summary judgment, Connie K. Cauble a/k/a Connie K. Bailey was ordered to pay \$2,739.13 to Asset Acceptance LLC.

The following cases were dismissed: Shae Nicole Hartman vs. Brian Hartman; Clarisa Pressler vs. Hudson Pressler Jr.; Douglas R. Gallinger vs. Sondra D. Gallinger; First Financial Bank NA vs. Brice A. Hyman and Melissa A. Rohlfs; Northstar Acquisitions LLC vs. Alex Martinez; Citimortgage Inc. vs. Anthony Thomas,

Lisa Thomas and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Deutsche Bank National Trust Company vs. Michael E. Blackburn, Julie E. Blackburn and U.M. Acquisitions LLC; and Industrial Federal Credit Union vs. Tracy L. Burge et al.

Clara D. Massengill was ordered to pay \$2,000.85 to Capital One Bank.

Charles E. Fry Jr. pled guilty to two counts of dealing in marijuana. He was sentenced to four years in prison, three years suspended, and three years probation. Other counts against him were dismissed.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in the following cases: Capital One Bank vs. Matthew W. Payne, in the amount of \$4,166.45; Capital One Bank vs. Melissa Little, \$864.98; Midland Credit Management vs. Penny L. Montag, \$4,219.84; Capital One Bank vs. Timothy T. Spratt, \$1,715.62; and Jon W. Sullivan, trustee of the Ralphstar Acquisitions Trust, vs. Linda M. Schache and Patricia A. Downham.

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 is your favorite type of Christmas gift?

- Total surprise
- Something you asked for
- A gift card
- Donation to a charity
- Food/beverage

Last Weeks results

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

- 11% Real - cut down ourselves
- 05% Real - buy at the store
- 65% Artificial - like a real one
- 03% Artificial - ceramic, silver, etc.
- 15% None - bah humbug!
- Total responses: 136

The Queen of talk has finally found her King. The new road show is billed as Oprah and Obama. But there's one big problem The King in waiting has a wife. So the Queen has to marry her fellow off to all of us.

I've got no issue with celebrity endorsements in politics. Oprah Winfrey has earned a platform to speak from on just about any subject. If her fans want to listen, well then fine.

However, when it comes to Oprah explaining away Barack Obama's apparent lack of experience in the political arena, the Queen of talk has crossed the line. In fact, she's got a lot of gall.

As reported in Lynn Sweet's column in the *Chicago Sun Times* on Monday, Winfrey "framed a new argument" concerning the experience issue in her speech in Manchester, New Hampshire. According to Sweet, Winfrey appealed to the parents in the crowd.

"You can't be fooled by this experience question," she said, "and time - because you know it is not the amount of time that you spend with your children, it's the quality of that time, it's what you do with that time."

Memo to Miss Winfrey: stick with what you know. What does child raising have to do with Barack Obama's political experience, or lack of same?

I reckon most parents will agree that the quality time ar-

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Royal bone to pick

ument is a fabricated illusion. I thought we had all agreed that quality time was the equivalent of silly talk. With children, it's all about time. That's why it's such a shame and such a challenge that today most families find both parents must work. In single parent homes there isn't even an option.

Children don't wait for quality time to share their fears or their secrets. Children don't form their beliefs, gather their examples, shape their values in allotments of time deemed quality by their parents. For kids, time is time. For kids, you're there or not. For kids, they've got your attention, your ear, or your lap, or they don't.

To the dismay of her parents, one of my friends has embraced as her faith the religion practiced by her nanny. It seems that nanny and child spent a lot of time together - quality and otherwise.

I park my car in a lot shared by a daycare center. Each day I watch hurried mothers and children, some happy, some not, part for the day. Often there is a sense of rush, a dis-

organized dash in those partings. Jobs and kids - it's hard to balance, hard to find time.

Winfrey did neither Obama nor children any favor in mixing their unrelated challenges. Quality time is a nasty myth, an excuse or rationalization for tough choices and conflicting demands. This subject seems to be something on which Winfrey appears to have no experience.

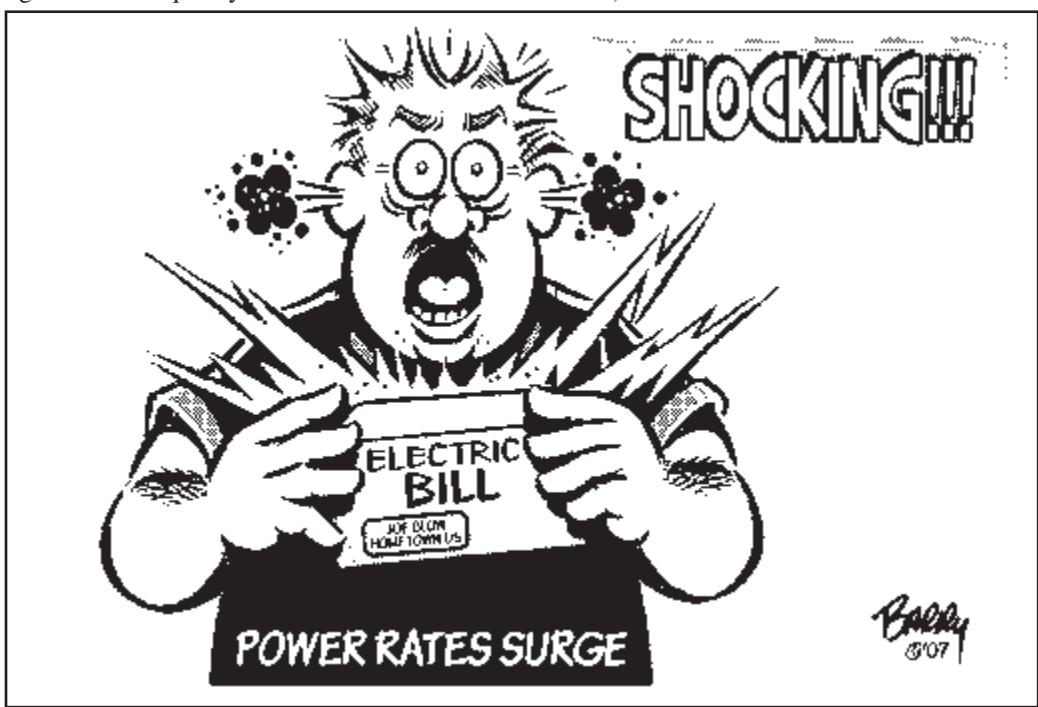
Of all arguments to draw upon to down play the need for experience, hers seems to be more than a stretch.

Banned in Gross Pointe

Years ago I wrote about my Aunt Mary Jane and how she banned the word "bored" from all children in her ear shot. She just wouldn't allow the word in her home. I used it once and remember the lecture I got in return.

Mary Jane would have liked Sister Kathy Avery of Gross Pointe Park, Mich., who has banned "stupid" and "boring" from St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School.

Sister Kathy caused a few raised eyebrows and earned some newspaper headlines for a recent after mass talk she had with the 5th through 8th graders. On that occasion she explained the zero tolerance policy on swear words. And just so there would be no misunderstanding, Sister Kathy read aloud a list of the banned words to her young, hushed audience.



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

Coltan L. Marcum was charged with criminal trespass and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The following were charged with check deception: John J. Rieken (two counts); Rachel L. Lucas (two counts); Anglea M. Knott; Cecilia Mitchell (two counts); Kristopher J. Kersey; Dawn M. Roth;

Brenda P. Santana was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Jesus R. Miera was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and driving while suspended.

Richard L. Heary was charged with disorderly conduct.

Brandon E. Allen was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person, driving while suspended and maintaining a common nuisance.

Abbie D. Morgneson was charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Timothy S. Loeffler was charged with possession of marijuana, public intoxication, visiting a common nuisance and possession of paraphernalia.

Richard C. Everett was charged with driving while suspended.

Michael H. Thompson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and operating with an ACE of .15 percent or more.

Jason R. Asselin was charged with domestic battery and criminal confinement.

Kenneth F. Simmerman was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and failure to signal.

Kristina Holmes was ordered to pay \$1,299 to Ann Fletcher.

Danny Kirkpatrick and Vonda Kirkpatrick were ordered to pay \$4,014.06 to David Batt.

Christina Longfellow was ordered to pay \$5,074.03 to CACV of Colorado LLC.

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: Jessie J. Hibbs, 18, of Brookston, illegal consumption;

Nathan Simons, 18, of Reynolds, illegal consumption; Dana R. Grubs, 31, of Bringhurst, public intoxication; David L. Harford, 44, of Cincinnati, Ohio, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person; Veda M. Densmore, 53, of Fort Wayne, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person; and William C. Emmitt, 20, of Delphi, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangering a person.

Amanda Duvall, 24, of Delphi, pled guilty to driving while suspended. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Kathleen M. Coughlin, 53, of Monticello, pled guilty to operating while intoxicated - endangering a person, neglect of a dependant and habitual substance offender enhancement. She was sentenced to four and a half years in prison, two and a half years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

John P. Fontes, 30, of Delphi, pled guilty to two counts of aiding, causing or inducing theft, four counts of theft, and receiving stolen property. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, 1,080 days suspended, and 1,080 days supervised probation. Five counts against him were dismissed.

Joshua S. Lytle, 18, of Idaville, pled guilty to domestic battery. He was sentenced to three years in prison, two years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Daniel J. Peters, 28, of Flora, pled guilty to maintaining a common nuisance and possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, two years suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Marion Wright, 35, of Colfax, pled guilty to three counts of check deception. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Patrick P. Boyles Jr., 22, of Flora, pled guilty to domestic battery. He was sentenced to three years in prison, all but 180

days suspended, and two and a half years supervised probation.

Adam J. Tracy, 24, of Delphi, pled guilty to domestic battery. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed: State of Indiana vs. Anthony Cray Martin; State of Indiana vs. Brianna M. James; State of Indiana vs. Ryan Lee Houser; State of Indiana vs. William J. Abdon II; State of Indiana vs. Ross H. Malott; and State of Indiana vs. Marcus W. Savage (two counts).

Heather M. Roberts pled guilty to check deception. She was ordered to pay court costs.

Michael D. Cook, 25, was found guilty of six counts of check deception. He was sentenced to 1,080 days in jail, all but 18 days suspended, and 340 days supervised probation.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 13

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

Monday, Dec. 17

√ Commissioners: 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

√ Council/Commissioners joint meeting: 6 p.m.

√ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

√ Delphi School Corp. Work Session: 6:30 p.m. - Middle School Cafeteria

√ Delphi City Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Marshall Sale-Noble.....4B
- Kubly Estate4B
- Sheriff Sale-Martinez4B
- Rossville Sch-Not to Bidder4B
- IDEM-Merrell Bros.....3B
- DCSC-Tax Warrants4B
- IDEM-Peters Revington3B
- CCSC-Not to Bidders4B
- Alcoholic Bev Brd-Renewal...4B
- CCSC-Bond Sale4B
- 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.

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.

Supports museum as cultural & financial asset

Last week I was quoted in a front page story in the *Comet* concerning the most recent commissioner's meeting. I would like to clarify my position concerning the Carroll County Historical Museum. I am, and will always be, a supporter of our fine museum. Too many people today do not value and understand our American culture. There is a reason America became the greatest nation in history. It is easy to fall for any doctrine if you are not grounded in the understanding that our nation grew from the greatness of its people. These were people of enormous industry, high moral values, and great Christian faith. Our museum tells and displays this wonderful story with the spotlight on our great Carroll County heritage.

Our museum is not just a cultural asset; it is a financial asset to Carroll County. Those who have not visited our museum do not understand the very large number of visitors that come to the museum. These visitors eat in our restaurants, visit our shops, and buy our gas. In short, the museum visitors help to pay Carroll County wages and Carroll County taxes. Having the museum downtown is a tremendous boost to the business sector of downtown Delphi.

The *Comet* story continued to say that county councilman (Steve) Ashby said the commissioners were not fiscally responsible in their support of the museum. During the commissioner's meeting at least twice commission president Loren Hylton asked if there was anyone else who wanted to speak concerning the museum. Councilman Ashby sat mute. Apparently it is much easier to talk to a reporter in the darkened hallway than it is to stand on your own two feet and speak in the light in public. It is laughable that councilman Ashby would accuse anyone of being fiscally irresponsible. He is one of those responsible for our current financial mess. The council has complete control of the budget. The commissioners administer county government within the budget set by a council. In my seven years of being a commissioner, the commissioners have never overspent their budget by one cent. In fact, every year the commissioners have turned unspent money back into the general fund. In the past four years, the commissioners have saved the property taxpayers over \$4,000,000 by being fiscally responsible with bridge dollars alone.

For over 80 years the Carroll County Historical Museum has been in the courthouse. Now, members of our county council have stated that they want the museum kicked out onto the street in the next three to six months. I personally hope that a new home can be found for the museum. Funding outside of county government is being sought, I hope for a site that is larger and that can better display their wonderful collections - but this takes time.

I thank commissioners Hylton and Mears for supporting my motion to give the museum a five-year lease on their current location so there is time to find a suitable location. By supporting the museum the downtown Delphi, the commissioners did not act "fiscally irresponsible" nor have they been the ones to do so in the past!

William R. Brown
Cutler
Carroll County Commissioner

Marriage Licenses

Rustin Neal McIlrath, 26, of Bringhurst, and Tonya D'Ann Manning, 25, of Idaville.

Mark Allen Miller, 38, of Logansport, and Sarah Jane Layman, 43, of Delphi.

Edward Allen Davis, 44, of Flora, and Marcia Gwenn Rund, 44, of Grant County.

Shawn Robert Covington, 22, of Crawfordsville, and Melissa Joy Glenn, 21, of Delphi.