

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## A new day has dawned

This is a New Year, and with that, a new chapter for Carroll County. How will it be written? Will the theme of county leaders not working together to the detriment of all Carroll County citizens prevail? Or will they all take a fresh look at their individual roles and how their votes, comments and actions led the county to where it is today. Will county leaders decide to follow a different path, which would be more productive and positive?

Much of the bad is behind the county now. Most council members can now admit they did not watch income and disbursements and were not good caretakers of your money. We've seen the infighting and the disagreements between the council and the commissioners. It was learned that the auditor and the treasurer have not done the part of their jobs - the part state law demands they do - which would have shown the true financial picture for the past five years.

The final blow to the county this year was to learn of the arrest of the circuit court judge for public intoxication.

It is safe to say that overall it has been an ugly year for Carroll County.

But the new year is here and the county can have a fresh start.

It is also a new year for voters. Yes, that is you, Carroll County residents! This is the United States of America...the land of the free and the home of the brave. This is an election year for some key seats in county government.

You have the freedom to choose your leaders in this country...will you be brave enough to make the necessary choices to pull the county out of its current vortex of need? This election cannot be a popularity contest. It must be about competency, diplomacy and the ability to focus on what is best for the county and not what is best for the individual.

Two commissioner seats, those occupied by Bill Brown and George Mears, will be decided in 2008. Council seats currently occupied by Rob Baker, Carl Abbott and Steve Ashby will be decided also.

Voters are urged to become informed about the issues and to ask many questions of those who decide to run for office.

Citizens need the most informed, best-qualified candidates with the time and energy to lead this county into the future in a direction you want to go. Citizens need leaders who believe residents have the right to know what they do at every level of government. They need leaders who understand what the term "transparent government" truly is and leaders who vow to live by it. The county needs leaders who understand how government works and the importance of abiding by the law.

Voters should demand the best the county has to offer and be willing to do what it takes to get the best people to fill the seats. The right way is hard work, but the payoff is great. The wrong way is easy. Voters should be well versed by now about the consequences of taking the easy way.

An outsider suggested to the *Comet* last week that county leaders are not presenting a positive image of the county. Yes...what happens here gets noticed...the *Comet* is read by many, not just at the local level, but across the state and nation. Don't kid yourselves, the problems here are seen far and wide.

If you agree with this assessment, 2008 will be the year you can make a difference. Think about recruiting qualified individuals to lead the county. You do not have to wait for them to speak up to say they want to run. Help them do the right thing. Consider your own ability to provide leadership. How many times have you said, "I could do a better job than so-and-so"? This is your chance to step up and do it.

Expect candidates to answer tough questions. And expect the answers to be well thought out and insightful. Anything less is unacceptable. Hold elected officials to the highest standards. Voice your opinions loud and often. Be a part of the solution, not the problem.

A new day has dawned on Carroll County...make it the best year ever! Happy New Year!

### 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.*

A decree of dissolution was granted between the following: Daniel Joseph Gangwer and Devon Chloe Gangwer; Nick A. Stachelski and Tawnya Sue Stachelski; Deloris A. Gill and James L. Gill II; Margaret B. Mose and Kirby L. Mose; Nancy L. Goltz and Timothy R. Goltz; and Charlotte Ann Vaughn and

L.D. Vaughn.

Phillip L. Stringer II pled guilty to two counts of child molesting. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison, 12 years suspended, and 12 years probation. Remaining charges were dismissed. MARISSA N. WAMPLER was charged with burglary and theft. Tylor L. Wampler was charged with burglary and theft. Angel Flores-Sanchez was charged with dealing in marijuana, possession of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance.

At our favorite pizza place the thin crust version comes in sizes from small to extra large but the deep dish sizing stops abruptly at large. Don't ask me why.

At the high brow coffee shop down the street the small is not referred to as small but rather called tall. That one I'll never understand. Tall seems like it would be big - like the opposite of short. But tall is small in coffee lingo and that's that.

Size can be confusing.

I was in charge of providing candy for a real estate event where food and beverages were offered. The food was meant to lure other agents to come tour the property being marketed. I bought many bags of mini versions of popular chocolate bars. Mini-bites they were called. I thought that folks wanting to visit and run could pop a couple candies in their pocket and eat them later.

When the event was cancelled due to weather, I wound up bringing home several bags of the mini-bite candies. Ordinarily we don't keep candy around the house, so this temptation was a new situation. Suddenly candy of many varieties was calling my name from behind our kitchen cabinet doors.

Let's just say that I should have never opened the first bag. But when I did, my reasoning went down a logical but flawed path. I figured that bite-sized equaled "nibble" in actual quantity consumed terms. Following that logic, many nibbles

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



### One size fits...

simply represented light, old-fashioned snacking in of new math calorie counting.

I was wrong. The sheer quantity of candy wrapper piles at any one of my munching and nibbling sessions should have suggested that something volume-sized was going on here. Somewhere, somehow, after that first nibble I veered away from bite-sized and wound up in the land of big. In pizza terms I was at extra large, in coffee lingo I was at venti- the equivalent of a really lot.

Which brings us to my stop at Sears.

After they made their way through the laundry it seemed that my favorite bluejeans were feeling a bit snug. Snug enough that when I was in those jeans the pockets were no longer really accessible to me. When I'd fish for change to pay for something at the cash register a slight twisting dance was involved with me getting my hand into the pocket and down to that elusive quarter. And the cell phone - that sleek, smooth gizmo always slid down to the very bottom of my jeans pocket. It was though the phone had fallen and landed at the bottom of a deep well. When it

started ringing there was no way to yank that phone free before the caller was directed to the land of voice mail. Knowing the state of sophisticated technology we have achieved, I can only wonder what kind of a message folks would get when this occurred.

"The caller you are trying to reach has his pants on too tight and cannot take your call. Please leave your message after his frantic attempt to pry his phone free from his pocket...beep."

So there I was at Sears trying to figure out sizes in the men's jeans section.

There really ought to be a law.

My waist size has varied over the years from x to y (actual measurements are on file with the personnel department). But forever, my pants length has always been 29 inches. Given that - for argument sake, I was looking for either a 34/29 or a 36/29. Whether I was looking for the "tailored look" or the "loose fitting cut" that 29-inch length should have been a constant. Right?

Except that some 29 lengths had me standing on my cuffs and some had me ready for wadding in a flooded basement. What I wound up with that actually fit made me wish Wrangler would quit posting the pants size so conspicuously on the rear end of all their jeans.

Happy new year wishes to our readers. May 2008 be "extra large" in good will.

## 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.

### Judge offers apology

It is with regret and great embarrassment that I write this letter. On Dec. 23 I was arrested for Public Intoxication in Boone County, Indiana. It is an offense and conduct for which I take full responsibility. I offer no mitigation or extenuation.

There is no way to make it better or to make it go away; nor is there any reason to offer up any excuses. I made a big mistake, and for that, I am truly sorry. My conduct was shameful, and I am fully prepared to accept the consequences of my actions. While I am embarrassed personally and professionally, I am most embarrassed and regret the pain and agony that I have brought upon my family. I also deeply regret that my conduct may reflect poorly on my community, a community that I have come to love, a community that deserves nothing but the best from those who serve it. So, my one and only request is that any ill feelings and/or resentment be reserved for me, and me alone.

I hope and pray that this very hard lesson, one that I believe has purpose in my life, will make me a better, stronger and wiser person. I doubt that this will be the last error I make in this life, but I am confident that I will not repeat the same mistake. Again, I am truly sorry for my behavior.

Don Currie  
Judge, Carroll Circuit Court

### Citizens also deserve respect

This letter is in response to Miriam Robeson's commentary letter concerning the Dec. 17 commissioners' meeting and lack of respect toward public officials.

Ms. Robeson's letter implicates that all the (rude, irate, and disrespectful) people at this gathering were only those against CAFOS. While this letter is somewhat accurate, it also lacks in total objective context and seems unfairly biased.

Commissioner Bill Brown escalated tension when an 80-year-old veteran (I am told) did call him a liar.

This was brought about by Mr. Brown's story of visiting neighbors around a dairy operation and claiming no nearby neighbors had complaints about this operation.

Rather than an outburst, perhaps a simple gesture by Mr. Brown to haul this old veteran on his claimed tour and verify to the man his story, would, in best case, finally turn a doubter into a friend and have diffused the hostility.

Further escalation of frustration was most certainly attributed by EDC director Daryl Smith. Of the many questions directed to Mr. Smith by concerned citizens, who pay his salary, nearly all were avoided with words of evasion or a refusal to even acknowledge the people he is supposed to represent. Respect is two-sided.

My brother and I have both been at many meetings and both of us have been verbally attacked by county leadership.

Might I suggest that all county residents attend many meetings to learn what is really going on in this county with your tax dollars and lives.

And you are correct, Ms. Robeson, our leaders do deserve respect.

The citizens who employ the county leaders are worthy of respect too, as well as protection of their property values, health, and quality of life!

Galen Perry  
Delphi

## Marriage Licenses

Dean Owen Burton, 70, of Delphi, and Frances Jean Flora, 70, of Flora.

### 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.

**Friday, Jan. 4**  
√ County Council: 8 a.m.  
**Monday, Jan. 7**  
√ Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.  
√ Commissioners: 9 a.m.  
√ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.  
√ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.  
√ Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.

**Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:**  
Sheriff Sale-Woodhams .....5B  
Oakley Estate .....5B  
Sheriff Sale-Wilt .....5B  
Hufty's Mechanics Lien .....5B  
Cupp Estate .....5B  
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.



### 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

Jeffery A. Boles was charged with driving while suspended.

Brian Evans was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person (two counts) and failure to stop after accident resulting in damage to an attended vehicle.

Sandra S. Spalding was charged with public intoxication.

Harold E. Johnson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and driving left of center.

Robert S. McLaughlin was charged with resisting law enforcement, criminal recklessness, reckless driving, speeding, disregarding a stop sign (two counts) and driving left of center.

Krystal M. Phenix was charged with possession of marijuana.

Nancy E. Gunter was charged with driving while suspended.

Guadalupe Flores was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license and false or fictitious registration.

Charles R. Davidson was charged with failure to register as a sex or violent offender.

Michael W. Pyle was charged with operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic offender and driving left of center.

Jeremy W. Rigney was charged with operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic offender and driving left of center.

Jose F. Reyes was charged with operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license.

David W. Glasgow was charged with possession of marijuana (two counts) and maintaining a common nuisance.

Brian M. McFarren was charged with disorderly conduct.

Travis Hudson was charged with check deception.

Ronald R. Bell was charged with two counts of check deception.

Damien L. Richardson was charged with driving while suspended and speeding.

Dustin J. Gangwer was charged with shooting from a public roadway, casting rays of artificial light from a vehicle while in possession of a firearm, hunting by aid or motorized vehicle, and false and fictitious license plates.

The following were charged with check deception: Sandy L. Schneidt; Tara E. Weaver (six counts); Beth Frazier; and Carolyn M. Owens.

Kristy L. Martin was charged with operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic offender.

Virgil S. Spencer Jr. was charged with pointing a firearm.

Richard L. Dulin was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury, criminal trespass and criminal mischief.

William C. Emmitt was charged with public intoxication and illegal consumption.

Roger D. Napier was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and habitual substance offender.

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Roberto Lucio, 25, of Frankfort, pled guilty to visiting a common nuisance. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Jennifer L. Barnes, 29, of Flora, pled guilty to four counts of check deception. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Kristine S. Haberzette (Whitworth) pled guilty to seven counts of check deception. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Michael Taber, 34, of Rossville, pled guilty to two counts of check deception. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail,

all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed: Culligan of Delphi vs. Delana Robbins; John and Rachelle Chorrushi vs. Donald Fritts and Trish Neff Poa; Robert A. Lucas DDS vs. Jerry Green; LVNV Funding LLC vs. Aly L. Flint; Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Randall Piatt and Christine Piatt; Kurtis G. Fouts vs. Leslie Grable; Capital One Bank vs. Stephani B. Marchand; and Rose Rogers vs. Chance J. Gerten and Michelle Retzlafl.

The following cases were entered for the plaintiff: Donald E. Fritts vs. Jessie Veach, in the amount of \$900; and Richard L. Kahler vs. Helton Construction LLC, \$1,272.29.

In an agreed judgment, Raymond Rottach was ordered to pay \$10,963.41 to Automotive Credit Corporation.

Default judgments were entered in the following cases: Harry W. Jones DDS vs. Kitty Lowery, in the amount of \$93.80; Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Sherri L. Wine, \$1,677.38; Lafayette Accounts Service Inc. vs. Lottie E. Waddle, \$1,413.49; Frances Shull-Britton vs. Richard Cruz and Tammy Cruz, \$6,000; Theresa Harland vs. William N. Summers, \$400; Tim Huff vs. Kyle Burkhalter, \$1,330.50; Thomas R. Wortman vs. Brian L. Northrup, \$1,892.57; and Marian Smith individually and as representative of the estate of Herschel Smith vs. Josh Lindsey d/b/a Studebaker Seal Coating, \$8,000.

## 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.

### How did you spend New Year's Eve?

Stayed at home & watched the ball drop on TV  
Went out to eat  
Went to a party  
Slept through it

### Last Weeks results

#### What will you do with an unwanted Christmas gift?

26% Take it back  
29% Put it in a drawer or closet and forget about it  
15% Donate it to charity  
30% Regift it  
Total responses: 66