

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Deliberate destruction

Sunday morning's torching of the canal playground boat was nothing less than heinous.

What kind of person would destroy something that was made for children? Kids loved to explore the boat while learning about the canal era.

The fire started around 5 a.m. Sunday on the rear deck of the full scale, 72-foot long canal boat replica.

"Our many volunteers have worked hundreds of hours since February when we started the bow section," said Dan McCain, Canal Association president. "It was our 'pride and joy' — it was the kid's favorite outdoor venue."

The Canal Association is a resilient group. Sunday they were already making plans to rebuild the boat.

When McCain sent out a mass e-mail informing members and friends of the tragedy, he had an outpouring of response. People not only expressed their sadness, but they offered to help in any way they could.

McCain said any offers of labor, money or materials are very much appreciated.

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.

Transferred to Tippecanoe County was Capital One Bank USA NA, formerly known as Capital One Bank, vs. Shirley J. Lender aka Stiles.

Marriage dissolutions included: Maria del Rosario Zabala Salazar vs. Antonio Landeros; Scott Hile vs. Tammy Hile; Jane A. Popejoy vs. David E. Popejoy; and Anita Handy vs. Kevin Handy.

John R. Allbaugh was found guilty of two counts of theft.

Alena M. Gill, 39, was found guilty of escape, resist-

ing law enforcement and possession of a switchblade knife. She was sentenced to five years in the Department of Correction for escape, one year for resisting, 180 days for possession of a switchblade knife with three years suspended and three years on supervised probation.

Michael N. Clawson was found guilty of contempt of court for not paying \$2,955 in child support and was ordered to serve 90 days without good time credit in the Carroll County Jail. His driver's license was suspended.

Martin E. Wade, 42, was found guilty of operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator, OWI/endangering, being a habitual substance offender and false informing. He will be sentenced at a later date.

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

Stephanie Smith, Monticello, was charged with OWI/endangering.

Cameron J. Stearns, Lafayette, was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury.

The following were charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage: Percy L. Parkevich, Logansport; Courtney J. Kingery, Delphi; Leanne

K. Raney, Flora; Brooke A. Bosley, Flora; Chase Z. Brummett; Michael X. Urick, Camden; Shayne T. Cataldo, Logansport; Zachary A. Walsh; Kaylie N. Miller, Cutler; Joshua Denton; Joshua A. Stevens; Adrea Vandeventer, check deception; Kimberly R. Hughes, four counts of check deception; Richard Haworth, three counts of check deception; and John R. Snell, check deception.

Derrek A. Tousignant, Logansport, was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage and criminal mischief.

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 do you think of John McCain's selection of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate?

- Excited
- Cautious
- Undecided
- Will be voting O'Bama/Biden

Last Weeks results

Are you watching the National Democratic Convention this week on television?

- 17% Yes! Wouldn't miss that!
- 70% No, not interested.
- 14% I catch it when I can, but it isn't my first choice of viewing pleasure.
- Total responses: 145

The secret to life has remained illusive to me thus far. I'm pretty certain I heard it once at a sermon at University Church at Purdue. Dr. Will Miller was preaching that Sunday and this guy gets you laughing and thinking all at the same time. There was no pencil in the little pencil holder in the hymnal rack that morning. "I should write this down," I remember thinking to myself. I suspect I figured I would retain the secret to life when I heard it. I remember turning to my wife seated next to me and saying: "that's it."

After the last hymn there was the whole thing about where to go for lunch. By the time that lofty decision was made, the secret to life had eluded me. I didn't know it was drifting away at the time, I think I was so content having grasped it. And then like a balloon floating off into a clear blue sky, it lifted higher and higher and was soon out of sight.

Recently my wife heard a story, we think on the radio, an inspiring story about how one man approached each and every life decision.

"I've got to tell you this," she said to me over the phone early in the day.

"Let's talk later," I replied.

It was the end of the day by the time we actually got to talk. Our heads were both on



U-pick

our respective pillows. Our eyelids were heavy. She related the man's story and the vast truth that had inspired her so.

I remember staring up at the ceiling of our bedroom and we both remember my reply.

"That's it, that's incredible," I said, "that is the secret of life."

Morning came and with it came the unspoken contentment between us of this truth shared the night before. Days later though, neither of us could recall the man's inspiring story. We could not recall his reasoning. Ultimately, we could not recall the conclusion - the secret of life. Since then, just about every other day we quiz each other, we try to trigger the story, the conclusion, anything to jog the memory and banish the mental cobwebs.

It has been to no avail.

The other day I passed a sign on a gravel road fronting on a farm. On a plywood square painted in red spray paint was the following: "U-Pick" Of course the "U" stands for "You" and the pick

described your part in the equation of the harvest - getting the fruit or vegetable from the field to your kitchen table.

You pick. Is this the secret of life? Just two words, one abbreviated at that, and spraypainted on plywood by the side of the road.

A mistake is made. Do you fix it and move on or do you hide it or deny?

You pick. A good time, a marvelous time, or a contended time in life comes to an end. Do you move forward, or do you stay in regret?

You pick. You are wronged, you are hurt. Do you assign blame? Do you stay wounded? Or do you forgive, do you let it be?

You pick. Do you act, or do you react?

You pick. Laugh or cry? Pull over or keep going? Praise or criticize?

I don't know, but I suspect no matter how funny or sad or unfair or ridiculous the question is, I think the answer is always, always the same. You pick.

And meanwhile, if my memory clears and a secret more inspiring or more clarifying is revealed, well, let's just say my pencil is sharp and close at hand.



Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor regarding 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.

Misinformed

Normally I would not take the time nor give credence to letters to the editor concerning the County Highway Department; however I felt that I needed to clarify some of Darren Pullen's comments in reference to Burnett's Creek Arch. Mr. Pullen stated that I wanted to have Mr. Ratcliff's property condemned because I had my "feelings hurt." That statement is almost laughable. The fact of the matter is I have no desire to see anyone's property ever taken away from them. I'm in no way a member of the historic society nor am I in favor of saving bridges simply because they are old.

Burnett's Creek Arch it is not my "pet arch project," as a mater of fact it was well underway prior to my becoming the highway superintendent. My responsibility to the county is to maintain the roads and bridges to the best of my department's ability and to conserve county resources. The current arch restoration project if completed can actually save the county money. Eighty percent of the current project funds are federal funds set aside for a restoration to repair it. If the arch is not repaired it will eventually collapse and the road will either need to be closed or a new bridge will need to be constructed. At that time the county will have to pay the total cost.

Now as for the potential lawsuit, it would be as a last resort. I don't want to take Mr. Ratcliff's land, I only want access to be able to repair a damaged structure. My contention is, regardless of weather it will

need to be replaced or repaired, the engineering firms and construction companies will need access.

Concerning the proposed park it does not fall under my department and I have no preference either way.

Ron Francis
superintendent
Carroll County Highway Dept.

Appreciates Wilson Bridge

A special thank you to the persons responsible for updating the Wilson Bridge on county road 300 N. It is so appreciated that the bridge remains a part of Carroll County and its history. If you have a chance, treat yourself to a peaceful scenic drive along 300 N in all seasons. What a beautiful sight.

Pam Minier
Camden

Is preserving Arch logical?

When are the people of Carroll County going to face the reality that man-made structures such as bridges built in the day of horse and buggy travel were not intended to last forever!

The Burnett's Creek Arch (BCA) was built around 1838 as part of the Wabash and Erie Canal system (which was a failure by all accounts). Don't agree, well when was the last time you or your great-great-great-grandparents took a trip on the canal?

According to published stories and comments from Ron Francis of the highway department there are plans to put ANOTHER county park at this site just a half-mile north of the existing French Post Park. There are two landowners on each side of the BCA and no one involved in the planning of this new park shared any of these plans with the owners of the land. I find this incredibly disturbing.

The blatant disrespect and

disregard to the landowners is inexcusable and very much like the treatment given to the Native Americans that inhabited this land when it was taken for the original canal project. Think about how you would like it being done to you and your property.

Given Carroll County's current financial situation, the very last thing we need is another park (weren't they thinking of selling one in Deer Creek?). Haven't county officials been squabbling for months about shortage of funds and curtailing spending and cutting services to the bone? If I had a choice, I would rather have ambulance service restored to our county rather than another park that has to be stolen from the landowners and maintained at taxpayer expense.

By the way, take a drive on the Towpath or any county road in that area. Be sure to take note of all the large holes in the road, many that have been circled by orange paint! Maybe tax dollars would serve the taxpayers better if it were applied to the necessities. Preserving history is wonderful when it is logical and for the greater good. It is time we looked to the future rather than trying to turn back time.

Chris Wagner
Lockport

Appreciates knowing Morris Buck

It is important to add my comments about Morris Buck. I worked at Indiana Beach in the uniform room while Maury worked there in the office. What a wonderful person he was, and I was shocked at reading about his death in the Comet last week. He was a great guy and a colorful figure at Indiana Beach.

I graduated from Delphi High School in 1946 and Maury asked me why he didn't have me as a student, and I was quick to inform

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, Sept. 8

- ✓ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi School Board: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

- ✓ Burlington Town Council: 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 11

- ✓ County Council budget discussion: 8:30 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 29

- ✓ County Council budget discussion: 8:30 a.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Not. of Suit-Akers3B
Price Estate5B
Camden-Instructions	..4B
Sheriff Sale-Cunningham	..3B
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Knecht Pub. Auc.5B
Camden-Public Not.	...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.

Check out the Comet's Government Meetings & Agenda page

Find out what your county leaders are discussing

Visit www.carrollcountycomet.com click on

Government Meetings & Agendas on the home page in the directory at left (blue).

him that he wasn't teaching there yet. Even though we had some very great teachers, I'm sorry to have missed having Maury as a teacher. I'm sure he was the very best. I told him one time I had my senior picture taken at his home on E. Main St. - used to be Rodkeys studio. He was a joy to know and work with, and I express my sympathy to all who knew him as well as his family. He will be missed greatly and I'm happy to have known him.

This is why I take the *Carroll County Comet* - you are great with all the news. I've subscribed to the *Comet* for years and have enjoyed my correspondence and all dealings with the *Comet*. I wouldn't want to miss my copy of the paper every week to read.

Camilla R. "Connie" Robeson, Monticello

Wants Carroll Manor to remain open

Who wants to keep Carroll Manor open? The churches donating money...the people donating garden vegetables...the people donating time for activities.

Where would the residents go who live there, a nursing home? They don't need that level of care because they can mostly take care of themselves. How much would it cost the state to put them in a nursing home? I doubt it would save any money. Plus, the residents would be totally dependent on the nursing home and would lose their only home.

Carroll Manor has been there over a 100 years. It would be a shame to just throw it away when its residents need it. I'll bet they don't cut our taxes if they close it.

Michael L. Colvin
Flora