

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Doing it right the first time

The reaction of the Delphi Community School Board of Trustees' President Robert Resler to the *Comet's* question about the culmination of the proposed land purchase from Delphi United Methodist Church was disturbing. That he would consider a question a "complaint" was troubling.

The *Comet* was told by Mr. Resler because a question was asked, which was perceived as a complaint, the school board was going to reverse their action of cash-renting the newly acquired land to a local farmer. He said they would submit the acreage for competitive bid.

Mr. Resler said that because the *Comet* "complained" about the way the transaction was handled, taxpayers would be forced to pay an additional \$30,000 for an access road.

Again, when did doing the right thing, no matter what the cost, get to be the fault of the local media? If that was the true cost of the project, that's the true cost of the project.

If the school board acted in haste to lease the land before doing due diligence, it is appropriate to take a step back and make the situation right and legal. That characteristic is known as integrity. What is not right is to blame the actions of the school board on the *Comet*.

And if it takes the local media (the community's watchdog) to shine a light on those things the school board does which seem questionable, and the elected officials decide to change how things are done to make the situation right, and avoid that spotlight, so be it!

In retrospect I can picture the scene as it happened over and over. A normal family outing to the department store with the abrupt aisle turn, the quick exit, the parental shielding, the silence.

I'm sure my sister and I noticed that special counter in the back of the store. I'm sure we must have asked our folks about its purpose. But we were shielded all our minor years. We were kept in the dark. We were never told...about layaway.

And we weren't the only ones. I'd say there are entire demographic blocks that don't know about this quirky little retail practice. For me, someone unschooled in the art of layaway, the procedure is even kind of hard to explain. A consumer gets to set aside an item to be purchased. The store takes that item, places it into storage at the back of the store and then an arrangement is struck for the customer to pay for said item over time without interest. It's a procedure a tad on the order of retail ransom but with less drama - and it's legal to boot.

From casual observation I'd say a lot of crisp twenty-dollar bills are passed over the layaway counter.

But with easy to get credit cards and the rent to own deals coupled with a culture of instant gratification, well, it's no wonder that layaway fell onto hard times. Just two years ago retail giant WalMart announced that the system was just too much trouble and there was too little demand for it.

But with hard times knock-



Layaway

ing on the door, layaway is looking more attractive every day. Kmart is actually promoting it in their holiday ads.

Don't look now, but layaway is back. And I'm thinking - that's a good thing.

Had I instituted a little bit of layaway in my life I know I'd have a healthier bank account, a roomier closet and a more orderly office. I can picture the ad campaign in my mind: Layaway - the path to a better life." Because, if I had to think a couple times about everything I bought, I'd buy a lot less.

In my closet, from left to right, hang blue jeans, casual pants, dress pants and then dress shirts. However, after dress shirts, there is a garment fossil, a designer pair of dress pants unsuited for my body frame. I will refer to these very expensive dust gatherers as the "Hugos" - as in Hugo Boss.

The Hugos are a handsome black and gray tweed. If the Hugos were worn by a guy 6-feet tall with a narrow waist they would look - splendid. That's how the Hugos were displayed at the store. That's why the price tag on them was so high. They were not intended for anyone who favors the word "relaxed" on his waistband.

Back when I purchased the

Hugos I fancied myself a regular on the treadmill (make that a week straight) and it seemed inevitable that my body would be transformed and that male modeling would likely be a clear future career path.

The Hugos were purchased as an investment for future use. I paid for the Hugos with plastic - a high interest credit card and they came home with me that very night. I lied to the store clerk and told her they were a gift. Otherwise she would have likely called either security or a psychologist.

Now, if the Hugos had been on layaway - I would be better off. If I had been forced to visit the Hugos at the back of the store with a little cash every other week things would be different. One of two scenarios would have played out. I would have stayed on the treadmill between layaway visits and eventually ransomed the Hugos to wear, only later to appear in Gentlemen's Quarterly. Or, passing the donut shop one day on the way to the ransom payment, I might have faced reality, abandoned the pipe dream of the Hugos right then and there, and consoled myself with a chocolate long John.

Layaway - an idea whose time has returned. And the Hugos? Well, they don't take up much space. If Kmart sells treadmills I could put one on layaway and just see what develops.

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.

For greater efficiencies, is it time to consolidate and/or eliminate certain areas of local government?

Yes, it's long overdue
No, do not change a thing
Undecided

Last Week's results

Do you agree with Deer Creek Township's method for seeking input on spending surplus funds?

41% Yes, at the polling place is OK
31% No, Election Day is not appropriate
26% Advance information would have been helpful
02% Have no opinion
Total responses: 123
Reader's comments:

I don't believe voters were "ambushed" as your editorial suggests. It seems the township was just trying to get information from the residents of that township as to their feelings regarding the surplus of funds. People were free to mark the form or simply refuse to comment on it either way. It seemed to be an easy way to get residents' views.

From what I hear, they didn't poll everyone. People were not asked, seeming the "pollers" were "selected."

I feel a great injustice is being done to the Carroll County Museum! What is wrong with our county officials that they would stand by and allow such an important historical site be discarded as if it meant nothing! The museum is the most interesting place that Delphi and this county has to offer. It is visited by and receives correspondence from people all over the world. As a community let's not let this important piece of our town and county die without a fight. If things like this are allowed to happen, our town will soon die off also. What a shame that would be! The people of this county deserve to have their opinions/votes counted!

Yes I think that was fair to have the information brought before Deer Creek Twp. voters. This was the only way that they could find out the information. I believe that the museum deserves to have money given to them as they have to have the land purchased before they can get grants to build.

I also believe that Carroll Manor is deserving as they do a wonderful job of helping all of the people that are out at the Manor and they make it seem like it is really a home for them instead of an institution.

The funding was cut for the museum. It is not funded by the county except the place for the museum to be and the utilities. No funds are received for payroll or anything else.

In four years and one month they will have to move so they need all of the help they can get.

The museum is open three days a week and being run by Phyllis Moore, curator, with the help of Phyllis Porter, president of the Historical Society, and other volunteers.

They have many visitors. People bring in photographs and are here for genealogy from all over the United States, plus, just viewing the museum. Several photos have been brought in for the boards with the military people in the courthouse rotunda.

We have had several in working on their Master's degree - one was in on Thursday is getting her paperwork ready for Ball State.

I appreciated the fact that the township board took the time and made the effort to solicit our opinions. By doing so, they showed respect to their constituents. How many people actually attend the public meetings? I think they reached a lot more people this way. Thank you.



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.

John J. Dunn was appointed personal representative for the Gary B. Stonebraker and Trina L. Stonebraker estates.

Mark Andrew Fred and James David Fred were named personal representatives for the estate of James A. Fred.

Thomas M. McKinley's one year suspended probation was revoked and he was sentenced to serve the time in the Department of Correction.

Judgment was entered for the plaintiff in Unifund CCR

Partners vs. Jean Randle for \$4,402.15.

Julie A. Gardiner, 36, was found guilty of dealing in methamphetamine and was sentenced to six years in the Department of Correction.

Cody A. Talbert's sentence was modified and he was released from incarceration.

Continued next page

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

Michael J. Yates was charged with OWI endangering, driving while suspended, and driving left of center.

Erika Catlan was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license and no seatbelt.

Zakary Gutierrez was charged with domestic battery and disorderly conduct.

Delia Northern was charged with OWI endangering, operating a vehicle with an ACE of 15% or more.

For furnishing alcohol to a minor, Collin H. MacDonald, 22, West Lafayette, was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation, plus court costs.

Mitzi Gunther, 40, Delphi, was sentenced for disorderly conduct to 180 days in jail suspended, one year supervised probation and court costs.

Jason M. Podell, 27, Lafayette - driving while suspended as an infraction, judgment and court costs;

Dustin D. Inman, 25, Delphi, was found guilty of theft, sentenced to one year in jail plus court costs; guilty of OWI/endangering and being a habitual substance offender to three years in jail with two suspended, two years supervised probation for the first count and three years for the second offense. Inman's probation was later revoked.

The following were found guilty of illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor and were sentenced to 60 days suspended, one year probation plus court costs: Colten L. Marcum, 19, Flora; Kaylee N. Miller, 20, Cutler; Audrey Slaughterbeck, 18, Lafayette.

Marriage Licenses

Jeremy S. Butler, 29, and Donyell L. Shepherd, 20, both of Flora.

Hedilberto Vazquez-Avendano, 26, and Maria Del-Rosario Zabala Salazar, 30, both of Delphi.

Guest commentary

Your 'heritage'

By Carol Lou Randle Oliver

I am writing this about our heritage and our stake in saving the history of Carroll County. It will soon be a year that your museum lost its funding to keep operating at the courthouse. This I can understand from the facts concerning the budget and how it has been handled. That not withstanding, we are struggling with volunteers to keep going. The museum is open at least three days a week. Dedicated volunteers that are too few and very stressed are trying to keep up with the demand of running the museum as it should be run.

We need your help, time or money, however small, any or all will be appreciated. The daily bills have to be paid to keep our web page going and our archives on line. Also, there are many things in the museum that need to be repaired, cleaned and cared for to preserve them.

The artifacts in the museum and on the web are used by many people from all over the states, and other countries as Carroll County has a heritage tree with many roots and limbs spread all over the world. Historians have always used letters, documents, manuscripts and artifacts to interpret how civilization has progressed. Without these "footprints" where would our leaders be? My guess is they would be struggling to come up with solutions for problems of all kinds. It is well known that history repeats itself many times over.

I personally have benefited from the records in the museum by learning about my ancestors and how they came to Carroll County and lived. I discovered I had a first family member that helped to build Carroll County, I found ancestors who had fought in the Civil War to help keep our country one. I found an ancestor who fought with Gen. Washington in the Revolutionary War to fight for our independence. These facts make me proud to have been born and raised in Carroll County. I want to be able to show my grandchildren where they came from and who made it possible for them to live as they want.

These are tough economic times for everyone, and the county's budget woes have made it harder.

However, we as a people can make an effort to let our elected representatives know that our heritage is worth saving - and, not just our distant past. The reality of the present is that it is a moment. We can't take back words we have said or actions we have taken. So, too, we can't preserve what we may have let go that is significant in our lives. The museum is a living monument. Not only is it the legacy of our ancestors and an incredible history lesson, it is a repository for our most recent treasures, ideas, and hopes.

Come into the courthouse and look at our "Wall of Honor" to the men and women who have given themselves and some their lives to this country. We add to this wall almost weekly. From the Civil War through today we honor those who have served and are now serving their country. World War II vets are dying at a high rate. When they are gone along with all the others in that generation, that world war will no longer be a "living" memory. There will be a time when it will be the same with the Vietnam War.

One way our grandchildren and great-grandchildren know us is through recollections and artifacts from our lives. The museum can't save and share what it doesn't have or can't afford to preserve. That takes people power and money.

I was not asked to write this letter but felt compelled to. With all the political ads and people stalling how they are going to make things better. I just hope people will remember their ancestors and what they did and gave for us to be able to live as we do.

Please help support your museum and heritage, to honor those who have gone on before us. We want something to be able to look at and be proud of. To know we are part of what is happening today and that our future generations can look back and see our accomplishments preserved for their knowledge and to be proud of.

It's as simple as a grandchild stating "look Grandpa made this, isn't it great."

Carol Lou Randle Oliver of Delphi is a museum worker and volunteer.