

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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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

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Memberships include:

## Why we do it: to protect the public's - not just media's - rights

By Steve Key  
HSPA General Counsel

In addition to protecting the business interests of newspapers before the Indiana General Assembly, the Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) devotes untold hours in protecting the public's right to know.

It wasn't the original concern for founders of HSPA, but one that has strengthened over time and resulted in the creation, at HSPA's urging, of the state's Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act.

But why the continued level of vigilance when I've never heard a state legislator say he or she is opposed to the Open Door Law or Access to Public Records Act?

It's an acknowledgement of human nature. While everyone supports the concept of an open government, the interests of a particular legislator, industry or government agency may raise an argument as to the need for confidentiality when it comes to a particular government discussion, record or process.

Without HSPA's presence, the public's right to know would die the death of a thousand cuts.

Obviously, it's in the self-interest of newspapers to maintain a high level of transparency when it comes to government action. Reporters need the right to attend meetings and inspect records to report accurately on government proposals and actions.

HSPA has always fought for not only the right of reporters, but for the right of any citizen to be present during meetings of government bodies and inspect the records of state and local governments.

This belief is supported by the number of inquiries the state's Public Access Counselor office receives from the public compared with inquires from the media during its last reporting year - 1,329 public inquiries to 310 media inquiries, or four to one.

Arguments for government transparency must combat a wide range of arguments for secrecy; homeland security, identity theft protection, privacy concerns in an Internet world and economic development competition among states and communities.

It's often an uphill battle as some legislators believe government can be trusted without public oversight: distrust a media they believe is only interested in selling newspapers with sensationalism; or worry about what publicity will do to a citizen or business involuntarily caught up in government action or regulation.

There are also legitimate questions as to what's in the best interest of the public when it comes to balancing the public's right to know with another government interest that would argue for secrecy.

It's a point of pride that legislators often contact HSPA when a question concerning public access emerges or that they ask fellow legislators what the Hoosier State Press Association thinks about a proposal impacting the public's right to know.

I hope that never changes.  
*This was taken from the 75th anniversary edition of The Indiana Publisher, with permission from Steve Key, HSPA general counsel.*

My Aunt Susie used to throw an annual stocking party sometime right around Christmas. It was a made-up holiday, a flexible date all us cousins could make, the ones who wouldn't all see each other on Christmas proper. Colonel Sanders catered the event with regular and extra crispy and the Dollar General Store provided the gifts in lieu of the heavy-set man in the red suit.

It was all great fun. The start and end time was purposely fuzzy - by definition you couldn't be late and the pressure that creeps into Christmas - it just wasn't there.

The Dollar Store stocking stuffers were more gag than gift. I think that was the best thing about them. They made you laugh. Gifts can be so serious. When they are wadded up and stuffed in a sock and cost about a dollar, gifts must be more fun than fancy.

Here's what I'm looking for stuffed in my Christmas stocking this year:

Lots of those annual family Christmas letters. I love these missives of annual antics whether they be all brag and boast or pass the Kleenex clinchers. We all relate to story and story is the best vehicle to share our news and I say let the letters commence! One of the best ways folks can stay connected is through sharing our stories.

A good book on tape - free



## Stocking stuffer

from the library. My wife has me hooked on this totally legal, hands free motor vehicle pass-time. We drove to Indianapolis and back last Saturday and the ride all but disappeared as we listened to some Nelson DeMille tale of intrigue and deception. Tell Santa that our favorite Delphi library could use some more cloak and dagger on tape. And get this - author Stephen King says you get credit as a reader for being a listener!

Bowers, lots of bowers. For those who don't know how to play the card game of euchre, and that pretty much includes me, bowers are those mysterious Jacks in the deck that sneak in right under the Jack of trump to take the card trick. Just to make matters more confusing for those of us who forget to bring our glasses, the bower is the same color as trump - but not the same suit.

At Thanksgiving my sister-in-law Nadine turned her basement into a den of high rollers as she hosted what was billed as a Progressive Euchre Tournament. My score was low enough to allow the Indi-

ana DMV to confiscate my license plate. "You call yourself a Hoosier but you can't play euchre?" So I need bowers from Santa but also a little bit of strategy.

The ultimate stocking stuffers would be all one's favorite things that have been discontinued by the manufacturer. I used to have favorite Jockey brand briefs. They're gone from the shelves. So too, gone but not forgotten, our favorite six-pack of Pepperidge Farm iced cupcakes. They had cream fillings - sigh. Lately my favorite Schick razor blade - the Tracer FX - has disappeared from store shelves. Santa, please!

One of Santa's elves struck early this year and got me a little portable DVD player. This gift was occasioned by my need to complete 20 hours of continuing education for my law license. So now I can have my oatmeal and anti-trust lecture at the same time. I'm taking my contract's lecture with me on the treadmill this afternoon. There will be no chance of snoozing through that presentation.

So hooray for stocking stuffers and those little things in life that bring joy and a smile.

And now that I think of it, maybe the Jockey brand briefs are still available but the Pepperidge Farm cupcakes made them fit - well, differently.

Ho Ho.

## 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.

Liberty Dialysis filed a complaint against Scott Ayres a/k/a Scott W. Ayres.

A complaint on installment promissory note was filed in Teachers Credit Union vs. Ronald C. Warf.

Delia Northern and Brady J. Terrell, Monticello, were both charged with OWI endangering and operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 15% or more.

Grinna D. Garcia was charged with public intoxication.

Jared A. Bohall was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Barry D. Green, Logansport, was charged with criminal mischief.

Ricky A. Burge was charged with intimidation.

Mark B. Rhine was charged with OWI endangering, operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 15% or more, operating a motor vehicle without financial responsibility, and failure to use a safety belt.

Jose Cruz was charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license and speeding.

Stacy L. Dunham was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Shane R. Bledsoe was charged with theft.

Bradley S. W. Ayres was charged with illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage and illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

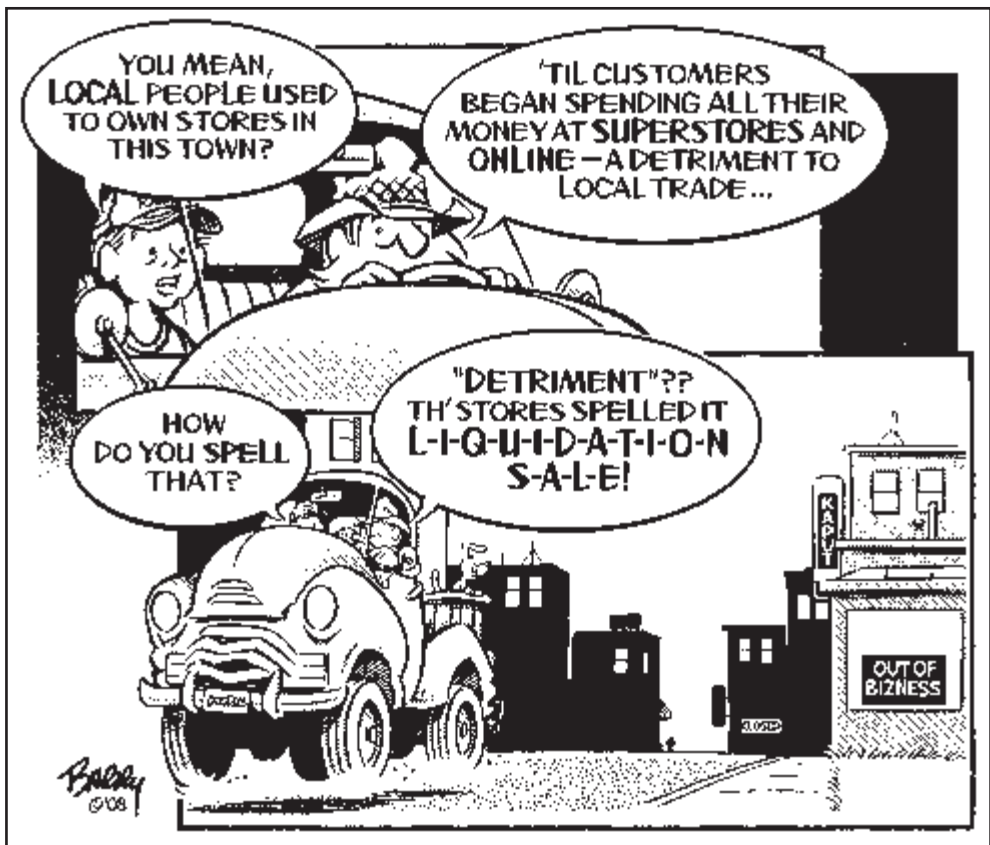
Scott E. York was charged with driving while suspended, speeding, no operator's license, and federal motor carrier safety regulation violation.

Charged with check deception were Justin L. Dicks and Ragene A. VanPelt.

Joseph W. Garrett was charged with possession of marijuana.

Davin L. Bullick was charged with possession of marijuana, driving while suspended, possession of paraphernalia, and habitual substance offender.

The following complaints were filed: LVNV Funding LLC vs. Myles J. Piotrowski; Midland Credit Management vs. Gregory E. Williams; Midland Credit Management vs. Charles K. a/k/a Chuck Wampsher; Capital One Bank vs. Brandon L. Miller; HSBC Bank Nevada vs. Frederick H. Thompson; GE Money Bank vs. Frederick H. Thompson; Arrow Financial Services vs. Kimberly K. Reed; Arrow Financial Services vs. Krista R. Dyer; and Arrow Financial Services vs. John R. Snell; Calvary Portfolio vs. Rachel Cope.



## 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**  
Randy L. Cheesman was charged with possession of paraphernalia and public intoxication.

Jody L. Garcia was charged with OWI/endangering and driving while suspended.

Kent R. Dixon, Camden, was charged with OWI/endangering and habitual substance offender.

Travis A. Haynes, Bringham, was charged with OWI/endangering and operating with an ACE of .15 or more.

Stacia R. Mooney, Flora, was charged with operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator and OWI/endangering.

Karen L. Miller and Gaspar Figueroa was each charged with two counts, OWI/endangering and operating with an ACE of .15 or more.

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Default judgments were entered

for the plaintiff in: Merchants Acceptance Inc. vs. Thomas L. Harrison, \$1,693.99; Ron Carmen Excavating vs. Michael Stout and Valerie Stout, \$1,814.84; Pearson's Gas vs. Ken Conners, \$994.70; FFPM/Carmel Holding I LLC vs. Melissa R. Little, \$963.04; and World Financial Network National Bank vs. Brian L. Northrup, \$2,323.34.

Judgments were entered for the plaintiff in: Ron Carmen Excavating vs. Brad Eurit and Julie Eurit, \$2,587.23; Lafayette Accounts Inc. vs. Ronald Stevens and Penny Stevens, \$1,426.71; and Discover Bank vs. Randie E. Veach, \$7,918.75.

Clifford A. McKinzie, 47, West Lafayette, was convicted of OWI/endangering and being a habitual substance offender and sentenced to three years, two suspended and two years supervised probation for the first charge and four years for the second charge.

Phillip M. Ratcliff, 28, Bringham, was convicted of possession of a schedule IV controlled substance. He was sentenced to 1 1/2 years in jail suspended and 1 1/2 years supervised probation.

Edwardo Mendez, 37, Monon, was convicted of possession of marijuana and was sentenced to one year in jail suspended and one year supervised probation.

James D. Campbell, 44, Delphi, was convicted of OWI/endangering and being a habitual substance offender. He was sentenced to five years in jail (enhanced by three years), with three years suspended, and three years supervised probation.

Joseph A. Slopensa, 32, Monticello, was convicted of driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended and one year supervised probation.

Robert D. Bowen, 52, Delphi, was convicted of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended and one year supervised probation.

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Karry N. Scott, 29, Flora, was convicted of operating a motor vehicle without a valid license and was fined \$10.

Heriberto Anastacio, 26, Indianapolis, was convicted of OWI/endangering and was sentenced to one year in jail with 143 days suspended.

Brenda P. Santana, 27, Logansport, was convicted of operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended and one year unsupervised probation.

Russell G. Stout Jr., 21, Lafayette, was convicted of illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage and no valid drivers license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail suspended and one year supervised probation for the first offense.

Nicolas Arnett, 39, Kokomo, was fined \$50 for no valid license in his possession and Bryan J. Fuentes Garcia, 18, Chicago, Ill., was fined \$25 for the same offense.

Nicholas L. Johnson, 22, Burlington, was found guilty of driving while suspended. He was sentenced to one year in jail suspended and one year supervised probation.

Paul W. Kruk, 27, Delphi, was convicted of domestic battery and disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended for the first count, 90 days suspended for the second count and one year supervised probation for both charges.

Justin M. Erdie, 29, Lafayette, was convicted of possession of paraphernalia and was sentenced to 180 days in jail suspended and 180 days unsupervised probation.

Todd A. Richard, 33, Kokomo, was found guilty of probation violation and was sentenced to 10 days in the county jail.

State of Indiana vs Jane E. Faucett; Julie E. Long; and Norman Leming was dismissed.

## 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, December 11**  
√ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m., Community Building
- Monday, December 15**  
√ Delphi Board of Works: 4:30 p.m.  
√ Delphi City Council Special Meeting: 5 p.m.  
√ Carroll County Commissioners: 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 16**  
√ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m., Arch School Building

## Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff's Sale-Baker ... .6B
- Sheriff's Sale-Macaluso .6B
- Sheriff's Sale-Delk ... .6B
- Sheriff's Sale-Elars ... .7B
- Sheriff's Sale-Short ... .6B
- Connors Estate ... .6B
- Landrum Estate ... .6B
- Unity HC-Anderson ... .6B
- Shanks Estate ... .6B
- RCM-Land Permit ... .5B
- IDESC-Addl Approv ... .6B
- CCSC-Bus Chassis ... .5B
- CCSC-Bus Body ... .6B
- Sheriff Sale-Baker ... .5B
- Co. Council-Addl Approv 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.

## 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.

### Are you changing your Christmas giving this year?

- Am spending less
- Am purchasing more practical gifts
- Am doing more making/baking this year
- Doing less shopping and more gift card/money giving
- Doing the same thing I've always done

### Last Week's results

**Do you think that grade reduction should be included in student disciplinary action?**

26% Yes, only if specified in the student handbook

74% No, grade reduction should never be considered as a form of discipline

Total responses: 145

### Reader's comments:

Grades, other than citizenship, are separate issues. Generally discipline prob-

lem students are not motivated by grades anyway.

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If they are out of the classroom setting, it should have an effect. If it is specified in the handbook, there is no question.

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Grades are the measure of the student's intellectual achievement, they are not nor were they ever meant to be used as anything other than a measuring instrument. To reduce the measure of a student's intellect is to say the very thing that the school is gauging can be reduced

and therefore it is not a true measure of intellectual achievement. How does this aid in discipline? Does the fact that students in need of discipline are now somehow less intelligent? If that is the case then we are all verging upon the moronic for all the mistakes in judgment that we have all made and will make in the future. Students will soon believe that their grades mean nothing at all as long as the grades can be changed. At that point, the grades are relegated to the realm of rewards not achievements.