

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

Consolidation of the Delphi Journal-Citizen (Est. 1839) and the Flora Hoosier Democrat (Est. 1897).

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The people have spoken...

Every week in the *Comet* a question is posed to readers. It is called the "Web poll question" and can be answered online only. There is an opportunity for the responder to make a short comment about the subject.

Last week's question was about the amount of coverage we give to the workings of the local county government and decisions made on taxpayers' behalf. And guess what? We hit a nerve. People not only responded, but they did it almost in unison. As of late Tuesday afternoon, 86 readers had weighed in and only four of those believe there is too much coverage of county government in the *Comet*.

Some of our readers had choice words for Carroll County elected officials and one responder really wanted to know what council member called the office to criticize us for reporting in depth what was going on.

"Censorship" means to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable, according to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. The telephone call from the elected official was an attempt to censor the press.

The responses all appear elsewhere on this page. And they all encourage this newspaper to continue to cover our local government in detail.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution guaranteed a free press "that would take a stand for liberty and justice and that mission has not changed," *USA Today* Editor Ken Paulson told an audience at a forum sponsored by the Indiana Coalition of Open Government, Hoosier State Press Association and Indiana State Bar Association in November. Paulson's words ring true for what is happening in Carroll County.

Shame on any elected official who would want and strive to censor the press.

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 would you do with a tax rebate from the federal government?

Spend it like the feds want us to in order to stimulate the national economy
Save it to pay bills
Start a rainy day fund for the family

Last Weeks results

The *Comet* has been criticized by at least one elected official for printing too much information about county government. Should the *Comet* continue current full coverage of county government problems?

95% Yes - It is essential taxpayers know as much as possible about county government.

5% No - Just the highlights of governmental meetings are sufficient.

Total responses: 86

Reader's comments:

Print the name of the "elected official" who wants the press muzzled - he/she is answerable to the voters. We have the right to know what our representatives are doing, how they think, and how they are using the "power" that WE GAVE THEM. That person might object, but too bad - they work for the citizens of this county, period. Accountability! Please, please, please, don't stop reporting ALL the info. Do everyone a big favor, will ya? Don't cash out and betray the public - do your job and report the goings on (in detail). It's important that you do, ya know.

In our country, a republic, government officials are elected by the people to represent the people. The people temporarily loan authority to the elected person—they are not giving it away! Too many of the elected believe that they have the power to ignore the public and to make independent decisions in spite of public opinion. It is especially arrogant of them to assume that the public has no need to know what they are doing. When the elected reach this point, it is time to recall them and never elect them again. They have become polluted with ego and betrayed the public trust. Everyone must be accountable to the source of their being who they are.

Kris Brower

Absolutely!! Our local government, by law, is subject to open door laws. How else does the community know what is happening.

Our elected officials certainly do not present the full story on what is going on. The newspaper should be the eyes and ears of our community responsible to its citizens. If our officials do not want us to know certain information, then we should be asking them "why not?"

The *Carroll County Comet* cannot print too much on the topic of our county and the workings of county government. The more we know, the better it is for the citizens of the county to understand how our government works, how our elected officials are doing for (or to) our government. Too many forget that the citizens are their bosses and like some bosses, the officials of the government may get fired, (well actually lose the chance of being elected again). Here is a statement I just read recently that may make some people think, or at least I hope so. A COMMUNITY IS BUILT UP OF SHARED KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES.

Apples, crisp green apples cut in little wedges and set out on a blue china plate. Popcorn, white and hot from the stove, fluffy and overflowing the large yellow Pyrex bowl. And eggs, hard boiled eggs, peeled and slippery and rolling about on a white platter.

Apples and popcorn and eggs, oh my.

When our children were youngsters a happenstance menu of these unrelated snacks came together and became our traditional family movie watching fare. It was a ritual of comfort food and lots of blankets and pillows and the five of us sitting in front of the little flickering television, the VCR rolling a favorite tape.

Back then our kids only wanted to watch movies we knew, no surprises, no disappointments. Our list of choices was pretty short. We knew the Indiana Jones series so well we could each recite the dialog as each character's lips formed the words.

"Hang on lady, we going for a ride." Willie would say each time as Indiana Jones cut the suspension bridge and we five collectively clutched as the good guys swung precariously above the raging river. Even as we clutched, we knew it would all work out in the end. Back in those days of cinematic certainty, a happy ending was guaranteed in our household.

When it was cold outside, or the mood in the household was somehow melancholy, our pick

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Menu memory

would be "Anne of Green Gables," the television adaptation of Lucy Maud Montgomery's marvelous tale set on Prince Edward Island in Canada.

It's the story of a red haired orphan girl sent by mistake to a dour elderly brother and sister pair. Anne brings qualities and experiences to the couple who fill and round and color out lives which until the young girl's arrival were sketched in hard gray, joyless lines.

In one scene the old bachelor Matthew Cuthbert goes off to the general store to purchase Anne a much longed for dress with puff sleeves. We collectively ached each time as Matthew, so out of his element, struggled to ask about a dress. As his cover, Matthew purchased things he had no need for at the time, a rake, brown sugar, lots of it, until he finally blurts out his mission.

When Matthew presents the dress to Anne, he points out the feature so sought by the young girl.

"Puff sleeves," he says.

"The puffiest," she replies.

And sure enough, the Kleenex would then make its way around our room. Looking

back it seems like we might as well have been in church, the sermon on change and redemption was that clear. Better yet, the message came with apples, eggs and popcorn.

I remember that my mother once observed that the happiest of times rarely come in a planned fashion and never come labeled. Often it is only retrospect that turns the ordinary and routine into the lovely and cherished.

It was an apple, a green apple cut in wedges sitting on a tray on a folding table with other food at an office meeting that triggered my memory. I went back to a time that was unplanned, that should have been labeled...."treasure this."

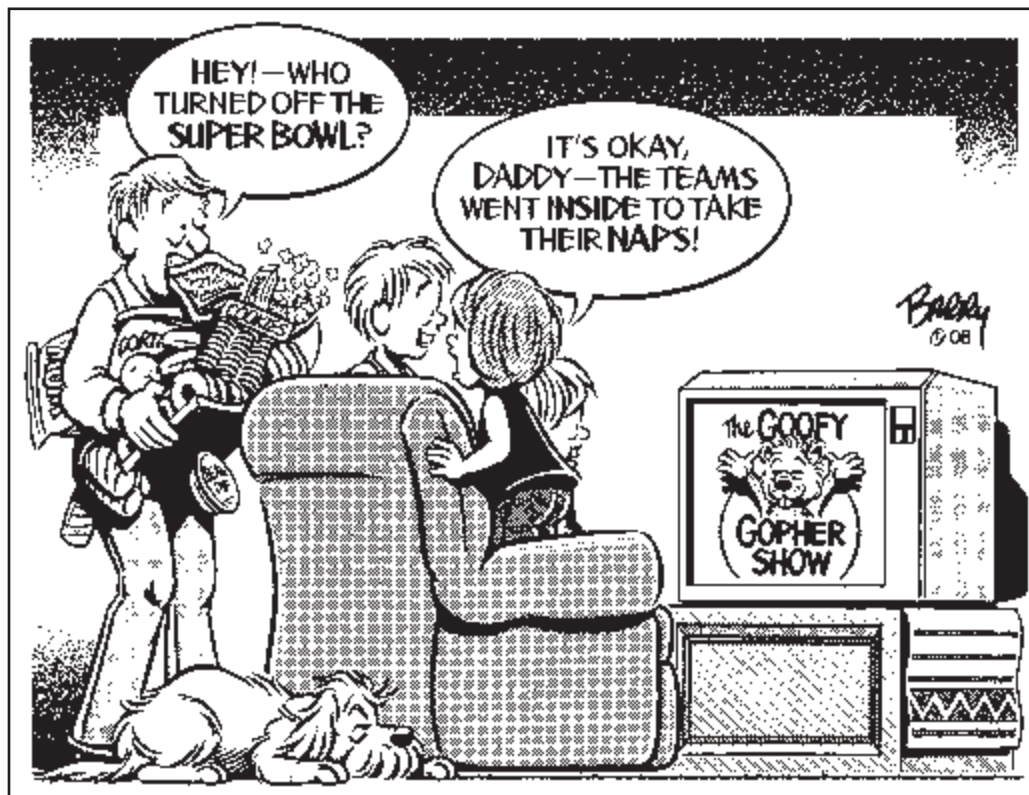
Gem of the day

I belong to an organization that faces an enormous project that will let loose lots of opinions, costs and commentary. The project will likely be a success if the big picture stays in focus.

In seeking consensus, the president of the organization quoted William Rainey Harper, the first president of the University of Chicago. At his inaugural address at the founding of the university back in 1892 Harper offered this observation:

"The question before us is how to become one in spirit, not necessarily opinion."

Harper's observation remains sound advice still today for families, congregations and communities.



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.

Tribute to Charlie

Flora is one of the greatest small towns in the State of Indiana (or probably anywhere else). It is because of the people who live there that I feel that way. One of those people, who I was privileged to know and to work with, was Charlie Meade. He will be missed. Flora is poorer and Heaven is richer because of the passing of Charlie.

Lon Bohnstedt
The Villages, Fla.

Need level playing field

This week the House and President Bush agreed on an income tax rebate bill to give most taxpayers a \$600 check under the premise that this money would be spent for consumer goods and that would jump start the economy. The theory is probably true, but the economy that would be helped is that of China, Japan and Bangladesh. Since the shipping of many of our manufacturing jobs overseas, laying off employees and shutting down factories, we don't produce much in consumer goods anymore.

How about changing the plan so that the taxpayer has to come up with receipts to show that the money was spent on goods manufactured in the United States of America, or else the refund would have to be paid back with next year's taxes. Fair trade is just like the Fair Tax being pushed by Huckabee. It is unfair. Let's get a level playing field so that U.S. companies can compete with China on a FAIR basis.

Bill Murdock
Delphi

Not happy with county money management

I am upset that taxpayers have to bear the cost of mailing out property tax rebate checks when money could have drawn interest to pay for the mailing. The government will get the money back, plus more, due to re-evaluation of property tax values with the increase of the tax rate the county will have.

Linda Vass,
Rockford

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

Jeremiah F. Adriano was charged with five counts of check deception.

William M. Bray was charged with residential entry, driving while suspended and false or fictitious registration.

Blake M. Miller was charged with criminal trespass. He was charged with in-

vasion of privacy in a separate cause.

Adam B. Smith was charged with driving while suspended. Jason M. Podell was charged with driving while suspended.

April Field was charged with non-support of a dependent child.

Dennis E. Warren was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering.

Timothy E. Wilson was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering,

driving left of center and open alcoholic container.

Michael L. Galimore was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

A charge of driving while suspended against Sherri A. Hinton was amended to driving without a valid license in possession. She was fined.

Brenda P. Santana, 26, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Lana L. Richards, 36, of Lafayette, pled guilty to unlawful possession or use of a legend drug and public intoxication. She was sentenced to one and a half years in prison, all suspended, and one and a half years supervised probation.

H. Kent Howard, 67, of Indianapolis, pled guilty to operating with a BAC of .08 or greater and less than .15 percent. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Willie J. Kirkpatrick, 51, of Indianapolis, pled guilty to carrying a handgun without a license and operating a motor vehicle without a valid license. He was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended, and one year unsupervised probation.

Sherry L. Miller, 38, of Lafayette, pled guilty to invasion of privacy and criminal trespass. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all but four days suspended, and 330 days supervised probation. In a separate cause, she pled guilty to disorderly conduct. For that, she was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all but 30 days suspended, and 330 days supervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed: Household Finance Corporation III vs. Randy W. Stahl; Flora-Allen-Arion vs. Brad Eurit;

Shirley B. Marcum was ordered to pay \$803.52 to RTS Industries Inc.

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.

Alena M. Gill, 39, pled guilty to escape, resisting law enforcement and possession of a switchblade knife. She was sentenced to five years 180 days in prison, three years suspended, and three years of probation.

Default judgment was entered in the following: Pinnacle Credit Services vs. Carolyn Barr; Capital One Bank vs. Emily K. Cunningham; American Acceptance vs. Byron A. Rider; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Justin Stewart; and LNVN Funding LLC vs. Kimberly Scroggs.

A suspension of driving privileges against Kathy Eva Dunbar was lifted. She was granted a restricted drivers license.

The following cases were dismissed: MRC Receivables Corporation vs. William H. Phillips; GE Money Bank vs. Roy Johnson; Kathy L. Veach vs. Clay A. Whitlock, Dena Whitlock and Randy Whitlock; MacDonald Machinery Company Inc. vs. Gregory A. Jacobs, Jerrielyn Jacobs and First Financial Bank; Deutsche Bank National Trust Company vs. Linda S. Huddleston and Daniel J. Huddleston;

Corey W. Ginn, 23, pled guilty to battery resulting in serious bodily injury. He was

sentenced to five years in prison, two years suspended, and two years of probation.

Heather S. Stewart, 20, pled guilty to forgery. She was sentenced to four years in prison, three years suspended, and three years of probation.

JP Morgan Chase Bank NA filed a complaint for replevin and damages against Charles Robert LaPlante.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Donna J. Sandifur.

Midland Credit filed a complaint against Christopher A. Burdine.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance Company filed a complaint against Diane Clifford.

Midland Credit Management filed a complaint against Susan M. Condon.

Capital One Bank filed a complaint against Cheryl L. Wingate.

The estate of the late Helen M. Stockton was admitted, probate will only.

Scott A. Walker was named executor of the estate of the late Bonnie J. Walker.

LNVN Funding LLC filed a complaint against John Spann.

Wells Fargo Bank filed a complaint to foreclose mortgage against Brooke E. Sellers a/k/a Brooke E. Goodnight.

Arrow Financial Services filed a complaint against Donald Casey.

DN Financial Inc. filed a complaint against Maria Villagrana.

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, Jan. 31

√ TLRSD Special Meeting: 7 p.m. - White County Government Building

Friday, Feb. 1

√ County Council: 8:30 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 4

√ Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.

√ Commissioners: 9 a.m.

√ Carroll School Board: 5 p.m., administration office

√ Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.

√ Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.

√ Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.

√ Delphi School Corporation

Work Session: 6:30 p.m. - High school commons

Wednesday, Feb. 6

√ County Council with DLGF: 1 p.m. - Commissioners' meeting room

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Notice of Suit-Dobyne6B
Notice of Suit-Taber6B
CC Soil & Water-Ann Mtg6B
Sheriff Sale-Gadient4B
Sheriff Sale-Duff6B
Sheriff Sale-Delaney6B
Sheriff Sale-Vaughn6B
Democrat Twp-Add App4B
Madison Twp-Ann Report5B
Tippecanoe Twp-Ann Rpt5B
IDEM-McIlrath5B
Carrollton Twp-Ann Rpt5B
Sheriff Sale-Daily5B
Adams Twp-Ann Report5B
Luse Estate5B
Rock Creek Cass-Ann Mtg5B
Comm Claims Gen-A4B
Comm Claims Oper-A4B
Hwy Claims-A5B
Co Gen Claims-B4B
Co Op Claims-B5B
Hwy Claims-B5B
Rayburn Estate5B
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.