

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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

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Memberships include:



Speak up or...

Taxpayers, if you want deputies and emergency personnel to possibly remain employed by the county, you must tell your county commissioners at the special meeting Thursday, March 20, at 3 p.m.

You must tell commissioners it is more important to have law enforcement officers than to subsidize Carroll Manor residents who are not indigent.

You must tell them it is more important to be protected and saved than it is to own Deer Creek Park, or the piece of property around Carroll Manor.

Commissioners have a choice. They can liquidate property or they can make the council cut the services to the very core of the county.

What other assets could they sell? How about the EMS garage in Flora? The Town of Flora has graciously offered to let the ambulance have a building.

What else? They could choose not to pay rent to house the county extension office. The county owns a 4-H building in Flora. Commissioners gave significant space in the bottom floor of the courthouse to the museum, which the county no longer supports in a significant fashion.

These and others are choices the county commissioners could make to help save your services. It is up to you to compel them to act appropriately to honor your good sense. These are tough times. And they have not come to the game yet.

Compel commissioners to insist that the area plan commission raise rates for building permits and other services immediately, not when they get around to it, but now.

They should move the area plan office to the surveyor's office so the two officials can share a clerical person given the area plan office will no longer have a secretary due to no county money to support the position.

If you want fewer reductions in county personnel, it is up to you to voice your opinion on these matters. Without additional funds, more services will be sacrificed.

Readers....

Before we give you details about budget decreases and personnel loss, we want them to be as accurate as possible. We really want to just give you the final word...the numbers and fall-out from the revised budget that has yet to be finalized and adopted.

We know you are hearing that deputies and emergency personnel, as well as jailers, secretaries, dispatchers and custodian salaries have been reduced or removed from the budget. And some of that is true. The sheriffs department shut off their blackberries. One deputy was given notice. Area Plan will no longer have a secretary.

But the final outcome will depend upon in part what the commissioners do with county assets and how council members cope with other potential income sources.

Council members are keeping a lot of balls in the air at once right now. We don't know exactly which ones will drop and which will stay up.

Not much is written in stone. Although council members voted on some issues, nothing is a done deal until the revised budget is adopted.

So, the Comet is staying away from giving you numbers. We think you deserve the facts and not the chaos. When we know them, you will know them.

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

Brandi M. Johnson was charged with public intoxication.

Benjamin Paul Johnson was charged with possession of a controlled substance, unlawful use or possession of a legend drug, public intoxication and illegal consumption.

Nakia R. Carmicle was charged with driving while suspended and disregarding a stop sign.

Terry E. Goslee was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering a person and operating with an ACE of .15 or more.

Dan A. Neidlinger was charged with operating with an ACE of .15 percent or more and two counts of operating while intoxicated - endangering a person.

James M. Lanum was charged

with domestic battery and resisting law enforcement.

Melissa A. Crawford was charged with public intoxication, illegal consumption and minor in tavern.

Alison R. Sommers was charged with illegal consumption.

Nicholas L. Johnson was charged with driving while suspended.

Ramon Pena was charged with operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license and speeding.

Derrick E. Flex was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury and interference with the reporting of a crime.

Gregory D. Kreps was charged with failure to return to the scene of an accident resulting in damage to an attended vehicle and possession of paraphernalia.

Jennifer D. Wireman was charged with check deception.

Nicholas F. Martin was charged with criminal mischief.

Years ago I read a wonderful article in the Readers Digest encouraging parents to teach the Bible to their children. In language almost borrowed from a Walt Disney movie promo, the author wrote of stories featuring the riches of royalty, the larceny of cheaters, the antics of siblings.

The article author's point was that the Bible is filled of tales of the human condition, folks caught up in the joys, travails and challenges of everyday life. These stories of real people caught up in real situations remain relevant cautions, inspirations and blueprints from which children can learn, model and discipline themselves.

Though I can't give the author credit by name, I often think of the importance of his admonition. I am particularly reminded of his words when my experience triggers consideration of a story from the Bible that I was taught in Sunday School decades ago.

Because I love the teaching aspect of story, I see sermon ideas just about everywhere I travel. It happened just the other day. I was caught up in a line of slow moving traffic through a construction zone. Immediately in front of me was a backhoe driven by a guy wearing a hard hat.

Now, mind you, the state of the road that we were traveling upon was absolutely terrible.

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



Sermon idea

So picture the up and down jostle of the ruts we crossed, mix in the noise and dirt of the construction site. Add to that scene a little honking and merging of traffic, some weary, some white knuckled. And what of the gentleman in front of me negotiating it all? Well he was leaning back in his seat, steering the backhoe with one hand and eating a banana in the other. Eating a banana? Yes, and he appeared to be relishing it, and the sunny sky above us. He might as well have been today's poster-child for the writings of the Bible author when we are reminded in the Book of Matthew to "consider the lilies of the field" or the "birds of the air."

"Drink it all in," the man on the backhoe whispers to the motorists all around him, "it is the journey, not the destination," he says between bites of his banana.

Sermon title: "Enjoy the banana."

Last week National Public Radio (NRP) ran a segment about crime and how the only statistic that is going way down nationwide is home burglary.

Now over the years I have known folks who do not vacation or take trips or attend important family events because of the fear something will happen to their stuff. I've known elderly people who cannot move to more appropriate housing because of their things. Things, stuff, accumulation, property, be it treasure or trash, it all comes with a price.

The NPR reporter interviewed a career burglar gone straight. The former burglar was the one with the best answer to the question of why instances of home burglary continue to go down.

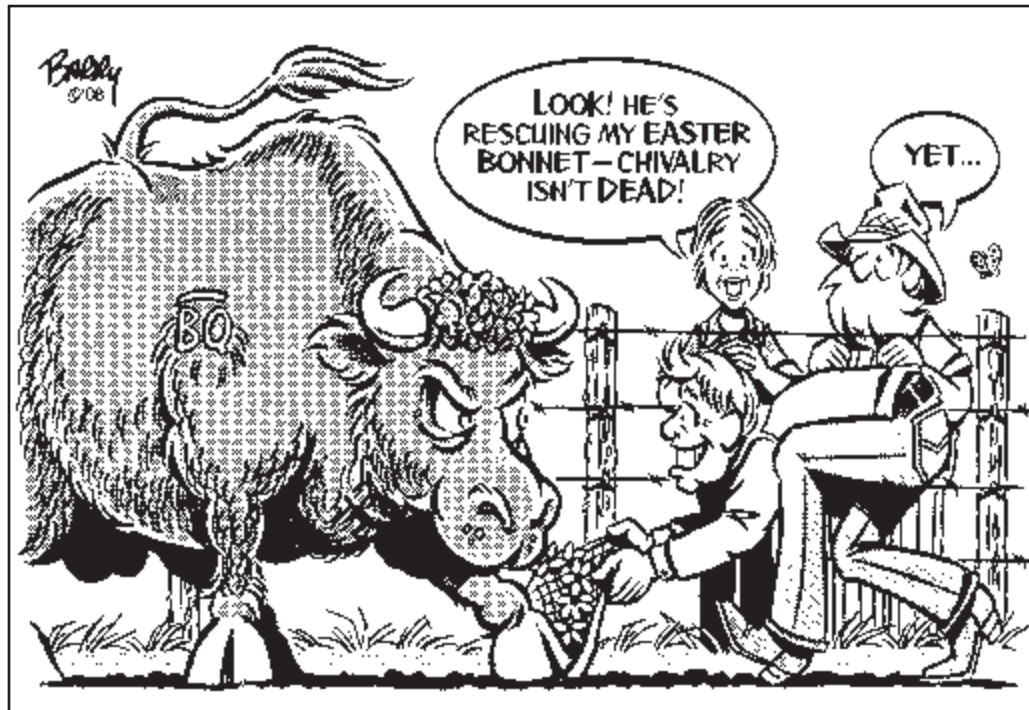
"Everybody has this stuff," the fellow said. He went on to explain that the market for stolen goods was so low that stealing wasn't worth the risk of getting caught.

"People all want new stuff anyway," he said.

Meanwhile, as I listen to this program about crime statistics I am reminded in the Book of Luke of the rich man who builds storehouses for his wealth only to be caught short by what the rich man must have considered his own untimely death.

Sometimes the sermon writes itself about how we value property and things and stuff, forgetting to get on with what is needed of us.

Sermon title: "All that stuff." Can someone give me an "Amen?"



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.

In a default judgment, Fred J. Ford was ordered to pay \$2,572.93 to North Star Acquisitions LLC.

Mark D. Farrell was charged with operating a motor vehicle

after forfeiture of license for life, attempted auto theft and public intoxication.

John R. Allbaugh was charged with burglary and theft.

Dennis R. Wilson and Charlene M. Sacha were named executors of the estate of the late Carol M. Corwin.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff between the following: Capital One Bank vs.

Donna J. Sandifur; HSBC Bank Nevada NA vs. William L. Benefiel; Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Christopher A. Burdine; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Gerry E. Gibbs; US Bank National Association vs. Rob S. McKinney and Mildred A. Melley; GMAC Mortgage LLC vs. Joseph A. Rehwinkel Jr.; and Palisades Acquisitions XVI LLC vs. Esther Cook.

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.

Carroll Manor is service, not burden

It is with the utmost sincerity that I write this letter. I also am very concerned about the loss of public service that the recent budget cuts have caused. I grew up in Carroll County and want to live here the rest of my life. I also feel that we have a wonderful EMS and sheriff's department. I know many of them personally and have needed their service both personally and at Carroll Manor.

I do however feel that the need to address the recent letter to the editor. The approved budget for Carroll Manor in 2007 was \$455,208. The budget did include salaries and all operational costs, excluding employee benefits. Early in the year at the request of the county auditor we gave back \$3,150 and we also had a year-end balance of over \$41,468 that was returned to county general. Nor did you take into account the amount of revenue that was received by the residents of Carroll Manor. We were informed that the budget should reflect the 2003 figures. The proposed budget for 2008 was already below our 2003 budget before the cuts began.

The county homes were not built to bring in revenue. They were always about a service and all the resources that helped to subsidize ours have been eliminated. I personally asked for an elevator to be installed to enable our facility to be at full capacity. We applied for and received a

grant and are still waiting for the completion of the elevator. One of the criteria for the grant application was that the service continue for five years or the \$500,000 be repaid.

I believe that if the negative publicity stops and some promotional work were allowed that the Manor can stand on its own and will not jeopardize the other public services. I also believe that the wealth of knowledge that the elderly citizens of this county share with family and friends is valuable and that we should continue to keep it close to home. We cannot just disregard the senior citizens of this county.

I encourage all taxpayers and residents of Carroll County to visit the beautiful 100-plus-year-old facility before you pass judgment on its worth to our community.

Martha G. Lewis
Superintendent of Carroll Manor

Thoughts on county's financial crisis

I recently contacted the county commissioners and the council. I sent them all the same e-mail with my concerns and suggestions. I received one reply that was the standard politician's response. But from council member Carl Abbott I received a very nice note explaining what happened to bring this all about.

If any of you have had any dealings with our state government in the past couple of years you will understand full well that they expect all aspects of government to change and come into the new century, but DO NOT grasp that the money is not there to do this, and that it can't be done as quickly as expected.

I am not making excuses for the commissioners or the council, but we do need to understand

and help them come up with new ideas and ways to make this county a place many want to live and work. It is not all their responsibility. We, as citizens, can do much to improve many areas. We need to volunteer more, raise money to save projects like the historical museum and the canals. Those of us who have contacts with big business should be saying something to them about moving here.

We, as a county, have to help ourselves. Let's quit criticizing and ask what can we do.

Maybe you own a business and can see how to help them with the situation. If so, offer your services.

Maybe what you should do is offer your special skills to the county by running for elected office.

Churches, include the county in your services and your prayers.

Council members and commissioners, let us know how to help. Give us suggestions on what to do. Pull in those who have run a profitable business and get some advice from them. I will be behind you and pray for the best answers and solutions.

Good luck. I hope this newspaper will report all the facts and not just inflame people. The voice of this paper influences many and hopefully it will be for the good. Don't take a side - get in there and work with them for a solution.

Hopefully all of us will learn a little and join together to make this better.

Sandra Prendergast
Camden

Responds to letter

After viewing the letter submitted by Derek Jackson, I would like to nominate his name for the scrooge and grinch of the year award.

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.

Do you think Delphi should support two art shows to compensate for the scaled down Jack Sanders Show?

Yes. If it takes two shows to showcase everything that was in the show before, so be it. No. The school should determine how big and what to showcase in the show and Tri Kappa should again lend support.

Last Weeks results

Should school administrators live in the school corporation where they are employed? (Reader submitted question.)

80% Yes
17% No
03% No opinion
Total responses: 167

Reader's comments:

They might have a more vested interest in where the money is spent then. Not living there makes them detached from the community.

With Reference to the Opinion Poll in the March 12 edition of the Comet, regarding residency, perhaps before the question was asked, someone should have checked to see if a school corporation can require an employee to live within the school district.

Indiana Code 20-28-10-13 stipulates that a school board may not make any policy that requires an employee to reside within the district boundaries.

Also during the interview process of a prospective employee, which includes not only administrators but teachers as well, the board or the person conducting the interview may not ask the person being interviewed if they intend to move into the district.

I was advised by the Indiana State School Boards Association legal staff two years ago, that if a prospective candidate is denied employment because they did not agree to move into the district, the school corporation maybe sued. This was reconfirmed this week.

Robert Resler
Delphi

Marriage Licenses

Based upon his letter, he apparently lacks compassion and respect for needy senior citizens. We are very fortunate we have this facility and caring staff.

Carl Perry
Rossville

Steven Todd Hartman, 37, and Kellie Sue Lee, 31, both of Delphi.

Donald Austin Rhine, 26, of Chalmers, and Aundrea Lynn Ferguson, 26, 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.

Thursday, March 20

√ Commissioners special meeting: 3 p.m.
√ Area Plan Commission: 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 27

√ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m., White County Government Building, Monticello

Monday, March 31

√ County council: 8:30 a.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Bowen Estate4B
Comm-Planned Improv.....3B
DCSC-Bonds Determ.....4B
DCSC-Bonds Prelim.....3B
Corwin Estate.....4B
TLSC-Inv To Bid.....4B
Alcohol Permit Renewals....3B
Sheriff Sale-Cox.....4B
Washington Estate.....4B

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.