

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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

Published each Wednesday at 114 East Franklin St., Delphi IN 46923
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Delphi IN 46923 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Carroll County Comet, PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026 USPS 285-840

Published by CARROLL PAPERS, Inc. PO Box 26, Flora IN 46929-0026
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MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES in Advance - Per Year
Carroll County, Service People and Counties which border Carroll - \$30.00.
All other Indiana counties - \$36.00; All other states - \$40.00.
Addresses changed for seasonal residences - Add \$3.00
Address changes - subs@carrollcountycomet.com



Memberships include:

National Newspaper Association

Hooray for township trustees!!

Carroll County Trustees are to be recognized, praised, cheered for their effort to try to do something about the county ambulance situation. We do not know if they will be successful but the fact that they organized, met, discussed and developed the beginning of a plan to bring a needed service to residents deserves our attention. And what's more, they plan to pursue this until they arrive at a place at which everyone is happy, or they know they can go no further.

It is no secret that Carroll County government is not in swell shape right now. Most residents and county leaders understand there is just no extra money to move from one spot to another. But that fact did not cast a pall on trustees when it came to how most county residents are woefully underserved by the current ambulance service due to lack of equipment and personnel. And they recognized the simple fix to the problem...just throw money at it.

Of course, where to get the money to throw, and in what manner to throw it, are the issues now. Does it come out of the general fund (overhand throw)? Does it come out of township assistance (an underhand toss)? Can it even be done legally (a fast ball perhaps)? All good questions.

This is uncharted territory for townships. There is no knowledge that trying to save a public service like this with township money has ever been tried before.

Carroll County township trustees are true pioneers. Give them your support, no matter if it works or it does not.

Guest commentary

Don't spend it if you don't have it

By Steve Ashby
Former county councilman

I have spent the last four years serving on the county council and have learned much about county and state government. We are continuing to experience multiple changes that are going to have lasting effects on our society. Our county has experienced no growth basically in the last 100 years, but our demand for services has increased drastically over that same period of time. Without growth, income has generated no new money to spend.

I had difficulty comprehending this in the first half of my term, but with the help of others, and attending seminars, it became very apparent to me about two years ago what was happening in our county. We were spending our savings for day-to-day services and creating budgets we could not support to provide county citizens the expanded services. We are doing better now but in my opinion not all county leaders truly understand our current fiscal condition.

I agree with Commissioner Bill Brown that we have not taken economic development seriously. It shows. We have a tax to support economic development (EDIT) and what this has been used for at times was a stretch of the definition. We can no longer fund projects "because it feels good or is the right thing to do" without a very solid financial plan to support the project. In my opinion, the latest example is the county road extension of SR75. Regardless of the merits of this project, true funding does not exist for it. Construction of the new county road will bring about some additional long-term costs. Total miles of the county road system will be increased with construction of the ex-

tension, but the number is still unclear to me as presented in the Dec. 29 commissioner's meeting. It could be an increase of more than a mile, but involving construction of more than three miles. The entire project will need to conform to state specifications.

When the Hoosier Heartland Highway is finished we will be given at least 6.25 miles of current SR25 to maintain with our already inadequate county highway budget (and this is only my estimate).

We are obligated to maintain these miles forever. Professor Larry DeBoer's article in last week's Comet stressed the arrival of the recession at the state level, which could only be a preview of what is coming. The Governor has been stressing no pay raises and reducing spending to try to reduce the state shortfall that is imminent. The state is not going to fund recycling and I am sure there will be more services that are reduced from the state level. With the action of property tax reform by the State legislature, Carroll County was recently faced with replacing lost revenues with the county income tax (LOIT) but not in sufficient amounts to restore any lost services or fund new services. Interpreting DeBoer's financial information, the current financial climate at the federal, state and local levels will only worsen.

It has been rumored a federal stimulus is on the way for infrastructure. Some in the county believe the stimulus will solve our problem. For the federal government to print money with which to fill our checkbook will likely bring major inflation. Things will cost more, people will spend less and the county will have less to fund services making us all more dependent on income tax. Spending money we don't have is wrong!

Editor's note: This week's column with a few updates for 2009 is a reprint of a column that ran in the Comet the first week of January in 2007.

An acquaintance and I were stuck in traffic the other day as we made our way towards an early morning meeting. I was driving, she was filling me in on the business at hand. At one point she tried to pinpoint the year a particular event occurred.

"It must have been in '92," she said, adding "that was the year my brother and I reconciled."

Now the subject we were discussing had nothing to do with siblings, conflict or reconciliation. And up until that moment I'd known virtually nothing of this person's personal life. I didn't know about a brother or a history of family trouble. But referencing back to that particular year had triggered an important event in her memory. Clearly 1992 had represented a watershed year for her, a monumental shift on a personal level and thus, the reference to her brother and their reconciliation.

A new year. Right now, from where I sit, 2009 lies ahead fresh with all kinds of possibilities. Why 2009 could be the year for a truly reconciled checkbook, or fewer bills, or better yet, an organized closet. Because the year is new and full of promise there's time and opportunity to sign up for the writing class

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



All that's new

I've thought about for so long, or get more consistent with the morning exercise I love to hate.

Personally, I've never been very big on making new year resolutions. Funny thing though, I think they are a great idea. What could ever be wrong with resolving to do the things one has put off, or regretted or secretly aspired to do?

Ann Landers, the nationally syndicated advice columnist, used to have a great reply when folks wrote to her about regrets of things not tried or not accomplished. Her answer was always pretty much a question, the very same question for anyone who lamented they were too old, or had put off too long or that it was too late for things like finishing college or taking up dancing or finding companionship.

"How old will you be next year if you don't attempt it?"

Under Lander's view of things, a new year is just a fresh invitation for another stab at those things that need doing.

Every year a couple headlines catch my eye that speak to this subject.

Marvin Northern got his

degree from Baylor University in Texas a couple years back - at age 100.

A Spanish woman gave birth to twins just before 2006 finished off, she was 67 years old at the time.

Then again, perhaps these particular news items speak more to the question of why we put our resolutions off so long.

Here's hoping Marvin doesn't have much in the way of student debt, and hoping too that the mom of twins already started their college fund.

Some time back a friend quoted to me advice from the teachings of a well-known support group. I'm paraphrasing here, but the sentiment was that "there is no situation or problem that can not be made better." In other words, you can't solve every problem, can't make things right or perfect or whole in each and every case. But, you can always help, you can always put some effort into making a bad situation - less bad.

So if I'm committed to a resolution in 2009 for me: less lamentation and more action...on my part.

Thinking back to my acquaintance's year of reconciliation with her brother, I'm faced with the many possibilities ahead in 2009. How would you like to finish the following sentence:

"Oh, 2009, that was the year..."

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.

My friend, Jack

Traveling to Middletown on Saturday with my husband Don to pay a final tribute to Mr. Sanders was definitely a true privilege. For you see, my friend Jack was more than a mentor to me, as well as to the many hundreds of lives he touched as a distinguished visual arts educator, he was truly one of Honey Creek's finest residents.

Within this small community there lived a gentle man that quite frankly won the hearts of all who knew him. He was sincere, kind and eloquent. As I listened carefully to the accolades spoken of Jack the one that best described this famed educator was that of respect. For Jack not only respected his community, his colleagues, his field of study, his students, his family and friends, he received respect from those who knew him, a compliment to his character.

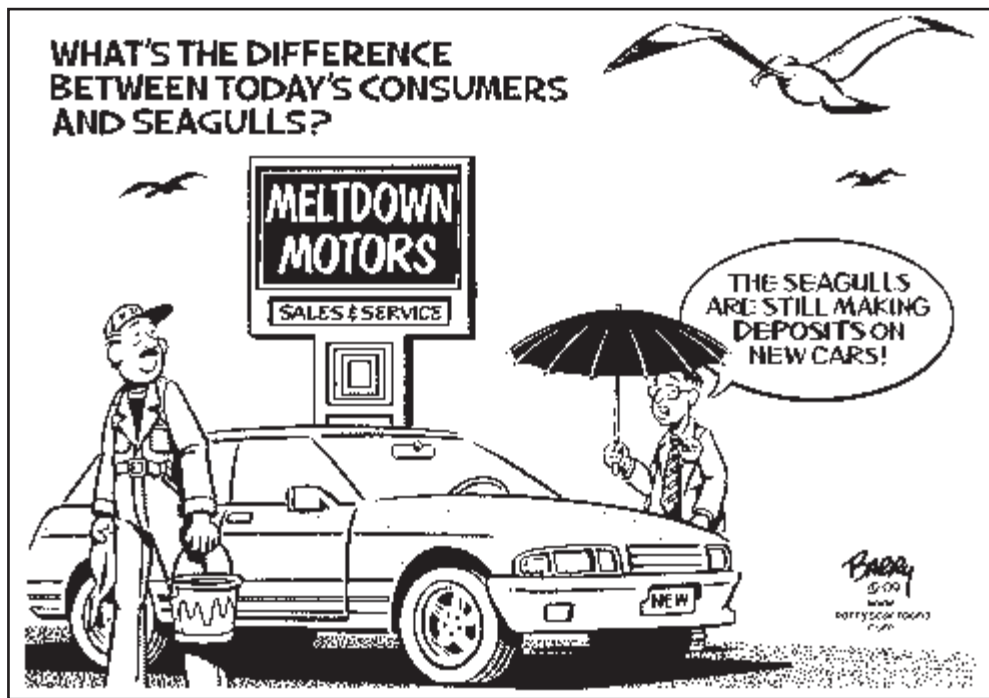
That character that he so well represented was that of a human being who gave instead of received and received so much for all he unselfishly gave. His kind manner and gentle acknowledgment of all who could and tried to create an artistic contribution, to either one of his classes or his numerous community shows, easily made the artist pay homage to Jack.

One of the pictures shown in the video of Jack's life included a trip made by his family members to the cemetery to have their photo made at a noted tombstone of a distinguished family member, all for the sake of recording a special moment in the genealogy of his beloved family. If you knew Jack at all, the humor behind this adventure was just one example of his wonderful outlook on life and his dedication to preserve that life in a precise historical record.

Jack not only loved his family heritage, he created an artistic heritage for the community of Delphi and the Delphi Community Schools that will long be known as the legacy of Jack Sanders.

It is with deep admiration that I compose this letter of tribute to one of the finest educators, prominent citizens and illustrious people I have ever had the opportunity to be acquainted with and be in awe of. I will forever cherish, with high regard, the memories of our friendship and hold dear to my heart the values he taught me as he personally took the time and patience to make sure that my chosen career received a proper investiture.

Barb McCain
DCSC art teacher



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.

A judgment to foreclose was entered for the plaintiff in Deutsche Bank National Co. vs. James Russell Shockley, Crystal L. Shockley and First Consumer Credit LLC for \$81,483.55.

A summary judgment was entered in Old National Bank vs. John P. Morton and all occupants and/or tenants whose names are unknown for

\$143,825.99.

The following complaints were filed: Daimler Chrysler Financial Services vs. Timothy Goltz; Capital One Bank vs. Margy J. Pegues a/k/a Boyer, Thomas L. Thompson; Palisades Collections vs. Karen S. Thomas a/k/a Markoich, Sheryl A. Long; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Edward A. Holderly, Thomas L. Thompson, Shelly Brafford; NCO Portfolio Management Inc. vs. Stephanie Ronano; Dell Financial Services LLC vs. Cathy A. Bennett a/k/a Cathy Dubes; Discover Bank vs.

Vernon J. Morris and Nancy H. Morris, Phyllis Plank Haughs; G.E. Money Bank vs. Frederick H. Thomason; Indiana Farm Bureau Ins. vs. Alfredo Flores; American Acceptance vs. Jennifer E. Hahn; and Ford Motor Credit vs. Julie A. Eurit.

Kathy Shank was named administrator of the Naomi V. Butcher estate.

Jim M. Fritz was named administrator of the Marjorie M. Fritz estate.

Max Landes Jr. and Howard E. Lhanon were named administrators of the Tommy D. Landes estate.

Businesses: Beware of scam letter

A letter being mailed to Indiana businesses, that would appear to come from an official government source, should be ignored.

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita reports that the letter is deceptive and does not come from his Business Services Division. Secretary Rokita and his staff are working with federal law enforcement to determine who is responsible for these letters and ensure they are stopped.

The letter solicits a \$125 annual fee and claims it will be used for record keeping and processing of a company's annual minutes. It gives the appearance of coming from a legitimate government agency and cites fictitious state law. It also includes a "return by" date. The return address on some of the recent letters mailed to Indiana businesses goes to a box at a UPS Store close to the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.

"I will not tolerate an attack of this nature against businesses in Indiana," said Secretary Rokita. "My office has actively engaged the U.S. postal inspector who has jurisdiction in this case and I will advocate aggressively for Indiana's businesses, large and small."

Secretary Rokita is concerned businesses may be confused and believe responding to the letter takes the place of required business entity reporting that is legitimately required by state law.

Businesses operating in Indiana can now securely perform this reporting online through the INBiz portal found on the Secretary of State's Web page, www.in.gov/sos/business.

Businesses wishing to check

the validity of any mailing from Indiana's Business Services Division or any division of the Office of the Indiana Secretary of State should contact the Business Services Division Help Line at (317) 232-6576.

Editor's note: The poll question was inadvertently not changed on the Comet's web site last week so it is being repeated this week. As a result of the extra week of voting on the previous poll, the number of responses nearly doubled.

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 the economy will be better in 2009?

Yes, because Obama will be leading the country
Yes, if the bailouts are successful
No, it will take more than a year to see recovery
No, I'm not that optimistic
Don't have a clue!

Last Week's results

Should text messaging be banned for drivers of all ages?
93% Yes
07% No
Total responses: 269

Reader's comments:

Anyone who thinks it is ok to text while you are driving should have to go through a special class showing what a car can do at 55 m.p.h. when it hits another car or a child on a bike. I am sure this is not just an adolescent action. I have seen many adults doing this less than intelligent action. To those who do this, is your life so busy that you have to endanger other people's lives? To the people who vote no to this poll, you are the problem.

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. 8**
- √ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m.
- √ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 12**
- √ Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee: 8 a.m., courthouse lounge
- √ Rockfield Regional Sewer District: 6:39 p.m.
- √ Delphi School Board: 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 13**
- √ Burlington Town Council: 7 p.m.
- √ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Not. of Suit-Wright4B
- Sheriff Sale-Morton4B
- Sheriff Sale-Minnick4B
- Sheriff Sale-Holt4B
- Sheriff Sale-McGinn4B
- Anderson Estate4B
- Zoning Brd - Outfitters . .4B
- County Claims4B
- Highway Claims4B

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.