

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
Co-Publishers: Susan Scholl & Joe Moss

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Editorial Writers: Susan Scholl, Comet Staff

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



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Conference committees fade, democracy suffers

By Lee H. Hamilton

The record says that the stimulus package recently passed by Congress was drawn up by a conference committee — a bipartisan group of House members and Senators who sat down together to wrangle over its fine print. Really, though, the conference committee was more for show than for actual debate.

Conference committees are supposed to meet when House legislation differs from the version passed in the Senate. They're where lawmakers deliberate face to face and learn to bargain, accommodate one another's needs, try different approaches, and search for consensus. But they've been largely killed off over the last 15 years by leaders in both parties more interested in convenience and power.

This is too bad, because debate and deliberation are being lost. So are the unique approaches of each chamber, and basic principles of fairness. This is why ordinary members of Congress are pressing for a return to "the regular order" of conference committees — and why I hope leaders on Capitol Hill listen to them.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

I misplaced my eyeglasses on my desk at the office this morning. There's a bit of constant clutter accumulated there on the desktop with which to contend. I rummaged around the computer and the phone, I checked under the file caddy, then patted down the various piles - but no glasses.

When I couldn't find my glasses, I mentally retraced my steps from the day before. That exercise headed me off to the nearby parking garage to check the car to see if I had left my glasses on the passenger seat.

At the car, and with no glasses to be seen, I started to awfulize.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of current English, "awfulize" means "to imagine something to be as bad as it can possibly be."

Having chosen (emphasis on the chosen part) to embark on this awfulizing journey, I conjured a clear vision in my mind. There I was, the day prior, eating a double fish filet on sale at McDonald's for \$2.99 (sandwich only - no fries) and reading my newspaper. Except for the instance where a big plop of tartar sauce landed square on the business section, it was an uneventful lunch. Uneventful, that is, until the moment when I visioned myself shoving cardboard sandwich holder.



Chosen journey

paper tray cover, napkin, sauce stained newspaper...AND eyeglasses into the nearest garbage receptacle.

In my mind, in dramatic technicolor, I had tossed my \$200 prescription eyeglasses and ultra hip Harley-Davidson eyeglass holder into the garbage where they were then tossed into a dumpster, then crushed in the back of a garbage truck and finally sent off to their final resting place - the city garbage heap.

None of it was true, mind you, the glasses were safe and sound under this week's copy of *Newsweek*, however, the awfulizing path my imagination took those glasses was right out of my hand, out of my control and off to oblivion.

It wasn't true, though. It had never been true. It had no basis in fact. Not one detail was accurate.

When we awfulize we run full speed away from reason, competency and even hope. And I would submit that the national media has done just that in covering the current economic downturn. Where

they intend to take us on this awfulizing journey is yet to be determined. But off we've run.

This country is rich in resources, rich in talent and innovation and was built on risk takers and hard work. Who said it was always going to be easy?

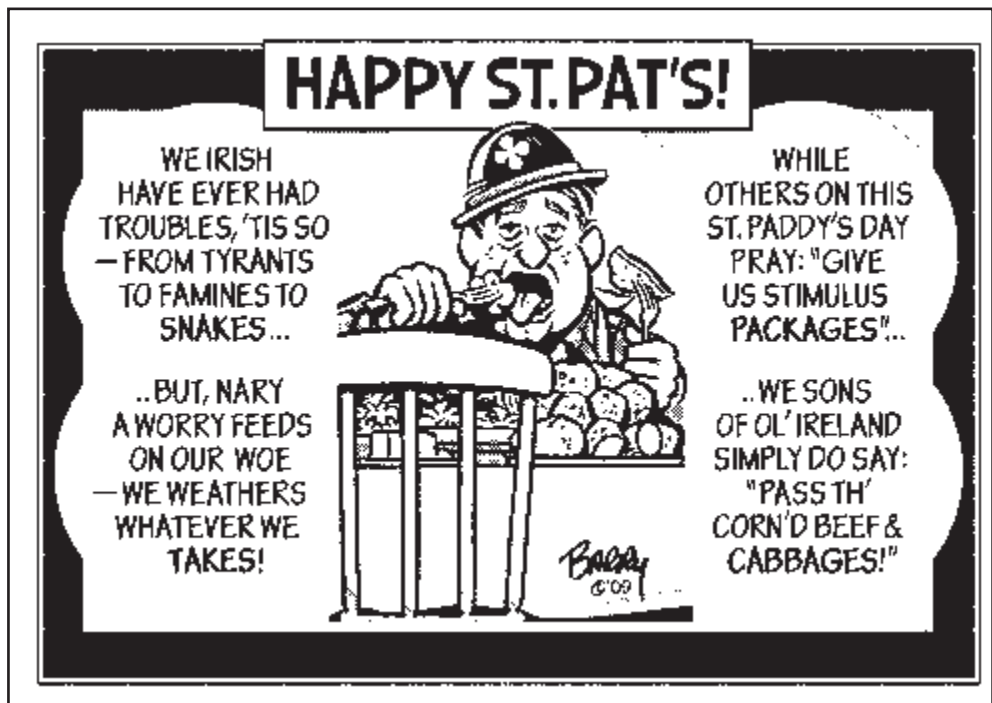
The economy is news - that's a certainty. But at this moment in time news providers are impacting the economy by blow-by-blow, non-stop, woe is me, continuous coverage of the economy. And the awfulizing the media does - well it's not helpful.

My office cubicle is walled in with material that takes thumbtacks. On my walls I have all kinds of news clippings, inspirational sayings and quotations.

Just to the right of my computer I have the following quote from Eleanor Roosevelt. So simple, so obvious are her words, yet I find them full of real encouragement and wisdom.

"Surely, in light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear, to try rather than not to try. For one thing we know beyond all doubt: nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says "it can't be done."

I look forward to the day when the nation collectively rejects those intent on awfulizing the journey ahead.



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

Angelica Zavala and Reyna Vital Calderon were both charged with operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license.

Melissa L. Downey was charged with OWI-endangering and open alcoholic beverage container.

Robin W. Oliver was charged with OWI-endangering and seatbelt violation.

Scott L. Feltis was charged with OWI-endangering, operating a vehicle with an A.C.E. of .08 or more, and speeding.

Jody L. Garcia was charged with driving while suspended and seatbelt violation.

Jody L. Garcia was charged with driving while suspended. The following were charged with check deception:

Patsy A. Bosley (two counts), Shannon L. McKinley (14 counts), Martha A. Tristan, Robert Lucas, Mandy Michael, Robert Draper.

David Garcia, Jr. was charged with driving while suspended, operating motor vehicle without ever receiving a license, and speeding.

Fernando Murillo and Steven A. Oldham were each charged with driving while suspended.

Jason L. Teel was charged with invasion of privacy.

Neil C. Albee was charged with resisting law enforcement.

Francisco Guyosa Regalado was charged with auto theft and habitual offender.

David A. Martin was charged with two counts of OWI-endangering, two counts of operating with an A.C.E. of .15 or more, and speeding.

Darren A. Joe was charged with check deception.

Michael R. Poe was charged with 15 counts of check deception.

Layhea M. Roberts was charged with four counts of check deception.

Colton D. Creasy was charged with possession of marijuana.

William H. Miller was charged with OWI-endangering, operating a vehicle w/ACE of .15 and DWS.

Frederick Adams was charged with check deception.

Gladys E. Murphy was charged with three counts of check deception.

Yovanda K. Michael was charged with check deception.

Jesse J. Hibbs was charged with driving while suspended. 10JAA-Superior Court

Judgment was entered for

the plaintiff in the following: Flora Chiropractic Center vs. Joy A. Batcha, \$175.70; Young's Water Conditioning vs. Yolanda Castillo, \$210.15; Arrow Financial Services, LLC vs. Gretchen Longfellow and David A. Longfellow, \$3,601.31; Citifinancial Services, Inc. vs. Vanessa R. Salgat, \$7,767.03; Citibank N.A. vs. Chyne Holguin, \$2,987.86; Old National Bank vs. Gary D. Bean, \$25,028.66; Pat Wisler-Meade vs. Malinda Graves, \$1472 plus \$375 in damages; Helvey & Associates, Inc. vs. William L. Franker and Regina Franker, \$327.91; and LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Nancy Brewer, \$1,799.99. All judgments included court costs.

Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment was denied in Capital One Bank vs. Marla J. Stark.

The following causes were dismissed: Dieter Hantschel vs. Menard Inc. and Hi-Tech Trucking; Asset Acceptance LLC vs. Mamoun S. Hariri, and Target National Bank vs. Kimberley A. Dillman.

Judgment was entered for the plaintiff in Linda Fife vs. Daisy Dann in the sum of \$1,800. The defendant was further ordered to vacate the property at 203 E. Summit St., Delphi.

Kristy L. Martin, 31, Flora, was convicted of operating a vehicle as an habitual traffic violator. She was sentenced to three years in the Indiana Department of Correction with two and a half years suspended and two and a half years of supervised probation. She will receive credit for four days served.

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.

Wells Fargo Bank filed complaint to foreclose mortgage against Jeremy B. Strawcutter and Michelle R. Strawcutter aka Wright.

Capital One Bank filed complaint against Shelly R. Brafford.

Capital One Bank filed complaint against Tommie L. Bowman.

The following causes were dismissed with prejudice: G.E. Money Bank vs. Daniel Dillman; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Shelly R. Brafford; G.E. Money Bank vs. Charlene Myers.

Marriage dissolutions granted include: Elaine K. Holderbaum and Gregory S. Holderbaum; Shawn Renee Telfer and Rodney Statton Telfer; Judy Phillips and William H. Phillips Sr.; Erika L. Malott and Timothy A. Malott; Christine Lee Winter and Eric Edward Winter; Paul B. Dunbar and Linda M. Dunbar; Jacinda Garrison and Johnnie Garrison Jr.; and Crystal Maynard and Dale Maynard.

An order was granted removing Marjorie Riley Potts as trustee of the estate of Mary I. Riley. James Todd Riley was appointed successor trustee.

Wendy M. Seibert, 42, was committed to the custody of the Department of Correction for five years for dealing in marijuana, and one year each for possession of marijuana, maintaining a common nuisance, and possession of paraphernalia. Sentences will run concurrently.

Default judgment was entered for the plaintiff in: Daimler Chrysler Financial Services Americas LLC vs. Timothy Goltz in the sum of \$14,299.48; Capital One Bank N.A. vs. Margy J. Pegus a/k/a Boyer, \$1,829; Palisades Collection LLC vs. Karen S. Thomas a/k/a Markovich, \$6,011; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Edward A. Holderly, \$2,446.86; LVNV Funding LLC vs. Phyllis Johnson, \$4,760.50; GE Money Bank vs. Frederick H. Thomason, \$8,119.02; Arrow Financial Services LLC vs. Krista R. Dyer, \$1,758.43; Capital One Bank N.A. vs. Barbara L. Grimes, \$1,173.02; Capital One Bank N.A. vs. Crystal A.

Bowman, \$1,651.42. All judgments included interest and court costs.

Default judgment and decree of foreclosure was entered for the plaintiff in: Everhome Mortgage Company vs. Susan E. Remaly and Culligan of Delphi, 2909 N. Troy Ave., Delphi, \$80,201.13; PHH Mortgage Corp. vs. Steven D. Ogle, Ramona S. Ogle and State of Indiana, 660 N. SR 29, Flora, \$87,286.06.

In the matter of Services by Eller Land Management & Associates Inc. vs. Todd Hopkins, the plaintiff will recover the sum of \$20,351.44.

An order setting aside judgment and decree of foreclosure was entered in: Washington Mutual Bank vs. Marc Daniel Macaluso, Aimee Renee Macaluso, and David Riggs; PHH Mortgage Corp. vs. Kevin L. Handy; HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. vs. Nathan Steele Best and Kelly Sue Best.

Marriage Licenses

Brannon Lee Daniel, 37, and Kristen Nichole Rohrman, 35, both of Delphi.

Guest Opinion

Disable the Label

By Rhonda Jones

I'm one of five. Part of the 20 percent.

Am I talking about being a working mom of a preschooler? A skydiver? A movie buff? No. I'm a person with a disability. One in five of us has a disability, be it physical, mental or developmental. You can see mine in my limp, a result of a birth defect.

But the disability label doesn't feel good or even fit. It's such a small part of me. I'm all about abilities, so I love the "Disable the Label" theme for Disability Awareness Month this March, a theme chosen by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities to highlight all our abilities and possibilities.

I work for Wabash Center, a nonprofit organization that's all about abilities, too, helping 1,800 people every year tap and use their abilities to the fullest. The stories are endless.

There's Marcus, who achieved a lifelong dream when Wabash Center's Employment Abilities division matched his skills with a retail opening nine years ago. He's still on the job, and he's since purchased his own home through Habitat for Humanity, where he continues to volunteer.

There's Susan, who after many years in a nursing home joined the Greenbush Industries workforce eight years ago and now lives independently.

And there's the Greenbush Industries crew that clocks in every day at Caterpillar Manufacturing Logistics Operations, where its subassembly tasks include lubricating bolts and placing seal rings on plugs and washers on bolts.

These people aren't superheroes. Neither am I. We chase the same dreams as the four in five who don't have a disability. We are independent, productive and part of the same community. And we invite you to take notice this month. Not of our limps or limitations, but of all we bring to the workforce, our neighborhoods and life.

If you'd like to see abilities at work, I invite you to join me for a Wednesdays at Wabash monthly tour or ask me to show our brief video and speak at your workplace or your organization. It's an uplifting story!

Rhonda Jones is director of development and communication at Wabash Center Inc. in Lafayette. Contact her at 765/423-5531, ext. 353, or rjones@wabashcenter.com.

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.

Wednesday, March 11

✓ Adams Township Advisory Board meeting: 8 p.m., township trustee office 12018N. 600W., Carroll County. Agenda items are EMS and fire protection.

Thursday, March 12

✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m., Sewer district administration building.
✓ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
✓ Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: 7 p.m., 103B. S. Main St., Monticello.

Monday, March 16

✓ Carroll County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
✓ Delphi Board of Works: 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17
✓ County Council: 8:30 a.m.
✓ County Election Board: 4 p.m., county clerk's office.
✓ Carroll school board: 1 p.m., CJSHS

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

- Sheriff Sale-McClain ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Mathias ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Alderman ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Snyder ...3B
- Sheriff Sale-McCarty ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Starkey ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Voteau ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Peden ...3B
- Sheriff Sale-Bishop ...3B
- Sheriff Sale-Heckard ...3B
- Sheriff Sale-Young ...6B
- Sheriff Sale-Martin ...3B
- Sheriff Sale-Barker/Gann 3B
- Sheriff Sale-Hoskins ...3B
- Ross. Sch.-Not. to bid ...6B
- Deer Crk. Twp-Ann. Rep. 3B
- Oglageo Estate ...6B
- Commissioners-Tuckpointing Bids ...3B
- T.L. School-Inv to bid ...6B
- Carroll School-Not. to bid 3B
- CC Hwy-Not. to bid ...6B

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.

The tax deadline is just a little more than a month away, have you filed your income taxes?

- Yes, I want my refund
- Yes, I like to get it over with
- No, I want to hang onto my money
- No, I'm a procrastinator
- No, I don't file a tax return

Last Week's results

Do you agree with Delphi school board's decision to limit public comments to the beginning of the meeting?
Yes 64%
No 36%

Reader's comments:

I oppose this due to the fact that not all information is available until discussion begins. Individuals may question and should be able to speak on an agenda before the board votes. That is why we have open door policies to enable public voice.

It appears that the DCSC school board is going to permit public comments at the "ban the books" school board session. [See the Lafayette JC newspaper, front page, 3/5/09 edition.] This would appear to be a change in the board's vote and decision concerning public comments. The recent decision of the board was that public comments were to come prior to the business portion of the school board meeting, and not during the regular board meeting time. It will be interesting as to how this school board meeting is conducted in light of the recent board policy concerning public comments.