

# CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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

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## Important referendum

Absentee voting (by mail) for the referendum to allow, or not allow, the Delphi Community School Corporation to proceed with a \$13 million building project begins Monday. (Absentee voting for the referendum begins the first week of June in the county clerk's office.)

On March 18 the *Comet* printed a guest editorial written by superintendent Ralph Walker. In it, Walker made several predictions about the tax rates being lower for a variety of reasons, but all with the condition of "a stable assessed valuation" of property.

But no one knows if the assessed valuation will be stable.

The State of Indiana threw us into a black hole of uncertainty with property tax reform two years ago. The amount of funding from property assessments is uncertain. The State is struggling financially. Some legislators want to spend the Rainy Day Fund just to stay solvent. Some want to use Federal Stimulus money to create jobs that will not be around in two years when the money goes away.

There is no approved state budget yet, which means the county budget will not be approved until after the middle of June when a special session is called for the state to agree on the numbers.

Indiana plants and businesses are closing. People are losing their jobs. This all translates to less income tax available. Remember income tax - that (and sales tax) is what is supposed to take the place of the lower property taxes.

The Federal government is not in any better shape. The number being used to describe the national debt is in the "trillions."

To say these are questionable economic times would be an understatement. And voters in the DCSC district are being asked to predict the future and vote on the next 20 or so years of their taxpaying lives.

Walker gave a compelling argument in favor of proceeding with the project (despite these uncertain times) in his guest editorial. He noted that because of the lack of building projects, bids for the work should be less than they would have been last year or the year before.

The decision on whether or not to proceed with the building project is in voters' hands starting Monday. Those who do not plan to vote absentee will have the opportunity to vote at the polls on June 16.

The \$13 million project could cost patrons more than \$21 million over the next 20 years.

Voters in the Delphi Community School Corporation, do what you need to do to make an informed and comfortable decision about the proposed building project. Talk to your school board representative. Talk to your neighbors, friends and others. Consult back issues of the *Comet* for information. And then vote. You have a responsibility to participate in this process. Are the planned renovations and upgrades prudent at this time and is the plan to make them happen a sound one for the corporation and the community? That's for you to decide.

## 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.

Beneficial Indiana Inc. filed complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage against Harry Will, Shelly Will and Mercantile Mortgage Company.

Chase Home Financial LLC filed complaint on note and to reform foreclose mortgage on real estate.

Palisades Collection LLC filed complaint against Charles F. Ryan.

Countrywide Home Loans Service LP filed complaint on note and to foreclose on real estate against John M. Little, Jr. and Melissa Little.

GMAC Mortgage LLC filed complaint on note and to foreclose on real estate against Roy L. Rich and Jennifer D. Rich.

Anco Steel Company Inc. and Whiskey Barrel Planters Citimortgage Inc. filed Com. Inc. etal filed for change of venue from Marion

named administrator of the Karl K. Austin estate.

Robert Huber Julius and Cynthia Ann Jones have been named administrators of the Georganna Julius estate.

Marilyn S. Henderson has been named the administrator of the Harold D. Henderson estate.

GE Money Bank filed complaint against Russell Knowles.

US Bank National Association filed complaint to foreclose mortgage against John and Tina Hayes.

Bayview Loan Servicing LLC filed complaint on note and to foreclose mortgage on real estate against Larry Jenkins, St. of Ind. Cub Cadet Corp.

American Acceptance filed complaint against Tabitha Fultz.

Capital One Bank filed complaint against Brent A. Eastman.

Midland Funding filed complaint against Patrick S. Winberg.

Fisher and Brenda L. Fisher.

Dear Senator Bayh:

It's been a while since I wrote. Things settled down after Countrywide Mortgage froze my home equity line. That money represented the funds I had planned on tapping to pay that April 15 bill that more or less keeps your business going. That was one of the reasons I thought you might be interested in what's going on out here far from D.C.

Let's just say other arrangements were made.

Since I last wrote the Countrywide "brand" has disappeared and Bank of America has taken over. Your co-workers made that happen. It's probably good that Countrywide is gone given all the mortgage fraud they funded, but they sure aren't forgotten. Mortgage fraud is behind a lot of the boarded buildings across our state. I understand that the old owners of Countrywide are making hay out of this current foreclosure mess. Capitalism - you can't beat it!

I'm getting lots of mail from Bank of America. They seem like a friendly enough group. That's nice since when you are too big to fail you certainly don't have to be friendly.

What a costly bad idea "too big to fail" turned out to be. Maybe that "ways and means" department you have should hire some consultants to rethink that whole approach.

On the issue of my equity line - Countrywide never did change my statements. To the naked eye my home equity



## Reaching out to D.C.

line limit is still stated at the original amount agreed upon. But I don't think that little oversight would allow me to write a check on those funds. Bank of America is printing the wrong amount on my statement also. But "too big to fail" allows a lot of leeway when it comes to competency and customer service.

I'm looking forward to the day Bank of America and I can part company.

After writing to you I was disappointed when I didn't hear back from your office. Since I work in the real estate industry, I really think I have some insight into this mortgage fraud. And I thought you should know how some banks are treating the taxpayers who are funding the bank bailout. I spent a lot of time on my letter. It was pretty good - worth someone's read.

If the banks are to fund the real estate recovery, well, let's just agree that this will be a problem for the next generation. You may not be getting that word from your staff, but there's a lot of bank misbehavior going on outside the beltway.

I thought with the size of your staff and the extent of the technology at your disposal that some kind of automated

acknowledgment of my letter was appropriate and doable.

I was wrong.

But let me tell you the effect of your silence. It tempts me to disengage - to think and plan and act only for my own self interest and that of my family. I don't like to waste my time.

I heard a chilling item on the radio last night. It was your colleague Senator Dick Durbin from neighboring Illinois speaking about the bank lobby on Capitol Hill. These are the very folks who may be seated waiting for you in your Senate office foyer just as I am writing this.

"Banks are the most powerful lobby on Capitol Hill and frankly they own the place." NPR reports that the banking lobby spent 42 million dollars on Capitol Hill in the first quarter of this year.

If the banks rule absolute, and Congress is incapable of bringing some fairness to lending, the fact is our economy will contract.

Folks vote with their feet. Investors think twice, risk takers pull back. If the game is so obviously rigged then people choose not to play.

I think that the economists are stunned at how fast Americans have changed their spending habits. If the banks are left undisciplined, if they are to call all the shots, well, folks may find other ways of doing business. The result will be an economy that contracts. And when it comes to our national economy - smaller is not better.

## 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.

## Opposes HB 1379

This concerns Indiana House Bill 1379 that proposes construction workers work 42 weeks a year or be considered a seasonal worker, not eligible to draw unemployment and the effect it could have on you.

I have worked construction full-time for the last 15 years for non-union and now union contractors. Sometimes I've been laid-off for a week to three months due to weather conditions, but never thought of myself as a seasonal worker. I work in the rain, 15-degree cold and 100-degree heat because when you do not work you do not get paid.

There is no severance paid, no percentage of your wage base or bonuses. All you get is the check for the last day you worked. If not for your unemployment check, you would have no income at all.

How many people would have to look at welfare, food stamps or state assisted insurance for their kids who never had to look there before, passing the burden onto those already stressed systems?

This bill is a short-term fix for the state with long-term effects. When people can no longer make a living working construction or other so-called seasonal work, what quality of workers will you get for your hospitals, schools, libraries, bridges and roads? Will migrant workers do these jobs and send your tax dollars back to their country, or will out-of-state contractors take your tax dollars back to their state?

I think the legislature should look in their own backyard to save a buck or maybe release some of the one billion dollar rainy-day fund from the sale of the toll road and other assets because when I look out my window, it is pouring rain.

Steve Altman  
Monticello

## Marriage Licenses

Zachari Ryan Ayres, 24, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Anya Renae Wolfe, 20, of Brighthurst.

Brandon Wade Pitty, 33, of Delphi, and Alisha Marie Peercy, 23, of Brookston.

Vernon Lee Wise, 38, and Michelle Ann Dillman, 37, both of Delphi.

Christopher James Frantz, 28, of Henryville and Courtney Jo Wilson, 27, of Delphi.

## 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.

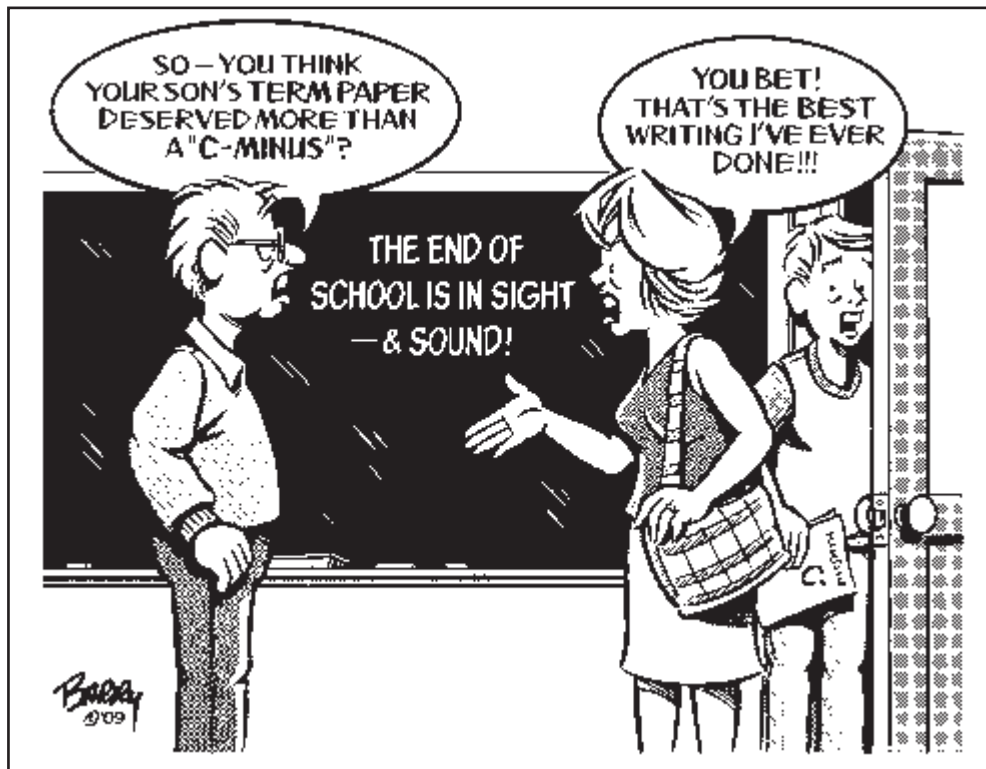
### Thursday, May 14

- ✓ Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District: 7 p.m., Administration Building
- ✓ Flora Airport Board: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Camden Town Council: 7 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi School Board: 8:30 p.m. (rescheduled)
- Monday, May 18**
- ✓ Carroll County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
- ✓ Council/Commissioners Joint: 1 p.m.
- ✓ County Council: 2 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi Board of Works: 4:30 p.m.
- ✓ Delphi Library Board: 5:30 p.m.
- ✓ Absentee Voting by Mail Begins: 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 19**
- ✓ Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

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

- Sheriff Sale-Clawson ...6B
- DCSC-Bids ... ..6B
- Sec. Fed. Meeting ... ..6B
- Notice of Suit-Barr ... ..6B
- Royer Estate ... ..6B
- RCSC-Sale of Warrants ...6B
- Notice of Suit-Curtis ... ..6B
- Sheriff Sale-Snyder ... ..6B
- Sheriff Sale-Pickett ... ..6B
- Sheriff Sale-Cohee ... ..6B
- Clawson Estate ... ..6B
- CC Comm.-HHH Overlay ...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.



## 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

David W. Glasgow was charged with criminal trespassing.

David A. Stivers was charged with maintaining a common nuisance.

Marlaina D. Lybrook was charged with aiding, causing or inducing auto theft and theft.

James Donald Harral Jr. was charged with public intoxication, disorderly conduct and false informing.

Charles L. Bolin, Jr. was charged with auto theft, theft and attempted arson.

Jesus Alex Villagrana was charged with neglect of a dependent.

David A. Dircks was charged with battery.

Billy R. Davis was charged with theft.

Joshua James Fields was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Linda D. Coffey was charged with operating as an habitual traffic violator.

Larry L. Fields was charged with failure to stop after accident resulting in damage to unattended vehicle.

Cheryl D. Webster was charged with public intoxication.

Frederick E. Jacobs was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Benjamin Guzman-Patino was charged with false government ID, operating a motor vehicle w/o ever receiving a license, following to closely and speeding.

Jennifer Garetto was charged with visiting a common nuisance.

Levi J. Norris was charged with public intoxication and illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Tracey L. Claxton was charged with domestic battery.

Robert J. Claxton was charged with domestic battery.

Elisabel L. Rivera was charged with theft.

Amanda L. Duvall was charged with disorderly conduct.

Wesley L. Langston was charged with OWI-endangering, speeding and driving left of center.

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Larry E. Farner, 62, of Delphi was convicted of criminal confinement. He was sentenced to three years in the DOC, two years suspended and two years of supervised probation. He was further ordered to have no contact with the victim, waiver of fourth amendment rights against search and seizure and participation in a drug and alcohol program plus court costs.

Frederick R. Gavitt, 29, was convicted of domestic battery. He was sentenced to one and one-half years in the DOC, one year suspended and one year of supervised probation. The rest of his sentence is to

be served on in-home detention. He was further ordered to pay restitution in the sum of \$268 to the First Brethren Church of Burlington.

Eder Rodriguez, 20, Logansport, was convicted of no valid license. He pled guilty and received a \$25 fine plus court costs.

Evelyn M. Czernik, 39, Delphi, was convicted of having no valid license. She pled guilty and received a \$10 fine plus court costs.

Edward Garza, 25, Lucerne, was convicted of operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended, and one year of unsupervised probation.

Jerica A. Martin, 19, Delphi, was convicted of driving while suspended and failure to use safety belt and was sentenced to one year in jail, suspended, and one year of supervised probation.

## 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 should Delphi do about its parking ordinances?**  
Continue non-enforcement, look the other way  
Start enforcing them. Establish a community standard for behavior.  
Eliminate them. Delphi doesn't need to regulate parking.

### Last Week's results

**Do you think the county should house out-of-county residents at Carroll Manor at a reduced rate?**  
43% Yes, the cost will be recouped in quantity.  
35% No, the home was established for Carroll County residents.  
23% Not sure, the situation needs more consideration before a decision is made.  
Total responses: 182

### Reader's comments:

If it is decided that we take out of county residents, we must be sure that Carroll County residents are considered first. Whatever we do we must insure that the Manor never closes due to funding. We should not reduce the rate for out-of-county residents; it should cost more for out-of-county residents.