

Sins of the son shouldn't be attributed to entire Whitman family

I was uncomfortable reading the letter to the editor by Mr. Ryan, stating "Why I gave up on the Whitman family."

I understand the reaction to Mr. Whitman's insert letter titled "Why I gave up on Bedford," but it is unfair to direct your anger toward the entire Whitman family.

I want to make an important distinction. Paul Whitman took a business started by his father and built it into very successful local enterprise. He sent his children to our schools and involved himself in our community life. We respect and honor him as he respected and honored his community.

He requested rezoning of his property and when it was denied, he lived with that decision. There were no temper tantrums, suits or paranoia.

Bedford loves Paul Whitman like a beloved grandfather. We always will.

Paul passed the family business on to his son, Jon, who lacked his marketing skills and sensitivity.

Jon and his wife home-schooled their kids. Our schools were not good enough for them. They sent them on to Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, though Jon is not of that faith. When he wanted to rezone the business land, he demanded it. When it was denied, he had a public temper tantrum. He assailed the community in a full page ad. He sued Bedford Township and lost. He sued us again.

Never mind that the 16 homeowners that back up to that

land would have lost value to their homes.

He moved his family to Monroe.

The schools and the township used to buy their vehicles from Whitman Ford because of the good relationship established by the father, Paul Whitman. They stopped supporting that business when it stopped supporting us.

Paul Whitman never hid behind his father. He is too classy to criticize his son but it has to hurt to see the business you built over a lifetime run into the ground.

Paul Whitman and his family have been an asset and source of pride to Bedford Township. It would be a mistake to lump the deeds and reputation of his son with the whole family.

James Goebel, Temperance