

Schooler

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Delphi Preservation Society and Lions Club projects.

"Schooler is an outstanding Lion," said Bill Penn, Delphi Lions Club member. "He had a great career as a director, and was one of the most sought after speakers at Lions Club conventions."

"We're honored to have Bill as our parade marshal," Penn concluded.

Schooler has received many awards over the years for his community involvement.

"I particularly enjoy my

Ambassador of Good Will award," Schooler said about the highest award a Lion can receive. "I'm also proud of the Sagamore of the Wabash award," he added.

Though he appreciates the awards, he says he most values the opportunities to continue in service to meet the needs of the people and the community.

"I am extremely proud of the Delphi Lions Club and its many community enhancement activities," exclaimed Schooler. "Delphi Lions truly live up to their motto, We Serve."

Council

From page 1A

janitorial supplies to part-time help;

Carroll Manor - \$1,500 to furniture and appliance repair, \$1,000 to furniture fixtures and appliances, both from plaster repair;

Circuit Court - \$500 from witness fees to equipment repairs and \$800 from maintenance contracts to furniture and fixtures;

Treasurer - \$1,000 from postage, \$500 from mileage and meetings and \$225 from maintenance, all to printing;

Sheriff - \$5,958.91 from building and structures to furniture and fixtures; and

Adult probation - \$1,000 from equipment to computer software and equipment.

The next meeting will be Dec. 28 at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m., the council will hold a public hearing on the resolution/ordinance to establish the area around The Andersons as an economic revitalization area in order to grant a tax abatement for new bagging equipment.

Capital Comments

Knotty problems in property taxation

By Larry DeBoer
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I did a lot of reading about baseball when I was a kid — being a big fan but a mediocre player — and one of the books I remember was called "Knotty Problems in baseball." It was full of rulings on strange situations, for example: A fly ball knocks a pigeon out of the sky. The left fielder catches the ball; the center fielder catches the bird. Is the batter out?

Now I spend more time on property taxes than baseball, but I'm still finding knotty problems. The new two-percent credit, also called a "circuit breaker," has created a bunch of them.

The two-percent credit is a new kind of property tax relief that has only been used in Lake County so far. It takes effect across the state for residential property owners in 2008 and for all property owners in 2010. The credit limits each taxpayer's property tax payments to a maximum of 2 percent of assessed value, before deductions. Local units that are affected will have to make due with less money. The state will not reimburse them.

Here's a knotty problem. Each taxpayer's tax bill is the sum of payments to a county, township, school corporation, and (usually) a town or city, library district, and other special districts. If these payments exceed two percent of the property's assessed value, each jurisdiction will lose part of what it would have collected.

This means that each government's budget depends on the actions of the other governments who share its taxpayers. If a school corporation builds a new high school, which pushes the tax bill above two percent, the county, township, city and library all lose revenue. More than that, under our usual budget procedures, the total tax rate isn't known until after budgets are set. Governments will have to set their budgets

without knowing how much property tax revenue they'll receive.

Perhaps we'll have to create a new budget process, one that requires governments that share taxpayers to consult with each other before passing their budgets. Some governments will have to do a lot of consulting: Culver Community Schools, to name one, is located in four different counties.

Here's another knotty problem. Some jurisdictions will lose a very large part of their budgets, once all taxpayers are eligible for the credit in 2010. Recent estimates by the Legislative Services Agency show, for example, that the cities of Gary and East Chicago could lose 30 percent of their budgets; South Bend and Mishawaka 15 percent; and Logansport and Muncie 10 percent. Even people who think these governments spend too much might agree that cuts this big, all at once, could create trouble.

Perhaps we'll have to create other revenue sources for local governments. For example, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns has suggested a new local income tax in their Hometown Matters proposal.

Here's one more knotty problem. Local governments borrow money to build infrastructure and to fill in temporary revenue shortfalls. Bond buyers lend their money to local governments for the interest they can earn. Bond buyers really, really want to be repaid. Before, Indiana local governments could pledge all their property taxing power to debt repayment. The tax rate was set as high as needed to make the debt payment for the year.

The two-percent credit puts a new limit on how much the property tax can raise. Bond buyers might decide that lending to Indiana local governments is riskier than it used to be. Riskier loans require higher interest rates, and that makes borrowing more expensive. I saw one news report that said the town of Munster is already facing higher borrowing costs.

The state's Department of Local Government Finance has issued a memo to try to reassure bond buyers that they have first call on local taxes. Perhaps that will be good enough, but it's more likely that bond buyers will want to be reassured with a law, not a memo.

Resolving these knotty problems may take a lot of thinking and much debate in the General Assembly next year. In the baseball knotty problem, the batter is safe. Local government officials must be wondering, come 2010, will their budgets be safe, too?

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Richard B. Furst

Richard B. Furst, 78, of Seymour, died Nov. 23, 2006, at Schneck Medical Center in Seymour.

Born July 30, 1928, in Carroll County, he was the son of Levi and Kaythryn Schwartztraub Furst. His marriage was on Nov. 9, 1945, in Delphi, to Beverly J. Landes, who survives.

A farmer, Mr. Furst was employed as a road driver for McLean Trucking for over 30 years, retiring in 1985.

He was a member of the Disciples of Christ Church in Logansport.

Also surviving are one son, Michael Richard Furst of Michigantown; two daughters, Linda K. Furst of Seymour and Kathy S. Fox (husband: Brian) of Memphis, Tenn.; two brothers, John Furst (wife: Barbara) of Elizabethton, Tenn., and Peter Furst (wife: Ann) of Birmingham, Ala.; two sisters, Mary Kelly (husband: Don) of Delphi and Ruth Loveless (husband: Tom) of Lafayette; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Private graveside service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be directed to: www.burkholderfuneralchapel.com.

Meeting cancelled

The previously announced Nov. 29 IDEM-hosted public meeting concerning the proposed new dairy in Democrat Township will not be held.

Jeanette C. Royer

Jeanette C. Royer, 88, formerly of Rossville, died at 11:30 p.m. Nov. 24, 2006, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, Delphi.

Born Feb. 1, 1918, in Pettit, she was the daughter of Clark and Della Jones Miller. She attended Rossville schools. On April 17, 1937, she married David E. Royer, who died Jan. 19, 1992.

A homemaker, Mrs. Royer was a member of the Church of the Brethren in Rossville.

She enjoyed genealogy and historical work.

Surviving are two sons, Duane Royer (wife: Sue) of Delphi and Glen Royer (wife: Linda) of Sedalia; one sister, Beulah Gray of Delphi; six grandchildren, Krenta Juday (husband: Patrick) of Indianapolis, Bradley Royer (wife: Theresa) of Camden, Marty Royer of Monticello, Mark Royer of Muskegon, Mich., Matt Royer (wife: Holly) of Rossville, and Melinda Mills of Fort Wayne; and ten great-grandchildren.

Two sisters and one brother also preceded her in death.

Services were held Tuesday at Bodine Funeral Home, Rossville. Pastor Allen Weldy officiated. Burial was at Rossville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Gideons for Bibles.

Online condolences may be directed to: bodinefuneralhomes@yahoo.com.

Delene Haines



Delene Haines, 89, formerly of Brighthurst, passed away at 11:02 a.m. Nov. 26, 2006, at the home of her son in Rensselaer.

She was born Aug. 28, 1917, in Marion, to Lewis and Estella Chaney Cabe. She graduated from Swayzee High School in 1935. On Sept. 26, 1937, she married Adolph G. Haines in her home in Swayzee. He preceded her in death on Nov. 20, 2004.

Mrs. Haines was a homemaker and a member of the Flora United Methodist Church and Beta Alpha Chapter of Psi Iota Xi sorority, Flora. She was also a member of the Swayzee Order of the Eastern Star.

Surviving are two sons, Stan Haines (wife: Cynthia) of Rensselaer and Steve Haines (wife: Beverly) of Severn, Md.; one sister, Maxine Hicks of Marion; four grandchildren; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Visitation will be today, Wednesday, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Reinke Funeral Home in Flora. Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Flora United Methodist Church, with Pastor Larry DeVos officiating. Burial will follow at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

Phyllis J. Griffith

Phyllis J. Pattengale Griffith, 65, formerly of Delphi, passed away Nov. 25, 2006, at 1:52 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette.

Born in White County on March 20, 1941, she was the daughter of Ewin Marris and Amy Mullendore Marris Schultz.

She had worked at Christos before retiring due to poor health.

Surviving are two daughters, Pam Jones and Samantha Davis, both of Lafayette; one son, Billie Pattengale Jr. of Lafayette; four sisters, Melissa Lane of Lafayette, Jackie Boyd of Lafayette, Martha Wells of Lafayette and Evelyn Bowen of Colorado Springs, Colo.; one brother, Ewin Marris Jr. of Florida; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers.

Visitation will be Nov. 30 from 12 to 1 p.m. at Davidson Funeral Home, Delphi. Services will immediately follow visitation. Pastor Tom Kamp will officiate. Burial will be at Rockfield Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made at the funeral home to the family to help offset funeral expenses.

Edward A. Servies Sr.

Edward A. "Ed" Servies Sr., 71, of Frostproof, Fla., died Nov. 25, 2006, at his residence.

He was born Oct. 8, 1935, in Boone County.

Mr. Servies was a retired truck driver for Bulkamatic Transport in Lafayette.

He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army.

He was a member of Valley View Baptist Church in Flora.

Surviving are his wife, Sharon K. Servies of Frostproof; a daughter, Samantha Carney (husband: Tom) of Kirklint; a stepdaughter, Denise Reszkowski (husband: Pete) of Decatur; two sons, Jeff Servies of Frankfort and Eddie Servies Jr. of Shelbyville; a stepson, Marty Hill (wife: Lisa) of Frankfort; a sister, Peggy Irwin of Frankfort; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Lilly Lake Recreation Hall in Frostproof.

Roger L. Daniels



Roger L. Daniels, 63, of Delphi, died Nov. 23, 2006, at 10:50 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette.

Born July 9, 1943, in Lafayette, he was the son of Raymond and Maxine Smoker Daniels. He attended Delphi High School. On Feb. 19, 1977, in Delphi, he married Neta Smith, and she survives.

He worked as a mechanic at Dick Krieg Motors in Delphi until he retired due to health conditions. He worked at local dealerships since he was 17.

He loved camping, fishing and CB radios. He enjoyed watching NASCAR and was an avid Earnhart fan.

Surviving with his wife are his mother, Maxine Daniels of Delphi; two daughters, Becky Shuler (husband: Lonnie) of Crawfordsville and Kelly Daniels of Delphi; two sons, Steve Daniels and Ron Daniels (wife: Dusty), all of Delphi; one brother, Richard "Dick" Daniels (wife: Carol) of Delphi; his mother-in-law, Bertie Smith of Delphi; a sister-in-law, Penny Soper (husband: Tom) of Delphi; seven grandchildren, Wade, Jarred, Jordan, Braden, Alexis, Shelby and Chevelle; and three nephews, Rick Daniels, Jason Daniels and Romney Soper.

He was preceded in death by his father on June 13, 2003.

Services were held Tuesday at Davidson Funeral Home, Delphi. Pastor Rich Schenck officiated. Burial was at Zion Citizens Cemetery in Carroll County.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

Dora T. Hufford

Dora T. Hufford, 85, of Flora, died at 2:45 p.m. Nov. 23, 2006, at Milner Community Health Care in Rossville.

She was born Feb. 18, 1921, in Rossville, to Jacob C. and Emma Metzger Skiles. On Oct. 11, 1940, she married Levi L. Hufford in Rossville. He preceded her on March 11, 2005.

A housewife, Mrs. Hufford was a member of the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

She is survived by one son, Bill Hufford (wife: Pat) of Flora; one daughter, Beverly Peters (husband: Don) of Brighthurst; one sister, Alma Denton of Wisconsin; nine grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and five sisters.

Services were held Sunday at the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Burial was at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

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