

Letters to the Editor

God still loves the Jews

In answer to the letter a couple of weeks ago to "Where's the truth?," Pat Robertson is right about Israel. There are also Christian Jews in countries all over the world who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jews were the apple of God's eye, and still are. He loves everyone: not only the Jews but also the gentiles. God told Abraham, "I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you."

He hasn't changed. Yes, it's true that some of the Jews said, "Crucify him," but not all of them. Some loved him. It was the Roman soldiers who nailed him to the cross. He gave his life for everyone. That was God's plan, for we couldn't save ourselves - it took Jesus, the holy son of God to redeem us.

I don't know why you think God doesn't care for his people. God is love, and he hasn't changed. The Jews are still his chosen people.

In answer to your questions: 1.) Jesus hasn't withdrawn from Israel, neither his favor nor his Spirit. 2.) The Palestine has no state in Israel. God gave all that land to Israel. Read what God said to Abraham in the Old Testament. That hasn't changed. It still belongs to his people, the Jews. The Palestine never owned that land. 3.) The prophet Daniel's message is for the end time, but if you read it you'll see that God fights for Israel in the end times because he destroys the nations that are against Israel. God loves his people. 4.) In the parables, Jesus taught about the prodigal son repenting to his father and coming back to him, like any of us can do: if you leave him for the world, you can return to the Lord in repentance.

Yes, Jesus taught the truth, he always did. For Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes unto the Father but through me."

Go to a Bible-believing church, and when you study your Bible, you will know if they are telling the truth or not. Ask the Lord to guide you and the truth will set you free.

But one thing for sure is the Lord loves his people, the Jews, just like he loves you and me. God doesn't change, for he is love.

God said pray for the peace of Jerusalem, my people of Israel.

Shirley Heathcote
Delphi

Lack of bridgework frustrates local resident

I am writing to vent my frustration about getting anyone interested enough to fix our stone bridge.

It was built in the canal days for 925W to cross the creek that runs to the Wabash River in Pittsburg, during her hey days. About five years ago I sent pictures of the decaying bridge to Clara Rider and after no one responded, I called and was told they would come and look at it. I heard nothing.

After another year went past, I called and talked to Loren Hylton and was told they still had the pictures in the file and would check into it. Then Michael Denton was going to get it done as soon as the contractors were finished with the job they were doing at the time. I heard nothing.

Next came Ramzi Awwad who took more of an interest than anyone so far, and even came to look at the damage. We were told something would be done very soon. Not so far and that was early last year or the year before.

On the other side of the road, the wall is in better shape, with only two bad places, because it is covered with poison ivy and the vandals leave it alone.

People walking past can't resist picking up large stones from the top of the bridge and throwing them over in the creek (and into our yard). We have tried putting signs out there asking them not to until we can get it fixed, but it continues to decay without the tops smooth stones protecting it.

I read the council minutes about all the things being done and can't figure out why the 925W bridge is not on the list. It is hard for me to get to one of the meetings to "complain" and when I call, they tell me they still have the pictures in the file and will get to it.

The bridge is a lot worse now than when I sent the pictures. If Awwad or anyone would come and look at it, I think something would be done to preserve it. Can you help?

Geraldine Arney
Delphi

DCMS ponders attendance policy

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

In his first month as Delphi middle school principal, Robert DeLaRosa is looking at ways to help students improve their scholastic performance. One issue he wants to address is the attendance policy.

Talking about a small percentage of students, DeLaRosa said that he wanted students and their parents to accept accountability for lack of attendance.

DeLaRosa presented the issue to the Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees at the Tuesday evening meeting. He noted a lack of consequences for missing school and emphasized the need to improve the attendance rate for some students.

Board member Jerry Sparks asked for clarification of the current attendance policy. DeLaRosa said the current policy needs to be "tightened up" to eliminate loopholes. He said students could conceivably miss up to 10 days with few or no consequences, he said.

DeLaRosa said, of the 410 middle school students enrolled, 150 are sixth-graders, which is the largest group at the school.

He explained that 75 to 80 percent of all students participate in extracurricular activities, which he considers a positive for the school.

DeLaRosa said the middle school teachers' focus is on learning and said he told teachers they "need to be risk-takers in the classroom."

High school principal Barry Stone explained the P.R.I.D.E. program, which he hopes to initiate at the school. He said it is a rewards-for-grades, attendance and a no-discipline-issues incentive program. It also contains an

element of redemption so students can improve in those areas after a setback.

Stone said local businesses have been supportive of the initiative.

Hillcrest Elementary principal Bill Shidler announced students will celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution Sept. 14 at 8 a.m. He invited the public to attend the event.

He said midterm for the first nine weeks is Sept. 13. Parents should expect to receive a document outlining their child's progress for the year soon after.

Grandparents Day will be Oct. 11.

Camden Elementary will hold a volunteer meeting Sept. 14 for all community members and parents interested in providing volunteer services at the school this year. Topics concerning confidentiality, dress and proper conduct will be addressed.

A public hearing for the 2007 budget was held during the business meeting. Superintendent Ralph Walker explained the state continues to shift dollars back to the local level. He said some school corporations receive more money per student than others, due to their historical behavior.

"There's nothing fair about the money we get now (from the state)," he said.

Community member Tom Brodar asked for an explanation, including a pictorial history, of how the corporation's finances and budgets have changed over the past several years for comparison.

Walker responded by saying the tax rate was "pretty much stable across all five of the major funds" after briefly explaining the condition of each fund.

The next meeting will be Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.

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Michael) to remove the \$1,606 sewage lien on the old Van's County Breeze Inn property at the west edge of Flora was approved. GPM Properties is trying to purchase the property. The request was approved contingent on their purchase.

AMA Inc.'s bid of 2.5-cents per gallon for land application to empty the wastewater lagoons was approved. Cost will be approximately \$25,000 for one million gallons. The other bidder was Merrell Brothers. The request for pond clean-up was from wastewater foreman Bill McCarty.

Flora Plan Commission issued permits in August to Lisa Kissinger for a new addition, to Jackson-Lee-Pearson for an alteration, and to Matthew Kennedy for fence.

Dove Flight 1 Helicopter will conduct night vision training at Flora Municipal Airport from sunset to 1 a.m. Sept. 13-20. The lights at the airport, including security lights and runway lights, will be off during this time so that the helicopter can practice landing with no lights. Airport president George Capitanio is securing verifica-

tion from the FAA.

Flora Community Club's request to hang scarecrow decorations on light poles and other visible areas downtown was approved. The scarecrows will be put up in mid-September and taken down by Oct. 28.

The Scout Cabin at Flora Community Park is being painted by a community service worker.

Ayres reminded residents that if they wish to present matters of concern at a town council meeting, they need to call the town office and be put on the agenda.

Ayres also said that the town is considering a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol in the town's personnel policy. He said council members welcome community input and suggested alternatives.

Tinsman and Albaugh will be attending the Indiana Association of Cities & Towns Conference the end of the month in Indianapolis. Utilities manager Chuck Everett will attend the Indiana Municipal Electric Association Fall Conference Oct. 3-5 in Indianapolis.

The next regular meeting will be Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

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discussion as Hampton abstained.

Other business
Calling it a "very sensitive topic of discussion," Hoard reported the Indiana Department of Transportation recommended deleting two parking spaces in the downtown area, moving stop bars 16 feet to 18 feet farther from the intersection and re-timing the lights at the corner of Washington and Main streets.

The recommendations come after a study of the traffic at the intersection requested by the city.

Hoard said angle parking on South Union and Front streets one block from the intersection could make up for the deleted parking spaces on Washington and Main.

Calling it a "safety issue," council members passed the ordinance's first reading.

Bradford Drive, built around the back of Alco and to the south of the property that is planned as a bowling alley on Delphi's south side, was unanimously adopted into the city street system. The road will be an exit-only onto SR39/US421 from the

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Obituaries

Ruth Brovont

Ruth Brovont, 93, of Camden, passed away at 12:47 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi.

Born June 29, 1913, in Edna Mills, she was the daughter of George and Mary Bower Crook. She graduated from Carrollton High School in 1931. On June 16, 1934, in Carrollton, she married Paul J. Brovont and he preceded her in death on April 10, 2003.

Mrs. Brovont was a homemaker who enjoyed crocheting, working puzzle books and traveling. She was a member of the Deer Creek Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

Surviving are four sons, Kenneth Brovont (wife: Gerri) of Battleground, Keith Brovont (wife: Margaret) of Camden, George Brovont (wife: Elaine) of Michigantown, and Karl Brovont (wife: Dana) of Greentown; and one daughter, Kathryn Mellinger (husband: Gene) of Rossville.

Also surviving are a brother-in-law, Chester Brovont (wife: Rosa) of Flora; 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, four step-great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren, and three step-great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three half-brothers, three half-sisters, four brothers, and one sister.

Services were held Monday at 10 a.m. at the Deer Creek Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Camden. Burial followed at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Flora.

Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, was in charge of arrangements.

Births

Jeremy and Janna Wagoner Wolf are parents of an 8-pound, 7-ounce son, Conner Lee, born Aug. 30 at Home Hospital, Lafayette. Grandparents are John and Becky Wagoner of Flora and Maurice and Regina Wolf of Bringhurst. Maternal great-grandparents are Robert and Pat Spitzer of Bringhurst and Nina Wagoner of Delphi. Paternal great-grandparents are Floyd and Edith Welk of Rossville.

Delphi City Court receives Safety Administration Grant

Comet staff report

The Indiana Supreme Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) of the Division of State Court Administration, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles partnered with the Delphi City Court to streamline transmission of driver information. Court staff is now electronically transmitting court information and data to the BMV and state court administration on a secure site.

Delphi's court is complying with state regulations requiring convictions of individuals carrying a Commercial Drivers License be transmitted to the BMV within ten days of the conviction. Because courts and clerks do not always know when a person holds a CDL, the BMV and JTAC have determined this initiative must include all licensed drivers to be successful.

JTAC and the BMV determined Indiana courts must take

Rebecca Grisard Weiland

Rebecca Grisard Weiland passed away at Home Hospital, Lafayette, IN, at 6:03 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2006, having been admitted earlier that day. Becky died from natural causes with her family at her bedside. She was 83 years old.

A graduate of St. Thomas School of Nursing, Nashville, TN, Becky was a Registered Nurse at Logansport State Hospital for twenty years. Thereafter, she was an Assistant to the Psychiatric Staff for fifteen years.

She was a resident of Camden and Flora since 1957 and was a member of the Camden United Methodist Church.

Becky is survived by her son, D. Michael Cannady and his wife, Amy, of Carmel, IN. Her grandchildren are Mr. and Mrs. Casey Cannady, Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Cannady, and Katy Cannady. She has three great-granddaughters, Claire, Charlise, and Ella Cannady.

She was a wonderful and special Mother and Grandmother who will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her nimble sewing fingers, her prayers, and her hugs.

One of nine children. Becky is survived by her sister, Martha Dever of Louisville. Her living sisters-in-law are Constance Grisard in Maryland, Emily Grisard in New Jersey, and Mary Grisard in Tennessee.

Her husband, Willard Weiland, preceded her on April 27, 2003. Their other descendants include Joe Ayres of Flora, IN, and Sharon and Pat Delaney of Grand Rapids, MI. Her faithful companion, Gretchen, a miniature dachshund, is available for adoption at Bush Veterinary Clinic, Flora.

Visitation is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, IN, followed by the Funeral Service 2 p.m. the same day. Interment will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

immediate steps to achieve substantial compliance with the recent changes in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) notification requirements. Previously city court was transmitting data and information exclusively by US mail and fax to the various reporting agencies.

However, court information and data sent electronically can be processed the same day by the BMV through the Incite secure Web site. Therefore, the BMV, law enforcement agencies, and courts can know the driving status of motor vehicle operators almost immediately.

Driver suspensions and reinstatement of driving licenses can occur in a timelier manner also.

The new system will assist the court in gathering statistical data for filing with the Indiana Supreme Court's Quarterly Case Status Reports and other activity reports.

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months. People feel they have nowhere to turn to get help with concerns or satisfactory answers to their questions."

Jefferson Township resident Pat Robertson was the first to speak on behalf of sewer district opponents. She told committee members there was no documentation of need for the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District in Carroll County.

"Once a county gives up territorial rights to another county, they have no recourse," she said to explain what has happened to Carroll County since the fall of 2000 when Jefferson Township was accepted into TLRSD.

Robertson posed four recommendations for the committee to consider:

- Regional sewer districts must be held accountable for their actions;
- Regional sewer district board members must be elected;
- Regional sewer districts must not be allowed to cross county lines under any circumstances; and
- IC36-26 must be amended to be clear and concise.

"IC36 needs to be amended so that a watchdog body will have the power to control sewer districts," she emphasized.

"I believe in each one of you that you will hear what's happening in this state," Robertson concluded.

Thomas Spackman of Indiana Beach recommended the committee address territorial rights, board member selection and developing a citizen advocate group to work in coordination with sewer district trustees to mediate disputes.

He said the advocate group should have the authority to override board decisions.

"We need some method of holding board members accountable to citizens," he said.

He further recommended service territories be restricted to areas of need, sewer districts must be forced to work cooperatively with communities, must adhere to a legislative charter and there must be regulatory authority for sewer rates.

"Freedom is not a quaint con-

The Environmental Quality Service Council is comprised of 12 voting members. Six are appointed by the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives and six are appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore. For more information about the council, visit their Website at www.in.gov/legislative.

express their views. Approximately four citizens took advantage of the opportunity. Joe Smiley from Koontz Lake in Marshall and Starke counties talked about his opposition to a proposed sewer district in his area.

"They don't have to prove need - they only prove want. IDEM has to be brought under control," he lamented.

"The speakers convinced the committee there needs to be some oversight," Rep. Rich McClain said after the hearing.

"I don't think the sewer district board members are bad people. But there does need to be oversight. One size doesn't fit all," he added.

"People deserve to be heard," Lehe said. "And that's what all this is about right now."

According to Lehe, the committee will submit a report to the legislative council for review. That council will decide if proposed legislation is appropriate. The council will then approve the process to write corrective legislation.