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of the Miami Indians. Floyd said the act of that combining became a problem for his peoples' heritage and identity characteristics.

For example, the famous Indian leader Little Turtle is commonly known as a Miami, but was an Eel River Indian according to Floyd.

"To lump Little Turtle into the Miami Tribe meant to exclude the Eel River Tribe from existence," Floyd said as an example of one of the ways his tribe has lost its identity.

Floyd emphasized it is important for the people in his tribe to have a definite identity, not one conjoined with the Miami Nation.

"It gives us substance," he said. "We are real. It is important this story gets told. It is who we are."

One tradition embraced by the Eel River Indians is participation in a "Longhouse." The term refers to a gathering of tribes, typically done four times each year, to celebrate the changing of the seasons and to reaffirm the Indian way. In the past year, Floyd and his sister, Marsha Stoner, have hosted two Longhouses on Stoner's property just north of Treida's Curve on US 421.

Indians from various tribes come to Carroll County to sit in a Longhouse with a fire in the middle of the large enclosure and talk about what it means to be Indian and to share thoughts and feelings common to all.

Stoner said she believes the property holds a spiritual tie to the past. The last Longhouse, which was March 24, became a gathering place for tribal members from seven different tribes.

"Indian ceremonies are very spiritual," Stoner said. "We believe in the Creator and what he created. We believe in showing appreciation for all he has done and to all he created."

"The Longhouse is about being heard," Floyd explained. "It is a celebration of who we are."

"The Creator teaches us that everything has a life force," Floyd explained. "We can't affect one thing without affecting all other things. We need to respect all things and the Longhouse helps us to reaffirm that belief together."

Auditor From page 1A

Baker said the council's financial committee has continued to work daily to expedite the process to meet a June deadline.

Other business
Ashby recommended the council work with commissioners to establish policies for cell phone and credit card usage, county-owned vehicle usage, and the personnel policy.

He said he has been able to reduce the amount of money spent monthly on cell phones significantly, but only with the cooperation of department heads.

"For instance," Ashby said, "we have been able to reduce the cost of cell phones at the sheriff's department from more than \$2,000 a month to approximately \$978 a month."

Ashby said there are still some departments with independent cell phone plans, such as the county health department with six cell phones. He said without a county-wide policy, costs will continue to be unpredictable and unmanageable.

Transfers
County highway supervisor Ramzi Awwad was denied a \$37,000 transfer from culverts/highway emergency to Bridge #129. The bridge, located north of SR25, has been closed for more than a year, according to Awwad.

"I think we have more culverts to be fixed on the main roads," Slavens said. "This bridge doesn't have that much use."

"We do not pray to a tree directly," he concluded, "but we pray and give thanks for what the tree gives to us and its place in the world."

Floyd said that although Indiana got its name from being the "land of the Indians," there are no federally recognized Indian tribes in the state. He and his tribe intend to change that fact and have filed for the necessary recognition, which means overcoming a number of obstacles and following prescribed guidelines and regulations.

"One thing you have to do to become federally recognized is become a corporation," Floyd said. "We filed for that and were granted a not-for-profit corporation status on Aug. 21, 2006."

"Aug. 21, 1803, was the date the treaty combining the Eel River, Miami and Wea Indian tribes was signed," Floyd said. "We consider it a good sign we accomplished one important task to becoming federally recognized on the anniversary date of when that was officially taken away from us."

"The federal process is not easy," Floyd explained. "It is not about money for our group, it's about traditions."

Floyd's books are available at Borders Books, Target, Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble. Other options can be found by "googling" the book titles.

Book proceeds benefit the tribe and help to fund scholarships for personal education to elevate the Native American community, to help those who are struggling financially, to improve the quality of life for elders and to encourage conservation of the heritage and retain all Native American artifacts.

Floyd organized the "Tapestry of People" for the Delphi Art Show in 2003 and is currently available for presentations to school assemblies and other groups upon request.

Floyd's ethnic artwork can be found in 67 countries and in private collections throughout the world. Locally, it is at Camp Tecumseh and Delphi Community High School.

Floyd can be reached by visiting the tribal Web site at www.eelrivertribeofindiana.org

Slavens said road money should be used on main roads.

Awwad said there was no point in re-bidding the project because the result would not be a better bid. He advised the same engineering documents would be able to be used in a year if the county wanted the project to move forward.

Commissioners' president Loren Hylton, advocating for the transfer, said the road is used frequently by farmers.

Ashby said he wanted to support the agricultural community.

"I hate to see us go backward with the money we've spent so far," he said.

Ashby and Hendress voted in favor of the transfer.

The clerk was granted a transfer of \$359 from postage to office equipment. She will purchase a document shredder.

A statement for \$1,239.50 from Barnes and Thornburg, financial planners used by PMSI inc. for the most recent jail study, was presented.

It was the consensus of the council the bill should be paid by PMSI because that firm engaged the planners for services.

"Send it back and say no way," council member Carl Abbott suggested.

Myers said she would withhold a \$5,000 payment to PMSI until the matter was settled.

The next meeting will be April 27 at 8 a.m.

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The latest question was raised at the Thursday night meeting by Carroll County Councilman Ron Slavens. Present at the meeting on behalf of a Stoney Creek resident, he questioned why the sewer district was allowed to proceed into Carroll County.

"The simple answer to that is this board was asked to take them in," sewer district legal counsel Donald Tribbett said.

Slavens asked if the county commissioners could ask for exclusion for portions of the proposed service area. Tribbett replied in the negative.

However, Jefferson Township resident Pat Robertson said the Carroll County Commissioners were advised by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management they could make that request. She further said the county leaders approached the board with a duly adopted exclusion resolution and were denied the entire truth from Tribbett.

"I believe the district has the option to rescind a request that an area be included," Slavens said.

Other business
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Sewer district project marches on

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

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introduced the resolution. GRW Engineering representative Joe Tierney reported it was expected that plans and specifications would be ready to advertise for the Phase IIIB project, construction in Carroll County, March 29.

Tierney said the firm was working on the final plans and responded to formal concerns by the Office of Rural Development, the entity that provides funding for sewer projects.

Tierney advised a wage rate hearing was needed for Phase IIIB. White County sewer district board member Larry Dunn was appointed as a representative from industry.

It was explained Carroll County Commissioners would appoint a taxpaying representative from Carroll County. The sewer district board would also appoint a taxpayer.

Garrison said he would consult with Carroll County Commissioners about the appointment and include recommendations.

The next meeting will be April 26 at 7 p.m.

Governor swings through Delphi



You never know who you might run into when you eat lunch in Delphi. Gov. Mitch Daniels visited the Stone House Bakery on Main Street Wednesday to eat lunch and meet and greet locals. Daniels was in Logansport in the morning and on his way to Reynolds for the afternoon to participate in groundbreaking for Phase 2 of the BioTown project. Daniels said BioTown is a shining example of Indiana becoming a leader in energy production in the nation. He encouraged Carroll County to embrace a pro-agriculture approach to economic development. "The future does not have to be one of decline for rural Indiana," Daniels said. He said the new phase of BioTown will help that region of the state produce more electricity than is needed. "This is a great time to bring a business to a smaller community," Daniels added. Pictured at the table with Daniels are Tammy and Norman Anderson of Delphi and local businessman Pat Clawson. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

Student Council From page 1A

search of a trainer for the fall. He explained that an athletic trainer can be contracted for part-time or for every day throughout the school year. He said Carroll is looking for someone for a couple days a week after school in the fall and winter and for home games.

"The best thing would be to get a teacher with an endorsement," he said, "but right now we don't need any new teachers."

Student Sarah Brown brought up the issue of sound system deficiencies on the football field and in the gym. This subject was also brought up last year.

Both the superintendent and maintenance supervisor Tom Allbaugh said the sound systems are being addressed, and solutions include speaker placement and adding speakers.

Students Adam Bonner, Krystal Brazel, and Morgan Yoder wanted to know, respectively, about the status of the new science lab, the soccer and softball fields, and the hiring of an athletic director.

Sayers said the board is working on a 10-year facilities plan, and for the high school building, the science lab will be at the top of the list. He said some preliminary information has been gathered, but no architect has been hired.

He said the soccer field and softball diamond have been seeded, but concrete still needs to be poured for the dug outs, press box, and concessions stand. Depending on the weather and the grass, he thought softball could be played on the new diamond at the end of the season, and he hopes the soccer field will be ready by fall.

Sayers said they hope to name a new athletic director at the April 3 board meeting.

Random drug testing
Zook asked the Student Council to comment on the school's random drug testing.

Several students commented that they have heard some students say the test doesn't work because they don't know how they passed it. They also said they don't think the tests are a deterrent. Another comment was that some students' names seem to be called more often than others.

Huckstep explained that the testing is by swab and the tests are done randomly anywhere from one week apart to five weeks apart. Selection of students is also random.

He said the same drug testing is also used by the county Probation Department, and they report they are catching users.

"We have caught a few, but very few over the years," Huckstep said. He added that parents are notified, and the student is suspended from athletic participation.

The random drug testing applies to students in athletics, extracurricular activities, and to those who drive to school.

Zook added that if there is reasonable suspicion at school that a student is under the influence, an administrator can pull the student out for drug testing. He said parents can also request that their children be tested.

The students had some problems with the current cell phone policy in the student handbook. Zook said recommendations for changes should be made to Huckstep.

Zook asked the students what would improve academic performance, and the resounding answer was "air conditioning."

Sayers told students about the Carroll Education Foundation which will allow donations to be given for specific purposes, such as scholarships.

"For a small school, a considerable amount of scholarship money is available, and hopefully now with the Carroll Education Foundation, we'll be able to offer even more," Sayers said.

He said there are 292 school corporations in the state.

"Carroll students do well on standardized testing," Sayers said.

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Input begins for land use plan

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Various community members and leaders gathered for the initial meeting with Ground Rules Inc. Thursday afternoon. Participants provided input for the revised county comprehensive land use plan. Ground Rules is the firm hired to develop the plan and began the process by gathering information and surveying community values.

Audience members were asked to complete a form to designate the top three choices for expected plan results and the top three priorities for the plan to address. A community-values exercise was also completed by audience members. Exercise leader Brad Johnson solicited verbal information to clarify community expectations and expected plan development.

Correction

The figure of \$100,000 was attributed to county highway supervisor Ramzi Awwad as the amount it costs to build approximately one mile of road in Carroll County at the March 19 commissioners' meeting. Awwad said the amount for materials alone would be \$80,000. With the addition of labor and equipment costs added, the approximate total for one mile of road would significantly exceed \$100,000.

Other Death Notices

Jake Lee Adair, 35, of Kokomo, died at 6:30 p.m. March 4, 2007, at his residence. Born July 6, 1971, in Indianapolis, he was the son of James M. and Marie Susan Farrah Adair. He was employed with Indiana Packers Corp., Delphi. Surviving are his parents of Kokomo and a sister, Jean Dewitt (husband: David) of Kokomo. Services and burial were held in Kokomo. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society.

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Berdena M. Peter



Berdena M. Peter, 89, formerly of Camden Senior Apartments, passed away March 23, 2007, at 5:25 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

Healthcare Center in Delphi. She had been a resident there since May 2003.

Mrs. Peter was born Feb. 25, 1918, in Frankfort, to Bruce and Myrtle Reagan Benjamin. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Disey and Clarence Roush. Her marriage was to James E. Peter in Frankfort on Aug. 18, 1940. He preceded her in death Dec. 7, 2002.

She was a 1936 graduate of Frankfort High School. A homemaker, she helped her husband on their farm in Adams and Jefferson townships in Carroll County.

After retirement, they moved to Leesburg, Fla., where they resided for 20 years. They returned to Carroll County in 1999.

Mrs. Peter was a member of Camden First Baptist Church. She enjoyed quilting, reading and working with her flower gardens. She also enjoyed oil and watercolor painting.

Surviving are two daughters, Darilee Robbins (husband: Donald) of West Lafayette and Cheryl Venuto of San Jose, Calif.; four grandsons, Troy Robbins (wife: Dianne) of O'Fallon, Mo., Joel Robbins (wife: Wendy) of Lafayette, A.J. Vent (fiancée: Patricia) of Los Angeles, Calif., and Jon Venuto of San Jose; six great-grandchildren; and a step-great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Peter was preceded in death by a sister, Mildred.

Services were held Monday at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi. The Rev. Ken Smith officiated. Burial was at Morning Heights Cemetery in Delphi.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Robbins Family Endowment Fund at Mayo Clinic or to Hickory Grove Church. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Helen I. Kinzie

Helen I. Kinzie, 83, formerly of Flora, died at 8:40 a.m. March 26, 2007, at Milner Community Health Care, Rossville. She had resided there the past five months.

Born Mary 29, 1923, in Englewood, Ohio, she was the daughter of Lawrence W. and Clara Bowman Denlinger. She married John F. Kinzie on June 29, 1941, in Englewood. He preceded her in death on Dec. 6, 2006.

She was a homemaker and a member of the Bachelor Run Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Flora.

Surviving are two sons, Gale Kinzie (wife: Diane) of Bringhurst and Lon G. Kinzie of Portland, Ore.; one brother, Dean Denlinger (wife: Carol) of Englewood; one sister, Ruth King (husband: Larry) of Laura, Ohio; a sister-in-law, Ann Bowman (husband: Myron) of Englewood; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be March 29 at 10 a.m. at the Bachelor Run Old German Baptist Brethren Church with Home Brethren officiating. Friends may call today (Wednesday) from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Abbott Funeral Home, Delphi. Burial will be in Musselman Cemetery, Camden.

ATTENTION

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765-564-2226

Carroll From page 1A

Carolyn O'Connell, Kathy Shuler, and Jacklyn Williams, Full Day Kindergarten Summit April 10 at the Wabash Valley Education Center; Kathy Northcutt and Ann Sheagley, First Grade Conference for Indiana April 16-17 in Indianapolis; and Natalie McQuade, Indiana Principal Leadership Academy April 24-25 in Indianapolis.

Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School principal Charles Huckstep announced that the school Talent Show raised \$1,200 for the Memorial Scholarship Fund and that the Carroll junior high team won the Battle of the Books/Bacon Bits Bowl.

The next board meeting will be April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.