

# Spring puts the freeze on gardens

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Indiana gardeners may be used to the ups and downs of spring weather, but spring 2007 has been an unwelcome roller coaster ride!

First, March's unseasonably warm weather pushed many plants to break dormancy earlier than "normal." Then, these plants were caught out in Old Man Winter's last gasp when unseasonably low temperatures — down to the low- to mid-20s — fell across the state. Temperatures continued to drop below freezing for at least seven days — and more than 10 days in some areas.

Around April 8, some areas experienced 24 hours or longer when the temperature never rose above freezing. High winds that accompanied the cold further dried out plant tissue, which was already suffering freeze damage.

The further along a plant's bud development was, the more likely it was to be damaged by the below-freezing temperatures. The lower the temperature drops, and the longer the time spent below freezing, the greater the damage you can expect.

Different plant species vary in their susceptibility to freezing. Many gardeners observed that while magnolias turned brown immediately upon freezing, redbuds appeared remarkably resilient.

Many early spring-flowering trees and shrubs experienced

some flower damage, turning their colorful petals brown as toast. For some, the damage may just be brown edges along the petals, while for others the damage may be failure of new buds to bloom.

For fruit crops, every freeze-damaged flower decreases fruit potential. For plants that were in full bloom at the time of the freeze (like peaches and cherries), you should expect a total loss of fruit. If one or two manage to survive, you should consider yourself lucky!

Some apples might have made it through, but remember, we're not out of the woods yet! There's still plenty more weather to get through before we'll know what survives!

Foliage buds generally can resist cold fairly well. But, because of the early warm spell, many leaves had already begun to emerge. The freeze-damaged foliage may have turned brown or black, and may look shriveled or tattered, especially as development continues. Most plants should outgrow this type of damage, and some trees may end up dropping many leaves and replace them with a new set later in spring.

Spring-flowering bulbs, such as daffodils and tulips, are generally used to spring's fluctuating conditions. Even so, many had their bloom times shortened by the severe lows and high winds. On the other hand, many gardeners marveled as some drooping bulb plants perked up as temperatures moderated. Other perennials that emerged before the cold

snap, such as bleeding heart, Virginia bluebells and daylilies, may appear scorched and wilted as the frozen tissue thaws, but these hardy plants will survive and will replace foliage as needed.

So what (if any) remedial action should be taken to save freeze-damaged plants? Dead foliage can be removed anytime. Perhaps even more important this year, bulb plants need to retain their foliage as long as possible to be able to make and store carbohydrates for next year's show.

But, as for pruning, we still have several more weeks before we pass the average frost-free date for much of the state. Given the season's unpredictability so far, it would be wise to hold off major pruning chores until you can fully assess this spring's toll. Trees and shrubs may have damage to the young inner tissue of their stems that won't be apparent until summer heat and drought stress bring on sudden twig dieback.

Pruning now also might encourage side buds to develop more quickly, and such young tender shoots will be more easily damaged should we experience another spring freeze. For similar reasons, now is not particularly a good time to promote fast, early growth by applying fertilizer.

As frustrating as it can be, we'll just have to wait and see how the season unfolds. And, if things go bad later this year, we can blame it on the big chill of 2007!

## Obituaries

### Herschel C. Smith

Herschel C. Smith, 83, of Rossville, died at 11:39 a.m. April 22, 2007, at his residence.

Born Oct. 15, 1923, in Mulberry, he was the son of Ray H. and Elsie Edith Clauser Smith. He was married on June 6, 1948, in Pyrmont, to Marian Fossnock, who survives.

Mr. Smith was a farmer and lifelong resident of the Rossville area. He was one of the 18 people who started the original nine-hole Angel Hill Golf Course at Rossville.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he served from 1943 to 1946. He was a staff sergeant in the 11th Airborne Division, one of the first troops to escort General McArthur into Japan for the unconditional surrender.

He was a member of Rossville Presbyterian Church; Rossville Lions Club; American Legion, serving as a past commander; and district supervisor of Soil Conservation. He was a former member and past master of the Rossville Masonic Lodge.

Surviving with his wife are a son, Scott J. Smith of Lafayette; a sister, Irene Garner of Frankfort; four grandchildren, Josh, Jessica, Michael and Dakota Smith; and one great-grandchild, Skylar Smith.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, at Bodine Funeral Home, Rossville. Pastor Robert McAulay will officiate. Burial will be at Rossville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer and American Heart associations.

On-line condolences may be directed to [bodinefuneralhomes@yahoo.com](mailto:bodinefuneralhomes@yahoo.com).

### Bonnie L. Oldfield



Bonnie Larie Oldfield, 71, of Cutler, died at 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2007, at her residence.

Born May 24, 1935, in Risco, Mo., she was the daughter of Earcil Revis Miller and Dora Lee Mahoney. She attended Kokomo schools. On Sept. 17, 1954, in Crawfordville, she married Jerry Lee Oldfield and he survives.

Mrs. Oldfield worked various jobs from the age of 15. She was employed by Delco in production, then shipping and receiving before retiring.

She loved the outdoors, fishing, gardening, ice skating, mushroom hunting. She was an avid Pillsbury collector. She enjoyed making crafts, painting ceramics, but especially, she enjoyed her family.

Surviving with her husband are: three daughters, Starla Eads (husband: Jon) of Kokomo, Michelle Keck (husband: Jeff) of Burlington, and Jodi Guise (husband: Chris) of Flora; two sons, Jerry Oldfield II (wife: Sandy) of Kokomo, and Barney Oldfield of Cutler; three brothers, Bill Miller, Glen Miller, and Jerry Miller (wife: Toni), all of Kokomo; a sister, Patty Mundell (husband: Don) of Kokomo; a sister-in-law, Wilma Miller of Kokomo; eight grandchildren, LeAnn Sefton (husband: Tony), James DeLano, Jesse Parker, Tabitha Parker, Curtis Keck, Crystal Keck, Robin Guise, and Andy Guise; and two great-grandchildren Skylor Sefton and Taylor Sefton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, E.R. Miller Jr., and a sister, Imogene Miller.

Services were held Tuesday at Eilers Mortuary Webster Street Chapel, Kokomo. Pastor Steve Cole officiated. Burial was at Sunset Memory Gardens, Kokomo.

Messages to the family may be sent to [condolences@eilersmortuary.com](mailto:condolences@eilersmortuary.com).

Arrangements were handled by Eilers Mortuary, Inc.

### William T. Jackson

William T. "Bill" Jackson, 73, of Taswell died at 7:15 a.m. April 21, 2007, at Medco Center, French Lick.

Born Nov. 30, 1933, in Ockley, he was the son of Oluf and Mary Troxal Jackson. He was married in 1979 to Geneva Whitlock.

Mr. Jackson was retired from Alcoa in Lafayette, where he was an inspector for over 31 years.

He attended the Wesleyan Church in Valeene.

Also surviving are two stepsons, Robert Barker of Frankfort and William Barker Jr. of Taswell; a sister, Bonnie Richardson of West Lafayette; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday in English, Ind. Burial was in Highfill Chapel Cemetery.

### Thomas Hayden

Thomas "Tom" Hayden, 56, of Monticello, died April 19, 2007, at 1:32 a.m. at Seton Specialty Hospital in St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Lafayette. He had been a patient there for one month.

Mr. Hayden was born Jan. 19, 1951, in Lafayette, to Lewis and Bessie Newburn Hayden.

He worked for several years for the City of Delphi Street Department.

Surviving are two sisters, Dixie Witt (husband: Fred) of Newark, N.Y. and Pearl Puhfal of Monticello, and a brother, Lewis "Butch" Hayden Jr., of Monticello.

Services were held April 21 at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, officiated by Rev. Greg Britt. Burial of his ashes was at I.O.O.F. Memorial Gardens in Pittsburg.

### Donnabelle Oakley

Donnabelle Oakley, 88, of Kokomo, formerly of Burlington, died at 10:15 a.m. April 21, 2007, at Alterra Sterling House in Kokomo.

Born May 28, 1918, in Carroll County, she was the daughter of Walter and Lucille Crecraft Tenbrook. Her marriage was on Nov. 2, 1940, to Loren R. Oakley, and he survives.

A homemaker and farm wife, Mrs. Oakley enjoyed making noodles and gardening. She also loved to do church work and was a member of the Oakland Christian Church.

She was a graduate of Burlington High School

Surviving with her husband are two sons, Ben Oakley (wife: Peggy of Russiaville and Bob Oakley (wife: Janelle) of Burlington; one daughter, Donna Lou Barefoot (husband: John) of Lake Alfred, Fla.; six grandchildren, Stacy McCartney (husband: Mike) of Kokomo, Steve Oakley of Kokomo, Jeff Oakley (wife: Tara) of Crowley, Texas; Jason Oakley (wife: Christine) of Spokane, Wash.; Brad Engle and Bryan Engle, both of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and seven great-grandchildren, Amy Reed, Nick Reed, Blake Oakley, Ashtyn Oakley, Carson Oakley, Zachary Engle, and Dylan Engle.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Harold Tenbrook and Billy Tenbrook, her twin brother, Donavan Tenbrook; and a sister, Evelyn Gilliam.

Services were held Monday at Shirley & Stout Funeral Home, Kokomo. The Rev. Evan Strong officiated. Entombment followed at Sunset Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer Association.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.stoutandson.com](http://www.stoutandson.com).

## Other Death Notices

**Ivan W. Roth**, 84, of Monticello, died April 22, 2007, at White County Memorial Hospital. A Marine Corps veteran he served in the South Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945. He was retired after working 50 years as a plaster worker. His marriage was to Helen M. Roth in 1946 and she preceded him in death in 2006. Among the survivors are a son, James I. Roth (wife: Janice) of Yeoman, and a daughter, Suzan Leazenby (husband: Cary) of Monticello. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. today, Wednesday, at Hughes Cemetery, Monticello.

## Births

Rob and Melissa McKenzie of 203 W. Walnut St., Flora, are parents of a 9-pound, 7-ounce son, Casen Robert, born April 10 at Home Hospital, Lafayette. Maternal grandparents are Linda and John Angle of Lafayette and John and Bette McKinley of Lakeland, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Joyce McKenzie of Flora and Bob James of Delphi. Maternal great-grandparents are Frank and Wilma Snipes of Flora.

Jason and Heather Wolfe Woolsley, 894 Woodgate Lane, Greenwood, are the parents of a six-pound, 14-ounce daughter, Zoey Madison, born March 26 at Community Hospital South, Indianapolis. Grandparents are Glendon and Jane Wolfe of Flora and Paul and Pamela Woolsley of Jasper. Maternal great-grandfather is John Fry of Cutler. Paternal great-grandmother is Mary Woolsley of Louisville, Ky.

Adam and Alison (Deel) Acton of Waveland are parents of an 8-pound, 2-ounce son, Nolan Robert, born April 10 at Lafayette Home Hospital. Grandparents are George and Donna Deel and Steve and Judy Acton of Lebanon. Maternal great-grandparents are Robert and Grace Deel of Rockfield. Paternal great-grandparents are Don and Betty Myers of Waveland.

Caleb and Jennie Abbott, Kokomo, are parents of a 7-pound, 11-ounce son, Blake Wesley, born April 17 at Howard Regional Hospital, Kokomo. Grandparents are Don and Cheryl Stafford of Galveston and Farris and Susan Abbott of Camden.

PFC Shawn D. Kelly and Shawn K. Gillikin of North Carolina are parents of a 9-pound, 1-ounce daughter, Haley Marie, born April 15. Maternal grandparents are Barbara Low of Washington and Ray and Sandy Gillikin of North Carolina. Paternal grandparents are Dave and Terri Kelly if Cutler.

to an adult.

School officials reported the object to police as dictated by state statute.

"We were following the letter of the law," corporation superintendent Ralph Walker told the *Comet* on Tuesday.

According to the police report, the object resembled a letter opener and was approximately seven inches in

length. However, the identity of the object remains a mystery.

"I don't know what it was," principal Bill Shidler said. "But I know it shouldn't have been at school."

Shidler said there was no malicious intent by the student who was not detained by police and later released to his parent.

# Surprise found in book bag

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

The Delphi Police Department responded to a report of a sharp object brought to Hillcrest Elementary Monday by a student. The student told authorities he was not aware of the object was in his backpack until the early afternoon. When he discovered it, he showed it

motor vehicle inspections, investigated 27 crashes (with eight arrests), and provided police services to 77.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division, working from the Lafayette Post, worked 18 new cases and assisted the troopers in total criminal arrests.

The Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforce-

ment Division at the Lafayette Post inspected 181 commercial motor vehicles, wrote 67 citations and 148 warnings for various truck violations and weighed 6500 commercial motor vehicles at the I-74 scales.

Motorists are reminded that road construction is starting soon and to slow down and be patient when driving through construction sites.

Citizens are also encouraged to report suspected methamphetamine activity by calling the Indiana State Police Methamphetamine Tip Hotline at 1-800-453-4756.

# Council

From page 1A

Government Finance Bob Harris said Monday that counties are only given two weeks to rectify DLGF-imposed budget reductions. He said most Indiana counties manage the situation in the same manner Carroll County had.

"County officials did nothing wrong," he said.

Harris added the council can change line item amounts with council-initiated transfers if they do not agree with the amended figures submitted to DLGF. He said that action would come after their formal review of the adjusted budget. The next council meeting is Friday, April 27, at 8 a.m.

# Sprinkle

From page 1A

charges, will be May 24 at 1 p.m. Alternate juror, Don Billings, told the *Comet* that he was surprised at some of the testimony.

"It was graphic," Billings said. Billings said that in the role of alternate juror, he was not permitted to comment or ask questions during the trial or in deliberation.

Billings said that in his opinion, most of the jurors were in agreement after the first hour of deliberation. However, two more hours of discussion were needed to achieve a unanimous verdict.

"But that was okay," he said. "That is the way it is supposed to work."

# School

From page 1A

## New athletic director

Also at the meeting, the board hired a new athletic director, Shaun Rose, at a starting salary of \$50,000. He will come to Carroll from Clinton Prairie, where he is an elementary physical education teacher. Sayers said Rose will officially begin July 1, but he will be paid for an additional 20 days so he can get started as early as possible.

Teacher Judy Downham will retire at the end of this school year. She began teaching at Carroll in 1976.

Resignations announced were Gail Stout, LAJSSC aide, and Janice Johnson, bus driver.

Ed Geheb was appointed as an additional member of the corporation's 10-year facilities plan committee.

Armstrong Well Drilling's quote of \$21,969.45 was accepted for boring at the site of the new softball and soccer complex and doing a horizontal bore to the high school.

Maintenance supervisor Tom Allbaugh said the shot put area has been put back on the field, thanks to equipment loaned by board member Dave Lambert and farmer Maurice Robeson.

## Focus on reading

Kathy Shuler reported on her activities as reading specialist for Carroll Elementary School. A classroom teacher for 35 years, this was her first year as reading specialist. The position was created last year and implemented this year to promote reading, improve standardized testing scores, identify students needing help, and determine how best to help them. Shuler works with teachers, aides, and students to accomplish these goals.

This year she has focused primarily on K-3, but plans to expand her efforts next year to fully include grades 4-6.

Some of the programs she's

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