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water and productive soils is something that benefits all of us. I'm privileged to work for Purdue Extension that supports programs to better our communities."

Ayres said she was fascinated with changes in rural communities since she was a teenager on a dairy farm near Cutler in Carroll County. The controversial public issues she witnessed in her community inspired her to devote her career at Purdue to developing educational programs that build the capacity of citizens to affect the future of their communities.

Her Extension and teaching activities focus on the areas of leadership and community development. She was a leader and collaborator in developing sev-

eral other statewide programs including the Indiana Agricultural Leadership Program and Take Charge, a strategic planning program that has been adopted in several other states. Ayres has worked in over 200 rural communities in Indiana and published more than 90 publications, manuals and curricula on leadership and rural development.

From 1996 to 2002, she served as assistant Extension director and program leader for the Leadership & Community Development program area. During this time she initiated and provided leadership to the Purdue Extension Land Use Team.

Ayres and her husband, Lynn Corson, reside in Delphi.

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Francis said he hopes to be able to use Major Moves money and funds from the roads and streets accounts to pay for the road work and repairs. He said he will ask the council to grant an additional appropriation until FEMA reimbursement is received. He said he expected all costs associated with the flood, except for labor costs, to be fully reimbursed.

The highway department received permission to proceed with a plan to improve a private access road off of CR1225W as an emergency access road in case of another flood. Francis said the only way out of one flooded area is to travel toward the river before reaching safer ground.

Francis was directed to work with the land owner to reach an agreement.

Fee Ordinance

Francis said the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District has not applied for permits to bore on county right-of-ways to install sewer pipes. However, he is concerned about what to charge the sewer district in light of the recent approved fee increases.

Auditor Beth Myers advised that a significant amount of highway fees goes into county general.

Francis said no exception to the fee schedule exists for utility companies. He recommended TLRSB be expected to apply for and pay the current fee for standard permits.

Brown said he was wary of abdicating oversight for any project and expected the sewer district to follow the standard procedure.

"I believe the fees should stand and they should go through the permitting process," he said.

Carroll Manor

Dann Kiser of Cornerstone Design recommended payment of two payment applications for \$100,205 to Cooley Construction. He said a punch list was developed and the elevator is close to completion. March 3 is the date the elevator will be connected to power, which must happen prior to scheduling the state inspection. Kiser said \$61,204 remained in retainage until the project is completed.

Kiser advised the payment ap-

plications, to be paid out of local match, had to be paid for the county to be in compliance with the grant. Commissioners approved the payments.

Superintendent Martha Lewis reported the project was "coming together."

A change order for just over \$5,000 was approved. Owner-requested omissions from the original plan mitigated the change order.

Underground storage tanks

Commissioners agreed to pay no more than \$11,225 to close the investigation and remediation of the underground storage tank site on the county jail property. Steve Stringfield, who was hired to do the final phase of the work, presented a work plan to proceed with closing the project by the end of the year.

Commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson was directed to examine the previous investigation and remediation service provider's contract with the county for non-compliance issues.

Other business

Commissioners agreed to join INdigital telecom to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to compel AT&T to allow INdigital to connect to the county's wireless system. INdigital intends to provide a network service to all 911 departments in the state which would streamline emergency 911 calls.

E-911 department head Jay Dee Cree will testify on behalf of INdigital in front of the IURC. Carroll County will incur no cost.

Natural Resources Conservation Service worker Joe O'Donnell said the Emergency Watershed Protection Program is available for governmental agencies to stabilize storm-damaged banks and property. He advised the program could help individual landowners if the county government made the application for them.

"Anyway you think our program can help, I'd go out and look at the sites," O'Donnell offered.

Delphi Youth Baseball will post a sign on the courthouse lawn Feb. 19 to 24.

The next meeting will be March 4 at 9 a.m. Commissioners will meet in joint session with the county council Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

Guy Bowen

Services for Guy Bowen, 76, of Delphi, were held Saturday at Bodine Funeral Home, Rossville. The Rev. Amos McGinnis officiated and burial was at Pleasantview Cemetery.

He died at 2:10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lafayette.

Born March 17, 1931, in St. Louis, Mo., he was the son of William and Ethel May Bowen. On Nov. 25, 1954, he married Carolyn Sue Neher, who preceded him in death on July 31, 2000.

Mr. Bowen was retired from National Homes Corp. after 28 years of employment.

He formerly resided in Rossville where he owned Bowen's Little Market.

He enjoyed going to auctions, playing euchre with family and friends, and small appliance repair. He formerly helped with the Meals on Wheels program.

Surviving are two sons, Alan Bowen of Rossville and Robert Bowen (wife: Diana) of Delphi; three daughters, Rosemarie Treece (husband: Robert) of Lafayette, Norma Birge of Arizona, and Martha Hayes (husband: Damon) of Rossville; four sisters, Martha, Marie, Betty and Virginia; four brothers, George, Walter, Frank and Joe; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and five brothers, Bill, Bob, Fred, Ray and Don.

On-line condolences may be directed to bodinefuneralhome@yahoo.com.

Loris P. Stout

Loris Polk Stout, 92, of Burlington, died at 6:45 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, at his home.

Born March 23, 1915, in Howard County, he was the son of Clarence and Mable Polk Stout. The family moved to Burlington Township in 1917. In 1934 he graduated from Burlington High School.

On March 7, 1937, near Burlington, he married Esther Huffer, who survives.

Mr. Stout retired from grain and dairy farming in 1980.

A member of the Burlington First Brethren Church, he attended Sharon Baptist Church.

He was a member of the Burlington Kiwanis Club and served on the Burlington Cemetery Board for several years. He started the first 4-H Club in Burlington Township.

Mr. Stout enjoyed woodworking, oil painting, gardening and traveling.

Surviving with his wife are four children, Allen Stout (wife: Cynthia), Richard Stout (wife: Marlene), Gayle Stout (wife: Diane) and Joyce Webb (husband: Bob), all of near Burlington; 11 grandchildren, Kathy Carter, Katrina Rathbun, Kurt Stout, Todd Stout, Summer Stout, Andrew Stout, Jennifer Parker, Connie Page, Suzanne Stout, Scott Stout, and Lauren Webb; 18 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Carrol Stout (wife: Mary) of Flora.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Neptune Funeral Home, Burlington. The Rev. Kurt Stout and the Rev. James L. Lund will officiate. Burial will be at Burlington Cemetery. Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Burlington Kiwanis Club or to the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Brett Ottavi of Elkhart are parents of a 8-pound, 7-ounce daughter, Isabella Carol Ann, born Feb. 17 at Elkhart General Hospital. Grandparents are Bill and Judy Mullin of Lynn and Dennis and Charlene Ottavi of Elkhart. Maternal great-grandmother is Clara Mullin of Delphi.

Billy L. Swisher



Billy Lee Swisher, 71, of Peru and formerly of Kokomo, passed away Friday, Feb. 12, 2008, at 10:40 a.m. in St. Joseph Hospital.

He was born Feb. 1, 1937, in Greentown to Kenneth and Goldie M. Burns Swisher. His marriage was to Mary E. Cronan on Aug. 13, 1957, in Jeffersonville. She survives and resides in Peru.

Mr. Swisher served in the United States Air Force from June 28, 1954 to Aug. 10, 1957.

He retired from Button Motors in 1989, where he was a service manager and mechanic for 23 years.

He loved to fish, hunt and spend time with his kids and grandkids. He was an avid I.U. basketball fan and loved Bobby Knight.

Surviving are three daughters, Karla McLain (husband: Robert) of Marion, Kim Kult (husband: Don) of Flora and Connie Swisher of Peru; two sisters, Sherry Johnson and Becky Swisher, both of Kokomo; and six grandchildren, April Horrigan (husband: Brian) of Fort Wayne, Renee Kult (significant other: Nate Smith), Joshua Blackburn and Annie Blackburn, both of Peru, and Kasey Kult and Corey Kult, both of Flora.

Mr. Swisher was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

Services were held Monday at Ellers Mortuary Main St. Chapel in Kokomo, which was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Evan L. Flora

Evan L. Flora, 90, of Flora, passed away at 8:20 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, at his residence.

He was born Aug. 4, 1917, in Flora, to Ezra and Anna Myer Flora. He graduated from Flora High School in 1936. On April 9, 1939, he married Dorothy Miller at her home and she survives.

Mr. Flora was a life-long farmer who resided his entire life on the same farm southeast of Flora, where he was born.

He was a member of the Flora Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

Also surviving are two sons, Kenneth Flora (wife: Erma) and Earl Flora (wife: Martha), both of Flora; one daughter, Karen Mohler (husband: Eldon) of Flora; six grandchildren, Denise McAninch, Deedra Jacobs (husband: Kurt), John Flora (wife: Katherine), Leah Waggoner (husband: Brian), Travis Flora (wife: Ashley), and Amanda Flora; and seven great-grandchildren, Megan and Bethany Jacobs, Daniel Evan and Emily Katherine Flora, Harrison and Sophia Waggoner, and Emily Kay Flora.

He was preceded in death by one son, David, four sisters and one brother.

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

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

Edithe L. Berninger



Edithe L. Berninger, 87, of Delphi, passed away Friday, Feb. 15, 2008, at 5:40 a.m. in St. Mary's Healthcare, Lafayette.

She had been a resident there since January.

She was born March 17, 1920, in Rush County, to Orville G. and Mabel V. Linville Leisure. She married Beverly B. Berninger on Dec. 13, 1941, in her home. He passed away in 1997.

Mrs. Berninger was a 1938 graduate of Rushville Consolidated School Corporation. She was a corporation secretary for Delphi Community School Corporation from 1961 to 1985.

She was a member of Kappa Sigma Sorority, Order of the Eastern Star, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, Extension Homemakers

Thomas N. Petry



Thomas Nelson Petry, 52, of Milford, Ohio, formerly of Delphi, died unexpectedly Feb. 15, 2008, in his residence.

He was born

April 1, 1955, in Indianapolis, to T. Neal Petry, M.D., and the late Beverly Henderson Petry.

Mr. Petry was the International Credit Manager for International Paper Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Surviving are his father and step-mother, Kaye Petry, of

Lucille I. Blackburn

Lucille Irene Blackburn, 78, of Delphi, died at Monticello Assisted Living and Healthcare 4:35 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer disease in 2001, and had been in failing health for several months.

Born July 16, 1929, at Lafayette, she was the daughter of Clayton F. and Esther Edith (Paschen) Million. She graduated from Adams Township School, Carroll County, and then from Purdue University with a master's degree in teaching. Her marriage was on Oct. 15, 1960, at Oak Grove Christian Church, to Dallas W. Blackburn, who preceded her in death on Sept. 2, 1995.

Mrs. Blackburn was a teacher at Idaville and Rensselaer schools before her marriage, when she transitioned to full-time pastor's wife and homemaker.

She had attended the Lockport Church since 1979.

Survivors include two daughters, Deborah DuVall (husband Jim) of Idaville and Rebecca David of Warsaw; a son, John Blackburn (wife Michelle) of Delphi; two stepdaughters, Sharon Davila of Bryan, Texas, and Nancy Valimaki (husband John) of West Friendship, Md.; a stepson, Ronald Blackburn (wife

clubs, Carroll County Board of Realtors, and the Indiana Association of Educational Secretaries.

Mrs. Berninger enjoyed hobbies of quilting and playing bridge.

Surviving are a daughter, Alice Hoover (husband: Richard) of Newburgh; two sons, H. Evan Berninger (wife: Jane) of Aiken, S.C. and David L. Berninger (wife: Pam) of Carmel; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jesse Leisure and an infant brother.

Services were held Tuesday at Davidson Funeral Home in Delphi, and were officiated by the Rev. Andy Paris. Burial was at I.O.O.F. Memorial Gardens in Pittsburg.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Delphi Christian Church or the Wabash & Erie Canal Association.

An online guestbook may be signed at www.davidsonfh.com.

Battle Ground; a brother, Charles M. Petry (wife: Mindy) of Lafayette; a sister, Kim Willis (husband: Brett) of Indianapolis; and his maternal grandmother, Helen Percifield of Delphi.

Visitation will be at Davidson Funeral Home in Delphi today, Wednesday, from noon until time of service at 2:30 p.m. Burial will be at the Masonic Cemetery in Delphi.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or First Presbyterian Church of Delphi. An online guestbook is available at www.davidsonfh.com.

Sue) of Fort Wayne; a brother, Douglas G. Million of rural Monticello; 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday at Lockport Church, 2724 West 1040 North, Burnettsville. Pastor Nord Zootman officiated. Interment was at Hickory Grove Church cemetery.

Memorials may be given to Lockport Church, Moody Bible Institute, Radio (WGNR), or the Gideons International (for Bible distribution) in her memory.

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

Other Death Notices

Betty Irene Strong, 77, died Feb. 18, 2008, at Heritage Nursing Home in West Lafayette. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Ona Strong; two daughters, Sharon "Kay" Littleton of Delphi and Kathy Emmons of Lafayette; two sons, David "Keith" McMillin of Penbrooke Pines, Fla., and "Kevin" Charles McMillin of Lafayette; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Services are pending at Hippensteel Funeral Home in Lafayette.

Support sought from Donnelly

Editor's Note: The following letter to Congressman Joe Donnelly was penned by Carroll County Commissioner George Mears on behalf of the commissioners. It was dated Jan. 30, 2008. Mears read the letter at the Monday night commissioners' meeting.

"Re: Federal funding appropriation for new CR75 from intersection of SR75 and SR218 in Camden, IN to new intersection with Hoosier Heartland Highway (SR25) in Carroll County, IN.

"As you know, the new Hoosier Heartland Highway (SR25) project will be built through Carroll County starting in 2009. This project, when completed in 2012, will provide a four-lane truck-ready highway through the center of north central Indiana from Lafayette to Ft. Wayne and finally to the Lake Erie port of Toledo, Ohio.

"This tremendous project will for the first time ever, provide Carroll County with direct high speed, high level of service access to the Interstate highway system at I-65 in Lafayette, the US31 freeway highway at Peru, and the I-69 highway at Ft. Wayne.

"We write to your office today to request your assistance in helping our County and our communities improve our opportunity to secure better access to this economic corridor so that we are able to better help ourselves to further develop our economic situation. Our community has completed several research efforts to determine how we can attract industry and jobs to provide us with the resources to support improvements for our whole community; better schools, better healthcare and better public services. That research identified a common obstacle to industry and job development in our county: lack of direct interstate highway access. Without it, we will always be severely challenged in the competition for industry and jobs with communities that have highway access.

"The Hoosier Heartland Highway will provide us the opportunity to compete, and a new CR75 extension from Camden to the Hoosier Heartland

Highway project will allow us to compete successfully.

"With this letter, we are forwarding a map of the project site and testimony showing the strength of our communities support for this new road to access the Hoosier Heartland Highway.

"There currently exists an opportunity to coordinate with the design of the Hoosier Heartland to relocate a planned overpass bridge to the proposed extension location. This coordination with INDOT would save a significant amount of money for the extension project while not impacting the overall cost of the Hoosier Heartland project - a win-win situation for the county and the state. However, this window of opportunity is narrow. The design of the Hoosier Heartland will be set in stone by year's end; because of this, we need to prove to the state our ability to fund, at least partially, the extension before the end of 2008.

"We are preparing a formal application with all of the appropriate project information that we will forward to your office in the next few weeks.

"We look forward to sending you the additional project information and discussing the merits of this improvement with your office."

A memorial should last forever

Memorial gifts to the Carroll County Community Foundation of do just that.

- Your gift will be acknowledged to the family
- The name of the individual memorialized will be added to the Community Foundation's book of memory
- Contributions will be added to the fund of your choice and endowed as a lasting memorial benefitting our community forever


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