

## NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) April 2020

**NEW HARMONY BRIDGE BILL  
SIGNED AT STATEHOUSE**

**From the New Harmony Gazette  
by: Dan Barton  
April, 2020**

For Immediate Release from Indiana State Senator Jim Tomes, District 29

STATEHOUSE (March 23, 2020) — A bill sponsored by State Senator Jim Tomes (R-Wadesville) that grants immunity to members, officers and employees of the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority recently was signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

House Enrolled Act 1343 requires the Attorney General of Indiana to defend the Bridge Authority and its members if there is a civil liability lawsuit filed against them.

"I'm happy to see this legislation has been signed into law by the governor," Tomes said. "HEA 1343 gives the Bridge Authority an additional resource by providing immunity, like any other state agency. I look forward to seeing progress made in the coming months."

Since the Harmony Way Bridge closed in 2012, citizens have been looking for ways to effectively and safely make the bridge operable again.

When the General Assembly passed legislation in 2018 to transfer the bridge from White County Bridge Commission in Illinois to the New Harmony and Wabash River Bridge Authority, the general transfer did not include the same protections as a state entity, which would allow the Authority to be sued in civil court. That has been corrected with HEA 1343.

**CORONA VIRUS (HEREAFTER  
REFERRED TO AS CV)**

**by: Dan Barton  
April, 2020**

I have not been "Johnny on the Spot" with addressing the CV issue here in Posey County, primarily because I've been predisposed with some hospitalization and surgical issues of my own. No. Not CV; cardiac related surgery. I'm doing fine, after a week at Deaconess Hospital. But have not gotten my writer's legs back under me quite yet. However, important issues wait for no man. So here goes:

I'm writing this on Saturday, April 4, 2020. So far there have been no reported cases of CV in New Harmony. According to my sources, there are five cases in Posey County; population approx. 25,910. That's about 0.00020 percent of the population. Not much, you say. We have thus far been blessed. I hope you are all taking reasonable precautions, as has been outlined by both State and Federal health officials and our elected representatives. New Harmony has done everything that is currently, feasibly, possible to prevent an outbreak here. The rest is pretty much up to citizen control. Let's take this seriously and be done with it.

This morning I got a call on my cell phone from a concerned citizen. The concern was, that even though our town is doing what it can, the State of Indiana is not. It seems that Indiana Governor, Eric Holcomb, unlike our surrounding states Governors of Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan, has decided to leave our State Park campgrounds open for business during the CV crises. The other states closed campgrounds in order to restrain the spread of CV among the campers and to not spread them into outside communities.

I have to admit that I was startled to hear this news when the person on the other end of the phone related it to me.

Why? I wondered, would a Governor close all of the states education institutions, libraries, bars and restaurants, movie theaters and almost all of its businesses, but then leave a loophole as big as the State House, open for social co-mingling and potential disease spread?

The reports of how many campers have been at our own Harmony State Park has differed, depending on where the information is coming from, and I used several sources, both official and community. Some said, as many as 80 campers from places like Kentucky, Illinois, South Dakota, Montana and Indiana. Others said, around 20 to 25 campers. State Senator Tomes said he had been given a number of around 15 or so from the Property Manager at Indiana Department of Natural Resources in Evansville, Joe Compton. So, take your pick. I tried to call Joe personally before calling State Senator Tomes but couldn't get him, nor did he return my call. Instead he immediately called Senator Tomes in order to head me off and do a little damage control on the side. I had very little success reaching anyone at IDNR, who had any authority.

It was a heck of a lot easier reaching Senator Tomes. I called his number and got his wife Margie, who interrupted Jim, while he was splitting fireplace wood. We had a good discussion about our differences on this subject, I being very concerned that these campgrounds might be a breeding ground for this virus to spread to communities like New Harmony and elsewhere, if this open camping arrangement at Hoosier State Park was allowed to continue. Jim assured me that Parks personnel were on the lookout for campers being less than several feet apart and would address that problem if seen. I was skeptical. Senator Tomes was opposed to closing these campgrounds, I was not arguing to close the Parks entirely, only camping.

The Senator believed that it would be

just another violation of our freedom of movement in America and we should not cross that threshold. He did not agree with me that the campers could inadvertently spread a virus in which monumental steps had already been taken throughout the country to control. He said he believed that there were so many other ways that this virus could be spread that the campground issue was a non-issue. He believed that the national and local economy was already in jeopardy as it is and that further steps, like closing the campgrounds, could lead to irreparable damage to our country.

Senator Tomes is not alone on this position, by the way. In fact, I spoke to many people in New Harmony about this matter and found that there were some, especially in the business sector, who believed just a Jim believes. They believe that camping is done primarily by families only and the risk of them spreading a case of CV to New Harmony was remote at best.

There were others that I spoke to in New Harmony who thought otherwise. Many were dismayed that the Governor would close Indiana businesses, order citizens to stay indoors and close schools, but yet not consider the gatherings of people from Indiana and other states in a campground, just a couple of miles from our border, a threat.

I tried to reach Governor Holcomb, but with no success. Even Senator Tomes said that he wouldn't be able to reach him, when I asked the Senator to pass on these concerns about the Campground and the possible spread of CV to our community. So, I must say, the Governor is not reachable, nor is the upper level of the IDNR, but Senator Jim Tomes is. He was willing to openly discuss the issue in his usual candid manner. We did have to leave it at agreeing to disagree on this issue, however.

If any of you are interested in making your opinion known to our elected representatives, the following is a list of emails that I have gathered. Emailing is the best way, it's permanent and they can't erase them:

Governor Eric Holcomb: [www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm](http://www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm) (This is supposed to be his personal email, that's why it says gov

twice.

Indiana Senator Jim Tomes: senator.tomes@iga.in.gov

State Representative Wendy McNamara : wendy.m.mcnamara@gmail.com

New Harmony's County Council Rep: David Pearce : dpearce263@aol.com

Posey County Councilman at Large, Aaron Wilson: aaron@wilsonauctions.com

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### **BREAKING NEWS FROM INDIANA STATE CAPITOL!**

*by: Dan Barton*  
**April 6, 2020**

The New Harmony Gazette, just received word from a source at the Indiana State Capitol, that Governor Eric Holcomb is about to issue an order closing all campgrounds in Indiana State Parks. The parks will remain open but the campgrounds will be closed.

A Posey County resident also confirmed to the Gazette that as of today there are over 50 campers at Harmony State Park, most from Kentucky, who's campgrounds are closed.

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### **WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT "THE VIRUS"**

*by: Dan Barton*  
**April, 2020**

I wasn't planning to make CV the mainstay of the April edition of the New Harmony Gazette, but there doesn't seem to be any escaping it. Here in the internet age information is at the touch of our fingers. Although, that information can be contradicting some of the time.

On the one hand we have Secretary of State (former CIA Director), Mike Pompeo and also Anthony Fauci, saying that they expect more than 200,000 deaths in the United States due to the Corona Virus epidemic. Fauci just finished saying two hours ago, as of

this writing, that they are having a very difficult time getting this disease under control. However, it wasn't but about a week ago that President Trump, Mike's and Anthony's boss, was suggesting loosening many of the restrictions that had been called for a month ago. Restrictions that were initially put into place to stop the spread of this deadly epidemic. What and who are you gonna believe? Confused yet?

I went on a little first hand information fishing expedition recently to see what the average person on the internet thought about the CV, and here are a couple of examples of what I found:

Mr. Haller, NYC: I will tell you now, and what I have been saying in all my posts, that the numbers are changing rapidly. They are changing toward lower values; meaning for the better.

(Sorry, Mr. Haller, but my review of the statistics today, April 5th, does not confirm your observation. Total cases in NY have been shooting skyward like a rocket, particularly in NYC. Currently, right now, there are over 122,000 confirmed cases in your state, and climbing. But lets allow Mr. Haller to speak:)

There were a lot of inaccurate assumptions made about this virus initially, which led to widespread panic. The initial estimates for case mortality rate for instance were well over 3% by the World Health Organization. That value is now revised to approximately 1% by Dr. Anthony Fauci and other researchers.

(Sorry, Mr. Haller, NYC: I just checked the WHO CV's most recent Mortality rate worldwide and it is still, today, listed at 3.4%. However, you are right, Fauci did state on March 27th that he believed that the mortality rate would be less than 1%. Kind of like a bad flu season, he said. Again, It's a matter of "who ya gonna believe." Go, Mr. Haller:)

Let's take the R Naught Value (how easily a disease is transmitted), which is the ability of the virus to replicate itself in the human population. This number varies with the environment, immunity, and even temperature. This article explaining the R Naught (0) Value and their estimates for CORVID-19 Coronavirus:

<https://labblog.uofmhealth.org/>

rounds/how-scientists-quantify-of-an-outbreak-covid19] (Publisher: On this one I couldn't get it. But when I typed in uofmhealth coronavirus, it came up with lots of information.)

Mr. Haller, continues: Compared to measles, on the other hand, the influenza virus is less infectious, with its R0 ranging from 2 to 3. A number of groups have estimated R0 for CV, such as the Imperial College Group to be somewhere between 1.5 and 3.5.

I will say again, we know that the seasonal flu, however familiar it may be, has managed to kill between 20,000 and 50,000 americans this year. (2020) The CV has killed 7,616, as of April 5, 2020.

This Nobel Prize winning Biologist, Michael Levitt and his predictions of lower death rates is interesting. Please read and google Professor Levitt on his views about Coronavirus for a wider scientific discussion.

This following email was also received by the Gazette, by an unknown writer, but is interesting:

This is from an Immunologist at Johns Hopkins University:

Feeling confused as to why Coronavirus is a bigger deal than Seasonal flu? Here it is in a nutshell. It has to do with RNA sequencing...i.e. genetics.

Seasonal flu is an "all human virus". The DNA/RNA chains that make up the virus are recognized by the human immune system. This means that your body has some immunity to it before it comes around each year... you get immunity two ways... through exposure to a virus or by getting a flu shot.

Novel viruses, come from animals... the WHO tracks novel viruses in animals, (sometimes for years watching for mutations). Usually these viruses only transfer from animal to animal (pigs in the case of H1N1) (birds in the case of the Spanish flu). But once one of these animal viruses mutates, and starts to transfer from animals to human then it's a problem. Why? Because we have no natural or acquired immunity. The RNA sequencing of genes inside the virus isn't human, and the human immune system doesn't recognize it so we can't fight it off.

Now...sometimes, the mutation only allows transfer from animal to human.

For years it's only transmission is from an infected animal to a human to before it finally mutates so that it can now transfer from human to human... once that happens...we have a new contagion phase. Depending on the fashion of this new mutation, that's what decides how contagious or how deadly it's going to be.

H1N1 was deadly...(12,000 died in 2010 in U.S.) but it did not mutate in a way that was as deadly as the Spanish flu. (200,000 Americans died in 1918) It's RNA was slower to mutate and it attacked its host differently, too.

Now, here comes this Coronavirus... it existed in animals only, for nobody knows how long... but one day in, Wuhan, China, in December 2019, it mutated and made the jump from animal to people. At first, only animals could give it to a person, but in just two weeks it mutated again and gained the ability to jump from human to human. Scientists call this quick ability, "slippery".

This Coronavirus, not being in any form a "human" virus (whereas we would all have some natural or acquired immunity) took off like a rocket. This was because humans have no immunity... doctors have no known medicines for it.

It just so happened that this particular mutated animal virus changed itself in such a way that it causes great damage to human lungs.

That's why Coronavirus is different from seasonal flu, or H1N1 or any other type of influenza. This one is slippery. And it's a lung eater. It's already mutated again, so we now have two strains to deal with, Strain S and Strain L... which makes it twice as hard to develop a vaccine.

We really have no tools in our shed with this. History has shown that fast and immediate closings of public places has helped in the past pandemics. Philadelphia and Baltimore were reluctant to close events in 1918 and they were the hardest hit in the U.S. during the Spanish Flu.

Factoid: Henry VIII stayed in his room and allowed no one near him till the Black Plague passed. Just like us, he had not tools in his shed, except social isolation.

Right now it's hitting older folks harder, but this genome is so slippery, if it mutates again (and it will), who's to say

what it will do next.

Be smart, acting like you're unafraid is so not sexy right now. Flatten the cure. Stay home and share this to those that just are not catching on.

The two previous articles are opinion pieces and do not necessarily represent the views of the New Harmony Gazette or its Publisher, but are interesting in their dichotomy.

My own view is, if you are going to err at this time in history, err on the side of caution. Take the steps that have been laid out by our national government and practice public social separation as much as you can. Wear a surgical type mask when around others and wash your hands regularly, like your mother always told you. Best wishes to all of you and hope for a short lived epidemic.

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## COALESCENCE

by: *Ann Rains*

Coalescence is a mystical realm that is often ignored or accepted unnoticed. Our lives are interwoven with it. Seeing it in nature, one cannot ignore it. Such was the time on a bitterly cold, windy winter day when I stood on the banks of the Wabash and watched in awe as wind and water coalesced into a water spout.

Presently, my mind is coalescing three thoughts in which there is an intertwining relationship. The first reference is a book I am reading, *Defy Gravity*, the second is the global pandemic, and the third is Earth Day.

The book, *Defy Gravity* by Caroline Myss, encourages us to go beyond in our thoughts and understanding of what we see and hear—to learn a new way of thinking. For instance, what we see as someone illegally speeding down the highway may be a man transporting his pregnant wife to the hospital. We are often prone to pre-judgment which may not be true. Myss mentions throughout the book, "All is one."



An exemplary example of “All is one,” is the coronavirus pandemic. If we had any doubts of our connectedness to the rest of the human race, by now those doubts should be shattered. “All is one,” goes beyond humanity to include all of Earth—animals, trees and plants, the soil, the water, the air—which is communally shared even at great distances.

Caroline Myss studied the mystics of past centuries. Her writings reflect St. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, both living in the mid 1500s. She uses their writings to help us understand that what we do effects our soul: “John of the Cross viewed sin as a negative act that we consciously choose to initiate, knowing that others might be harmed but weighing such consequences as insignificant given the dark passion fueling our ego. That the deed is consciously enacted and that we or others suffer (emotionally or physically) is a violation of the soul’s creative power or nature, and, as such, it is more than just “wrong”. John sees such action as a celestial or cosmic violation, the very archetypal meaning of a sin. Conscious negative action that is self-serving, incidentally, is also the kind of violation that accrues karma.”

And with that thought, the arrival of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020 appears to be a kind of reckoning. Gaylord Nelson, a Democratic Senator from Wisconsin instigated Earth Day. In the 70’s there was unrest with government policies or lack thereof. Rivers were used for dumping by large corporations and many rivers were toxically polluted. No restrictions had

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been put on the poisonous emissions factories were spewing into the air. Animals were becoming extinct at what we then thought was an alarming rate, but not close to what is happening now.

The crux of the massive demonstrations on that first Earth Day had results. Within a few months, Congress passed the Clean Air Act. Soon, the Clean Water Act along with the Endangered Species Act came into law. DDT was banned and other actions to help protect and save the environment came into being. Earth Day demonstrations transformed our lives and changed America.

Over the past 50 years, Earth Day lost the intense dedication shown by the first demonstrators. Some teachers still mention it in the classroom but action has waned.

However, once again there is unrest in America, especially with the young. I believe that, if the coronavirus had not become a pandemic, Earth Day would have been a staging ground for all who are concerned about climate change. Because, once again, our leaders and government are doing nothing to address what needs to be done to keep our planet habitable.

How are these three things coalescing? In my mind it is like the water spout spinning. “All is one.” When drug companies sell drugs which they know to be harmful and cause medical problems such as cancer, that is a sin. Whether it is a corporation or a single person who intentionally causes another harm, it is a sin. What about a leader and a government lacking the initiative to do what is right to save it’s citizens? Is that a sin? Like the water spout, will these actions eventually collapse in on themselves? Are souls lost when they knowingly act in the absence of grace?

Earth Day is a reminder that citizens can make a change. The dark passions that seem to be predominant, that have been a lifetime method of action, can be changed. John of the Cross thinks it is possible. The coalescence of the three

subjects resounds as a commitment, a commitment to live the truth and do what actions one can do to help restore good spiritual energy to life. Truth is a powerful force.

planetprayers@gmail.com  
Rains March, 2020

©Ann

**April Gazette Recipe 2020**  
**Coconut Curry Chicken**  
*by: Denise Rapp*

If you are in a culinary rut, I recommend this yummy dish. Lots of bold flavors, fast & easy and very delicious.

**Ingredients**

4 chicken breast-cubed into 1 inch chunks  
Olive oil  
Salt & pepper  
One medium onion diced  
One clove of garlic  
1/3 cup gold raisins  
1/3 cup chopped dried apricots  
One can of coconut milk  
2 tablespoons curry powder  
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes  
1/2 teaspoon cumin  
1 teaspoon fresh chopped ginger  
Salt to taste  
Fresh chopped cilantro for garnish

**Instructions**

Sauté chopped onions until golden brown. Set aside in a medium mixing bowl. Season chicken and sear in oil, until brown on all sides.

(Do not cook all the way through as possible.)

Add to mixing bowl with the rest of the ingredients. Mix well. Bake for 30 minutes at 350°.

Meanwhile make some jasmine rice to serve on the side.

Garnish with fresh cilantro. Enjoy!

