

"IF WE CANNOT RECONCILE ALL OPINIONS, LET US ENDEAVOR TO UNITE ALL HEARTS."

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) October 2021

POSEY COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF SHOT IN NEW HARMONY! - UPDATE.

By: Dan Barton

Posey County Deputy Sheriff Bryan Hicks, 41, was shot in an exchange of gunfire Saturday night the 18th of September at 612 Short Street in New Harmony, a few minutes before 7 p.m. Presently, Deputy Hicks is recuperating at Deaconess Downtown Hospital from an operation that successfully removed the bullet that struck him in the head. Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham would only say, as of the 24th, regarding Deputy Hicks' condition, that he is, "...hanging in there."

Indiana State Police, Evansville District Sergeant, Todd Ringle elaborated in a press release that, "These types of [domestic] calls are very nerve wracking. We know that in today's society it is becoming more violent. These officers went to this residence to check on someone...and unfortunately, bad things occurred and right now, a Posey County Deputy is fighting for his life."

The alleged assailant, who, it is said, initiated the gunfire while Police Officers were outside, in front of his residence, was identified by police as a long time New Harmony resident, former New Harmony Town Marshall, and former Posey County Reserve Deputy, Paul Wiltshire, 70 years of age.

Wiltshire was released from Deaconess Hospital after an operation to remove three bullets from his torso. He was then arrested and was arraigned on September 24th before Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde on four separate charges: 1) Attempted Murder - Attempted intentional killing of another. 2) Intimidation - Where defendant draws or uses a deadly weapon. 3) Intimidation - Threat is to commit a forcible felony. 4) Pointing a Firearm at another.

Wiltshire's, next Court appearance is scheduled for September 27th. He is confined in the Warrick County Jail at present. Paul Wiltshire is being held on

\$1million bail.

New Harmony, and the majority of people who live there are in shock about this incident. The police officers who serve this county and this town are held in deep love and respect by the good people of the New Harmony community. The thought of one of their brave officers being shot down for no reason is repugnant to them. The people of New Harmony wish, hope and pray that Posey County Deputy Bryan Hicks has a full and rapid recovery. And pray for the safety of his wife and children.

Deputy Hicks has dedicated many years of service to Knox County and more recently to Posey County. He is very dedicated to his job and is always willing to help those in need.

The Fraternal Order of Police, Posey County Lodge 133 is collecting funds for the Posey County Sheriff's Office for Deputy Bryan Hicks. As, Deputy Hicks will be recovering from his injury for the foreseeable future, he and his family will need our continued prayers and assistance during this difficult time.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is going to take donations through Vernmo - @ POCOFOP and through the mail at: Posey County FOP Lodge 133
P.O. Box 611
Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620

Also, donations can be dropped off at the Evansville Teachers Credit Union locations for the Posey County FOP in the name of Deputy Hicks. One hundred percent of the funds collected will be given to the family.

**BRYAN HICKS,
"THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON!"**

By: Dan Barton

Before Bryan Hicks came to Posey County and serving with distinction for the past four years, he was a K-9 Captain and Deputy at the Knox County (Vincennes) Sheriff's

Office, and served with distinction; even being awarded The American Police Canine Association's APCA Award, along with his K-9 partner, Keska.

The people who knew him in Knox County have not forgotten him. Recently, since Deputy Hicks was critically wounded in an exchange of gunfire with a New Harmony, Indiana, resident, comments from Knox County residents have been posted on the internet through Knox County news sites, through reporters, Jessica Costello and Keaton Eberly.

While, Deputy Hicks still remains in critical condition at Deaconess Hospital, his friends want him to know that he is not forgotten by them. Deputy Bryan Hicks served for many years in Knox County Law Enforcement.

Matt Toothman, a Principal at South Knox High School, reportedly said, that, "He set the bar high for School Resource Officers in Knox County. I mean he set the standard. Whatever he did we mimicked it with our future School Resource Officers, as well."

"We had to find the right kind of person." said South Knox Elementary Principal Scott Staggs. "You think of those people as kind of all business people, and he was at the beginning... but then it was neat to see the walls come down and the kids giving him hugs and kisses, those kind of things."

Michelle Pool, a teacher at South Knox High School, said, "I had a student one time that could not pass a test and Hicks came in and took that test with him five different times so he could pass. I'm not saying Hicks didn't struggle on the test either but they got through it together. It was the little things like that. Making the connection with the kid when he saw them standing in the hallway by himself. Or sometimes, especially as a female, we know those other male students need a positive male role model and Hicks was one of those, he could say, 'Hey, let's get your stuff together.' and they would listen to him."

So even after years of moving away from Knox County, the shocking news that Deputy Hicks had been shot still rocked the community.

“When you find out it’s one of your brothers, one of the ones you’ve worked with and become friends, it hits you a lot different, hits a lot closer to home,” said Dave Lineburg, a Knox County Deputy and friend of the Hicks family said.

REVISITING A MAY 2021 POSEY COUNTY DRUG BUST - ROY DEBOSE!

By: Dan Barton

Scanning the recent arrest reports for Posey County, and looking for something interesting to write about, my eyes stopped on a name that I was familiar with; Roy Debose!

Debose, was one of the 16 Drug Felon arrests in May that was so much heralded by the County Prosecutor, Law Enforcement and all of the local news agencies, back then. So far, to be succinct, nothing or little of nothing has taken place in our Posey County Circuit Court, other than Status Conferences, since May. Most of these arrestees are still sitting it out in the Posey County, Jail. There is one in federal custody, and there’s another one out on bail and two escapees still on the lose. Debose, though, is a different story:

Debose, is not an Indiana resident, he’s from Galatia, Illinois. He apparently commutes to Indiana to do his business. The most recent arrest records, of September 4th, 2021, show that he had been arrested, again, on an outstanding drug felony warrant. I thought he was still locked up on the bust in May, but no, there he was as plain as day, arrested again on various outstanding drug charges. “How’d he get lose?” I thought!

Here’s the story: It turns out that Posey County Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde turned Debose back out on the street since his May arrest on felony drug charges.

Goedde’s Circuit Court, on this one, has been pure debacle. Judge Geode has had about a dozen Status Conferences on Debose in the last five month. It seems that when a judge can’t think of anything else to do to kick the can down the road, he has a Status Conference.

Debose was arrested on May 10, 2021 on charges of Possessing Meth, Possessing Drug Paraphernalia and Maintaining a Common Nuisance for a Controlled Substance (A Drug House) in Mt. Vernon.

Debose, first appeared in Goedde’s Circuit Court to set his Bond, on May 18th. Judge Goedde set a low Bond at \$15,000 surety/\$1,500 cash. Debose made bail on May 28th and was released with the promise that he would be good and go to his probation meetings under the ACCEPT Program. A pretty much useless program designed for wasting taxpayers money and assuring that Debose could get back on the street and do his business. This program is administered by Probation Officers who receive an average of around \$65,000 a year in salary, not counting benefits, while a Posey County Deputy Sheriff usually receives just a little over \$40,000 per year. A flip flop of what the median salaries are for these two positions at a national level.

By June 16th the Circuit Court had issued an Order of Confinement on Debose. Several Status Conferences later, Judge Goedde issued on July 29th a Warrant for his arrest, called a Writ of Attainment for the Body of the Person, Debose, for violating the terms of his Probation. And away we go!

Debose, didn’t appear for his August 11th Status Conference. Another Writ of Attainment was issued by Judge Goedde on September 4th. On September 7th the Posey County Sheriff’s Office arrested Debose on the outstanding Bench Warrant and he appeared before Judge Goedde, via video, in the custody of Sheriff Latham’s Office.

Then at the September 7th Status Conference, Judge Goedde released Debose over the objection of the Posey County Prosecutor’s Office. Goedde, ordered Debose to report to the Probation Department on September 13, 2021, and to report once a week thereafter and submit to random drug tests. If he should fail a drug test, guess what? That’s right, a Bench Warrant for his body. Anybody out there want to guess what happened?

On September 13th Goedde issued a Petition to Revoke Debose’s Bond and then issued another warrant for his arrest. The defendant was again arrested. Debose then

requested to be released on his old bond. Goedde, at last, refused to release Debose and issued NO BOND! Whew! I hope I didn’t leave anything out in this debacle. Believe me, it’s not easy keeping up with all of the sidestepping this judge does to keep Debose out on the street corner.

Oh, there was another Status Conference set for September 21, 2021.

Keep in mind, every time this fellow Debose is given another chance at life by the kind-hearted Judge Craig Goedde, and then doesn’t show up for his ACCEPT meeting, or violates his agreement with the Judge, Posey County Sheriff’s Deputies have to arrest him. That may not seem like such a big deal to the Court, but no arrest is a small thing in this day and age. Forget about all the money it’s costing taxpayers to coddle this man around through the system, the Deputies put their very life on the line each time the Judge makes a mistake.

Most of the cases in Posey County Circuit Court go on for no less than a year and sometimes over two years, that’s the reason everything is backed up, the new jail is hardly half full, but the court calendar is jammed. So you can bet that we’ll be hearing more about this defendant and this Judge for some time to come!

SUMMARY OF A FEW RECENT POSEY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CONVICTIONS!

By: Dan Barton

Tyler Berry - Dealing Synthetic Substance - Sentenced to 12 Years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Halley Bates - Dealing Meth - Sentenced to 10 years by Judge Craig Goedde - Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Miranda Renee Richards - Dealing Meth - Sentenced to 12 years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Zachary Pribble - Dealing Meth - Sentenced to 10 years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Quinton Jennings - Ten Counts - Kidnapping, Criminal Confinement, Aggravated Battery, Domestic Battery,

Battery Result. in Serious Bodily Injury, Habitual Offender - Sentenced to 36 years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Andrew Rollins - Possessing more than 10 grams of Meth with intent to distribute - Sentenced to 15 years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

Ashley Heath - Possession of Meth, Habitual Offender - Sentenced to 6 years by Judge Craig Goedde. Thomas Clowers, Prosecutor

FARMERS FEED INDIANA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

*By: State Rep. Cindy Ledbetter
(House District 75)*

Many Hoosiers will visit a farm this fall to gather gourds at a pumpkin patch or pick apples at an orchard. These experiences can remind us all about the important role agriculture plays in our lives.

Indiana's farmers help feed the world and our economy, and we've made progress in supporting them and their families.

Farmers contribute \$31.2 billion to our economy and create over 180,000 jobs, according to the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. In Pike, Spencer and Warrick counties alone, over 1,300 farmers generate more than \$192 million in products annually, according to a 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture report.

With many farmers being small-business owners, an obstacle they face is accessing affordable health care options. Now Indiana Farm Bureau offers a new health plan, which covers essential health benefits, such as office visits, preventative services, and maternity and newborn care.

To prevent diseases from spreading among livestock, a new law will require outbreaks to be reported to the state veterinarian within 24 hours and a new law allows youth agriculture groups, like FFA, to sell their products directly to school cafeterias.

When carving jack-o-lanterns or picking apples for the perfect pie, take a moment to appreciate the hard work of Hoosier farmers and their impact on our state. I also encourage you to shop local, such as buying produce from the Historic Newburgh

Farmers Market, occurring weekly June to August.

If you'd like to visit a nearby Indiana farm, check out visitindiana.com/agritourism. Lakeview Orchard in Rockport offers peaches, pumpkins, apple cider and more. Not far away, Pepper's Ridge winery is a great place for a picnic. No matter where you choose, I hope you enjoy your visit to an Indiana farm.

SENATORS BRAUN AND HASSAN CALL FOR ENFORCEMENT OF HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY

By: Senator Mike Braun and Senator Maggie Hassan

Senator Mike Braun and Senator Maggie Hassan called for robust enforcement of key health care price transparency requirements in a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. The senators applauded CMS' recent efforts to enhance compliance of the Price Transparency Rule in hospitals and requested the results of CMS's current oversight efforts of non-compliant hospitals to ensure that Americans have access to the most transparent and up-to-date prices.

The full text of the letter follows:

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We write today to call for robust enforcement of key health care price transparency requirements, and to applaud your recent efforts to enhance compliance with such requirements by increasing civil monetary penalties for noncompliance. There is no doubt the health care system is broken, and that the American people deserve better. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and stand ready to assist the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its staff.

On September 24, 2020, President Trump issued an Executive Order that was designed to make health care pricing more transparent and accessible to the American people, support competition, and empower consumers to make informed and value-conscious decisions ("Price Transparency Rule"). The rule requires hospitals to provide the rates for 300 common services and the amount they are willing to accept

in cash in a digital, consumer-friendly database. The Trump administration issued and subsequently finalized the Price Transparency Rule in November 2020, marking a significant step toward achieving full transparency in the health care market. In December 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued a 2-0 decision upholding Trump Administration's Price Transparency Rule, affirming that hospitals must comply with the requirements of the final rule to publicly disclose their standard charges. However, work remains to be done to ensure hospitals fully adopt and are held accountable to the provisions within the rule.

Under the Price Transparency Rule, hospitals were required to disclose their standard charges the day the final rule took effect on January 1, 2021, providing hospitals with time to collect and publish the standard charge information. CMS is responsible for evaluating and enforcing hospital compliance with the requirements prescribed in the rule. It is our understanding that if CMS finds that a hospital failed to disclose its standard charges by January 1, 2021, CMS may take action to, in no required order, issue a warning notice to the hospital, request a corrective action plan, impose a civil monetary payment of \$300 per day until rule requirements are met, and name the noncompliant hospitals publicly on CMS's website.

A study published on March 16, 2021 examining the price transparency of the 100 highest-revenue hospitals in the United States concluded that 65 of those 100 hospitals were non-compliant with the Price Transparency Rule. Of these 65, 12 did not provide files or links to searchable databases. Furthermore, 53 of the 65 non-compliant hospitals did not include payer-specific negotiated rates or were non-compliant in other ways.

Even "compliance" under the current definition has not resulted in adequate tools for patient price shopping. Hospitals deemed compliant have engaged in practices that do not meet the rule's intent, including providing incomplete information, implementing burdensome access restrictions, utilizing code to block prices from being displayed on search engines, and creating tools to obfuscate access to mobile app developers or patients. Nearly every hospital evaluated for compliance in one

study buried their cost sheets deep within their websites. The hospitals engaging in these practices should not be considered compliant with the law, as even savvy patients would struggle to navigate these intentionally complex systems.

It is clear that the current \$300 per day civil monetary penalty threshold was not sufficient to hold hospitals accountable for complying with the transparency agreements. For that reason, we commend CMS's recent proposal to increase the civil monetary threshold for noncompliant hospitals. In the interim, we write to inquire about the results of CMS's current oversight efforts of non-compliant hospitals to ensure that Americans have access to the most transparent and up-to-date prices.

We respectfully request that you provide to us no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021, the following information:

1. The number of hospitals currently subject to the Price Transparency Rule;
2. Of these hospitals subject to the rule
 - a. The number of hospitals that have received warning letters and /or correction action plans (CAP) from CMS for non-compliance (preferably by state);
 - b. The number of responses CMS received from non-compliant hospitals (preferably by state), and a description sufficient to help Congress understand either the improvement that is underway, or the work that remains to be done;
 - c. The number of hospitals that have been issued a civil monetary penalty by CMS;
3. A description of how CMS is auditing compliance with warning letters and/or CAPs;
4. The date by which CMS expects to issue its first civil monetary penalty for non-compliance;

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5. A description of how CMS informs Congress and the American people about which hospitals are fully compliant (or not) with efforts to increase transparency of health care pricing.

Thank you again for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with CMS and its staff to ensure full compliance with this important rule.

Sincerely,

SEN. MIKE BRAUN
SEN. MAGGIE HASSAN

**ATTORNEY GENERAL TODD
ROKITA: "ADVOCATE FOR
PROTECTING HOOSIERS FROM SEX
OFFENDERS"**

By: Indiana A.G., Todd Rokita

A federal appeals court this week upheld Indiana's Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA), affirming the arguments presented by Attorney General Todd Rokita and his team.

"Indiana's sex offender registry is designed to protect children, families and all Hoosiers from those who have committed sex offenses," Attorney General Rokita said. "The appeals court was right to reject claims that Indiana's system is unfair or wrongly discriminatory."

On Monday, [August 16, 2021] the full U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals voted 7-3 to overturn a district court decision that held, among other things, that Indiana's sex offender registry system violates the constitutional "right to travel" by discriminating against offenders who have moved into Indiana from other states where they were required to register.

Rejecting the district court's conclusion, the appeals court explained that the Constitution "simply does not prohibit a state from incidentally burdening travel to or from the state... !

Because both old and new Indiana residents are treated equally under SORA and Indiana's Ex Post Facto Clause, we hold that the law does not violate plaintiffs' right to travel."

The appeals court remanded the case, HOPE v. INDIANA DEPT. OF

CORRECTION, back to the district court for consideration of a remaining claim the district court had not addressed.

"We will continue to defend Indiana Law," Attorney General Rokita said. "And we will continue to advocate for protecting Hoosiers from sex offenders."

OCTOBER GAZETTE RECIPE

By: Denise Rapp

TOMATO PIE

Here is one last Summer Time recipe before fall kicks in.

Ok....so you may have a few tomatoes still hanging on the vine. I want you to bring them in and make this delicious Tomato Pie. You may be thinking, tomato pie....? (In you not so sure voice) But I assure you this savory pie is absolutely delicious.

Ingredients

One baked pie crust
1/3 c. Shredded Parmesan
2 Thin sliced large tomatoes
(Dried on paper towels)
1 large tomato - diced
2-3 Sm. Tomatoes - For top garnish- (dried off)
(I try to use different colors for interest)
1 Sm. Onion - diced & sautéed in olive oil
S & P
Fresh Thyme
Fresh Basil

Topping

Fontina & Parmesan
1/2 Helmans Mayo

Instructions

Bake your pie crust until light golden brown, 350 15-20 minutes
Sprinkle shredded Parmesan cheese in the bottom of the pie shell
Sauté onions, set aside
Layer sliced tomatoes, diced tomatoes & sautéed onions
Add a few cracks of salt & pepper
Sprinkle with thyme & basil
Blend cheese and Mayo together
Blob Mayo mix on top
Place small sliced tomatoes on top
Bake 400 for 15 minutes
Let cool

Enjoy!