

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

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) November 2021

MT. VERNON RESIDENT ALEX DARTT SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR DRUG DEALING! *Press Release Posey County Prosecuting Attorney, Thomas Clowers*

A Mt. Vernon man was sentenced to 12 years in prison for dealing drugs in Posey County.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 13, Alex Jordan Dartt, of Mt. Vernon, appeared in Posey Circuit Court and was sentenced by Judge Craig Goedde after being convicted of Dealing in a Controlled Substance, a Level 2 felony.

As part of his guilty plea, Dartt, age 25, admitted to possessing more than 28 grams of synthetic marijuana, referred to as K2, with the intent to distribute the illegal drug.

According to police records, on December 4, 2020, a vehicle driven by Dartt was stopped for speeding by Posey County Sheriff's Office Deputy Bryan Hicks. In the course of the traffic stop, law enforcement discovered that Dartt had an active misdemeanor arrest warrant out of Posey County.

Dartt was arrested without incident, and admitted to law enforcement that there was synthetic marijuana located in the vehicle. Law enforcement then located and seized over 100 grams of K2 from under the front passenger seat of the vehicle.

“This was a routine traffic stop that led to a seizure of a large amount of K2. I'm grateful for the work of the Posey County Sheriff's Office in this case for removing these illegal drugs from our community,” commented Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers.

Dartt will be transported to the Indiana Department of Correction to serve his sentence.

**The New Harmony Gazette Publisher's note: This Felon, Dartt, was originally charged with four felony counts, 1) Dealing Schedule I controlled Substance, 2) Possession of Narcotic Drug, 3) Possession

of Controlled Substance I, II, III, IV, and 4) Possession of Marijuana. In the plea deal made by the County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers, Counts 2,3 and 4 were dismissed. And All Habitual Offender Information was dismissed. He'll be out in less than 10 years.

If he had been tried by a Jury of his Peers and the Habitual Offender rule was applied, he would have been looking at another 10 to 20 years away from the public, at least. The last felon which a jury applied the Habitual Offender rule received and additional 20 years. Destroying Jury Trials and making plea deals saves work for the lawyers, Prosecutors and Judges, and also clears the docket, but at what cost to our society? Our nation's founders had it right. Bring back the citizen juries, and democracy to our courtrooms.

In the past six years, Dartt, who goes by the name, Lil Dusty, has been arrested for; Battery of a Spouse, Burglary, Theft, Dealing K2-three times, Possession of Narcotics, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana, Criminal Trespass, Driving with Suspended License, Invasion of Privacy, Battery against a Police Officer, Resisting Law Enforcement and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

In each appearance, in the Posey County Court, usually before Judge Brent Almon, he has received a lenient sentence, if any sentence at all. This is the first substantial sentence, 12 years, that he has received in our court, from Judge Craig Goedde.

CLOSING THE MAIN CAFE!

By: Dan Barton

Certainly, there's gonna be some regrets on December 18th, when the Main Cafe closes its doors for the last time, after 40 years! But there should also be a huge round of applause for a wonderful performance.

It all started when Nina decided to open her small restaurant in New Harmony - and then met and married Bob Duckworth; together they kept the Main Cafe ball rolling throughout their marriage, right up

until the time Bob passed away in June of this year. I bet Nina wishes she had a nickel for each time they came to New Harmony from Crossville, Illinois, and opened those front doors. But now it's time to close one last time, and all of the family and friends who have worked there for so many years, agree.

I'm sure gonna miss those wonderful deserts; the coconut cream pie and the Blackberry Cobbler, and the country style home cooking they served at such unbelievably affordable prices. Still, like all of you, I'm happy that those wonderful people are going to get a little rest and enjoy the peace and quiet of life in retirement.

And really, when you think about it, what kept all of us coming back were those wonderful ladies. It was mostly the ladies who were on the job out front. Always cordial, and always keeping their sense of humor, even when the place was full and going great guns. I don't know how they did it. I'm going to miss them even more than the Pecan Pie; which was heaven on a plate.

As I have pointed out, Nina Duckworth and her husband Bob were in it from the beginning. (Bob filled in after his regular job whenever he was called on for help) Nina's sister, Diana Schwindel was with them for 38 years. Remarkable, isn't it?

Not only that, Kim Jennings, Diana's daughter, has worked at the Main Cafe for 30 years. And Ashland Jennings, Kim's daughter, worked for 5 years. Ashland is now at Deaconess Hospital in Kentucky. Deaconess has certainly got a winner. What a hard worker Ashland was while doing just about everything out front during the COVID crises. A real trooper! And I don't want to forget long timer, Kathy Hurt, who not only did the daily work, but also was on hand for so many of the Kiwanis meetings at night after a hard day of waiting tables. If I've left anyone out, I apologize. I'm sure I have, because it took a lot of hard working, nice people over those 40 years to get it done.

I don't know if you've ever read the Main Cafe reviews on Trip Advisor, but

you should. I can't say any more than the people who have come to New Harmony for a visit and testified to what a great experience they had at that little cafe. We're gonna miss 'em!

JUDGE GOEDDE RELEASES 3 DRUG FELONS!

By: Dan Barton

In June 2021, the New Harmony Gazette turned its attention to a county drug bust called, "Operation Lockdown". This bust was much touted by the County Sheriff Tom Latham as, "a success". He said about the May 14th raid that, "...the actions today will open the eyes of the dealers and let them know we're working diligently to stop what plagues our communities." County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers added, that the goal of this bust was to make our community a safer place to live. He went on to say, "Our criminal justice system must hold drug dealers accountable for their actions, and my office will aggressively prosecute those responsible for contributing to addiction and the destruction of lives and families."

Since June, the Gazette has endeavored to keep a running tab on the progress of the adjudication of those arrested in "Operation Lockdown." Sixteen in all. There have been some notable stringent sentences levied on two of those found guilty of being, "those responsible for contributing to addiction and the destruction of lives and families," in our community.

For instance: Two felons have been sentenced by Judge Craig Goedde. Miranda Richards was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Halley Bates was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Beyond these two isolated cases no prison sentences have been issued.

Since May, two of the three initial escapees reported by the County Prosecutor are still on the run; 1) Stephanie Seabeck (On October 20th Seabeck was re-arrested by Posey County Sheriff's Deputy's on outstanding warrant, Conspiracy to Deal Meth) and 2) Jeffrey Bates.

Timothy Whitfield, the third escapee, was re-arrested and his case will be discussed later in this article.

Zachary Addison is said to be in federal custody since May. His records are sealed. There's no way to actually know his current disposition.

Roy Debose, John Fleenor and Timothy

Whitfield have been released to their own recognizance.

All of the others are pending in the Posey County Jail; Keith Debose, Julie Kuberski, Antjuan Rollins, Linda Schmidt, Wesley Barnes, Cynthia Fleenor, Shane Wright and Brandon Robinson.

So, as it stands, 2 out of 16 drug arrestees have been sentenced to prison, 2 are still escaped, 1 is reported to be in federal custody, 3 released, and 8 are still pending in the Posey County Jail after six months in custody.

The cases that the Gazette will focus on in this edition are those who were recently released by Judge Craig Goedde, by virtue of an agreement between County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers and the defendants publicly paid Defense Attorneys.

THE CASE OF TIMOTHY WHITFIELD:

The first case which will be covered is that of Timothy Whitfield. Whitfield was released by Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde on September 21, 2021. Whitfield was initially arrested in May 2021 with 15 other defendants on the Operation Lockdown drug sweep. He was charged with a felony F4, Dealing Meth. His Publicly Paid Defense Attorney is Jake Warrum. The Prosecutor is Thomas Clowers.

It was reported that Whitfield had escaped at the time of his arrest, by Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham and the Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers. On June 21st after his re-arrest, he went before Judge Goedde, via video and in custody. Judge Goedde immediately reduced Whitfield's bail from \$100,000/\$10,000 to \$1,500 cash bail. The County Prosecutor, Thomas Clowers, objected to the bail reduction, but Judge Goedde went ahead and granted the reduced bail.

On August 5th, Whitfield was released by Judge Craig Goedde. On August 18th Judge Goedde was forced to revoke Whitfield's current bond and order a warrant for his arrest. Whitfield was in violation of the terms of his bail, he had been arrested on August 16th for Domestic Battery and Disorderly Conduct - engages in fighting. He plead guilty to those charges and was sentenced to 74 days in jail.

On August 18th, Judge Goedde set bail at \$5,000. Whitfield appeared before Judge Goedde on September 21st, via video and Goedde ordered Whitfield released on his previous bail bond of \$1,500. The Judge

wants a Status Conference on December 1, 2021. This case is still pending at this writing, while Whitfield is released in the community.

Timothy Whitfield has had 11 prior arrests and convictions, 2 of which were for dealing Meth. He has been previously arrested on charges of Violation of a Protective Order, Intimidation by Force, Criminal Trespass, Domestic Battery, Disorderly Conduct, Dealing Meth, Non-Support. False I.D. and Breaking and Entering a Residence.

THE CASE OF JOHN FLEENOR:

Next up - John or Jonathan Fleenor, 54 - Arrested in May 2021 as part of the Operation Lockdown Drug Bust, for Possession of Meth, and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (a Drug House) - two Felony 6 Counts. The Judge once again is Craig Goedde, Doug Walton is the Publicly Paid Defense Attorney and the County Prosecutor representing the people of the State of Indiana is Thomas Clowers.

Fleenor has been placed on the ACCEPT program by Judge Goedde. On September 15, 2021, Judge Craig Goedde released this defendant to his own recognizance in order that he participate in ACCEPT.

THE CASE OF ROY DEBOSE:

The many ins & outs of the Roy Debose case was partially covered by the New Harmony Gazette in the October edition. In it, the case on Debose, an Illinois resident, was left pending for a Status Conference.

That Status Conference was scheduled for September 21st and Judge Goedde released Debose back into the community. On September 21st, Goedde suspended all charges against Debose and placed him on one year probation for the charge of Possession of Meth, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Maintaining a Common Nuisance for Controlled Substances (A Drug House), after he had plead guilty to all charges.

Debose had previously been turned lose in May 2021 by Judge Goedde on his pending Felony Drug Charges with a low bail of \$1,500 cash, which he paid. Goedde placed the 54 year old man on the ACCEPT program, thinking...well I don't know what Goedde was thinking, but it didn't work, even for a minute, and Debose was re-arrested on July 29th for violating the

terms of his probation.

Released again, and Debose didn't appear for his August 11th Status Conference. On September 7th, Posey County Deputy Sheriffs had to arrest Debose once more on an outstanding Bench Warrant issued by Craig Goedde.

Judge Goedde then immediately released Debose again on September 7th, over the objection of Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers.

Craig Goedde then had to issue yet another Bench Warrant on September 13th because Debose failed report to his Probation Officer. Debose was again arrested, and he requested that he be released on his old \$1,500 bond.

On September 21st, Judge Craig Goedde finally released Debose on a one year probation and suspended all drug charges.

Because, Debose is an Illinois resident, the Gazette has been unable to uncover any prior offenses he may have been arrested for in his home state. The State of Illinois is not nearly as open with its citizens or other police agencies as is the State of Indiana. Could it be because so many Illinois politicians are either in prison or have served time?

I contacted Prosecutor Thomas Clowers about this matter. I asked Clowers to get me a copy of Debose' prior criminal record in the State of Illinois. Prosecutor Thomas Clowers responded saying, "Regarding Mr. Debose's criminal record in Illinois, I wish I could be more help. My office does not maintain or have access to those records. We do often receive copies of criminal histories in the course of investigations, but I am unable to disseminate that information unless it is made public in court proceedings..."

Why a Prosecutor would not ask for or receive this vital information on a defendant such as Debose, who is being adjudicated on serious drug charges, is a mystery. Why the Prosecutor is not fighting to make public this man's past criminal history is beyond my understanding. Clowers does not elaborate. For a Judge to make a decision such as Goedde has made in this case, he should have had to look at both all of the mitigating and the aggravating circumstances of a defendant's criminal past. It appears that the court has completely disregarded any crimes that Debose may have committed in his home state over the past 30 to 35 years.

As jury trials are mostly dead in Posey

County,(the most recent one being brought not by Posey County Prosecutor Clowers, but by the Warrick County Prosecutor) and have been for a decade or more, it would seem to be even more important that past crimes committed in a criminal's home state would have a great bearing on the outcome of the decision regarding conviction and sentence of an individual.

We no longer have the democratic element of a 12 person jury included in the adjudication process in Posey County. It is now only a three man panel that makes the decisions. The Judge is both Judge and Jury in Posey County. Often defendants are held for more than a year in confinement without a Jury trial. Jury trials are cancelled again and again and again, until a confession is taken from the confined defendant.

This system, that seems to have been purposely devised by the court, does not work for the innocent or the guilty, nor for the public. The public has no control, no access to what is happening in their own courtrooms in Posey County and no participation. Let's not forget, the Judge and the Prosecutor are there to serve you, the public. The Defense attorney is usually paid out of our tax money. This coercive system needs to be abolished for the public good.

As a final follow-up to this case, and my inability to get the information the Gazette needs to fully inform the public, I contacted Indiana State Senator Jim Tomes and fully advised him of the dilemma. He did not know about the restrictions from Illinois, and he did not know immediately what, as a State Senator, he could do about it. He promised to look into the matter. He thought that perhaps it might fall under the auspices of one of our U.S. Senators, since it would require some sort of bi-state cooperation. He said he would make contact with one of them and see what they might think.

More on the 16, next month!

THE NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL TOWN COUNCIL HI-LITES AUGUST & SEPT. 2021

AUGUST 2021

LED SOLAR LITES ON TOWN PUBLIC TREES:

Mary Beth Guard requested approval on behalf of the design committee of the New

Harmony Business Associates to place LED solar lights on the five public trees on Church Street in the business district. NHBA will take care of all installation and maintenance as well as purchase costs. All were in favor. In the September Town meeting, Mary Beth Guard, regarding the beautification project, she has agreed to place one set of light in both a tree and a planter so Council can see them. The Town Council turned down this request in October, until further work and review is accomplished by Mary Beth Guard concerning the types of lighting used. Also in October, Town Council President Blaylock urged Marshal Aaron Straub to start more aggressively issuing tickets on vehicles with expired plates and registration, also for properties needing serious upkeep.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FUND:

Robin Lewis presented a proposal to Council for the purchase of new Christmas decorations for the Town. Christmas in New Harmony committee has begun an ornament fundraiser, of which all proceeds from the first year will go towards the cost of any decorations the Town might approve for purchasing. They are hoping to raise \$5,000 through the fundraiser by the first of 2022. If they can't reach this goal the NHBA might advance payment to the Town. According to Lewis, the estimated cost of the Christmas decoration is \$18,000 - \$19,000. Councilman Wade asked if it would be possible to have a fundraiser large enough to cover the entire cost. Lewis said that she did not know and feels that the Town should contribute to buying its own Christmas decorations. Councilman Williams made and Alsop seconded a motion that Council work with Clerk-Treasurer Atkins to determine if funds are available. All were in favor.

UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS

DECORATIONS/SEPTEMBER 2021:

President Blaylock recommended to Council that \$6,500 be transferred from the Riverboat Wagering Fund to the Christmas Decorations Fund. He stated this is a start towards the needed funds for new decorations, as proposed by Robin Lewis. Councilwoman Virginia Alsop then asked if Council could then give additional funds in 2022. President Blaylock stated, "Yes." But he suggested that a set amount not be agreed to at this

time so it can be determined how much will be needed. Councilwoman Alsop said that she feels people would be willing to donate to the cause. Councilwoman Alsop made and Gary Watson seconded a motion that \$6,500 be transferred from Riverboat Wagering to Christmas Decorations. Alsop also noted that the Town will make a similar transfer in 2022. All were in favor.

That \$6,500 withdrawal from the Riverboat Wagering fund to the Christmas Decoration fund was accomplished in the September Funds Statement.

JACK VICKERS COMPLAINTS:

Jack Vickers reported to the New Harmony Town Council in August that he has had nothing but trouble since he move to New Harmony. He complained about junk houses and junk piles in town. President Blaylock stated that the Council is looking into those problems. Mr. Vickers also complained about his neighbors. Councilman Blaylock stated that Mr. Vickers and his neighbor have both complained about each other, and he asked that they get along. Vickers also complained about a dog on a leash that is able to get into the street while the leash is attached and it has chased him while he is on his tricycle. He has reported this to Marshal Straub. Council President Blaylock asked Mr. Vickers to ride on the opposite side of the street.

TOWN GARAGE REPAIR COSTS:

Two quotes received for town garage repair; Nick Cullum Const. for \$5,369 and J.Crum Const. for \$4,200. Councilwoman Alsop made and Wade seconded motion for J. Crum. All were in favor.

**MURPHY PARK
CAMP SITE REPAIRS:**

THE
NEW-HARMONY GAZETTE.

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Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that Camp Sites 1-3 in Murphy Park be re-rocked for \$600. Sites 4-6 are planned to be done in the future. All were in favor.

LOSE ANIMAL FINES UP:

Councilwoman Alsop made and Wade seconded a motion that the fine for animals running at large be increased to \$50. Necessitating a change in the Town Ordinance 6.04.030. All were in favor except Councilman Tom Williams. Motion carried.

PHASE 3 COVID RELIEF FUNDS:

Robin Lewis thanked the Town for the COVID relief funds.

SEPTEMBER 2021

**TOWN PURCHASES
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT FROM
UNITED FIDELITY:**

Town Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins reported that nine of the Town's certificates of deposit at Crane Credit Union have matured and been cashed. Councilman Wade made and Watson seconded a motion that 24-month certificates of deposit be purchased at United Fidelity Bank as shown on the list prepared by Atkins. All were in favor.

Council President Blaylock reported that United Fidelity Bank has proposed installing an ITM machine to the ease of Town Hall. They have discussed this with the Postmaster.

**NOVEMBER GAZETTE RECIPE
PUMPKIN TRUFFLES**

by: Denise Rapp

It wouldn't be right if I didn't share a pumpkin recipe of some sort with you during this fall season. These delicious Pumpkin Truffles will be a huge hit with whomever you choose to share them with. Creamy pumpkin centers dipped in velvety white chocolate, will surely satisfy your fall pumpkin cravings.

Pumpkin Truffles
Servings 25-30

Ingredients

½ cup cream cheese, room temp.

2 Tabs. confectioners' sugar
½ cup pumpkin purée
1 ¾ cups cinnamon graham cracker crumbs
(about 12 full sheet graham crackers)
½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Topping

10 oz. semisweet or white chocolate, coarsely chopped
Extra graham cracker crumbs or cinnamon (garnish)

Instructions

Mix together cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until creamy. Add pumpkin puree, graham cracker crumbs, and spices.

Mix on medium speed until incorporated. The mixture should be thick and smooth. Refrigerate dough for at least 3 hours. Scoop chilled dough in generous teaspoon amounts and roll into 1-inch balls. Place on parchment-lined cookie sheet and chill the balls for 30 more minutes.

Five minutes before you take the balls out of the refrigerator, melt the chocolate in the microwave at 50% power level in 30 second intervals. Remove truffles from the refrigerator and dip them one at a time into the melted chocolate. When lifting the truffle out of the chocolate, tap gently on the side of the bowl to allow excess chocolate to drip off. Place balls back onto the baking sheet after you dip each one. Immediately sprinkle with crushed graham cracker crumbs or cinnamon. Allow chocolate to completely set in the refrigerator before serving. Truffles are okay at room temperature for a few hours when serving. Enjoy!

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