

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) March 2022

**JULY KUSTURIN MURDER TRIAL
DELAYED!***By: Dan Barton*

Sometimes, I hate it when I'm right! In last month's New Harmony Gazette, I announced the dates that Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde had set for the upcoming July double-murder trial of alleged murderer Austin Kusturin, who was arrested for the crime in November 2021.

I said, "If Posey County practices run true to form these dates are purely suggestive and will probably never be realized." I added, "These July, jury trial dates are most probably a fiction, and don't even exist in the minds of any of the court officers engaged in this case." Well, I was right! Imagine my dismay, but total lack of surprise, when I recently checked the Posey County Circuit Court records and found that, indeed, after I released the February 2022 edition of the Gazette, a delay had been approved by Judge Goedde.

On January 31st, Defense Attorney Glenn Grampp filed a motion in Posey County Circuit Court for a Continuance (delay) of the Kusturin trial, which was originally to begin on July 6, 2022. Grampp was granted his requested delay by Judge Goedde and the opening date of the trial was moved up to start on July 11, 2022. There was no objection to this change by County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers. There was no specific reason given as to why Grampp asked for the delay.

As a follow up for the New Harmony Gazette's coverage on this case, I emailed Prosecutor Clowers and asked him what Glenn Grampp's reason was

for asking for the delay. Clowers emailed me the official court document filed by Grampp which indicated simply, "A conflict with prior commitments up through July 5, 2022." Since that did not encompass July 6th, I decided to once again to try to get a further clarification of Grampp's reason for the delay. I re-emailed the Prosecutor, saying, "What was the conflict that Mr. Grampp had that caused such an urgent course of action by him? That is what I'm asking concerning the reason for the change in dates!"

Clowers responded, "Unfortunately, I am not aware of his scheduling conflict — I just know it was represented by Mr. Grampp that he had a scheduling conflict that prevented him from starting the trial the week of July 6th. Based on that representation it was agreed the trial would begin July 11th instead."

Not being satisfied with Prosecutor Clowers' explanation, I emailed him again, stating, "Yes. But the document that you sent me at the New Harmony Gazette, called "Verified Motion and Reschedule Trial Date", indicates that, regarding the request for change, "... the State (Prosecutor Clowers) has no objection." No objection and no questions!

I reminded the County Prosecutor that the double murder in November 2021 was probably the most serious case of violence in almost 150 years, and, "...wouldn't it be reasonable for the State and the Court to know the specifics of Grampp's conflict before agreeing to his request. Why then did you not object to this vague motion by Grampp. I believe the people of

Posey County deserve to know all of the particulars about this arrangement. This is not, and should not, be handled as a domestic dispute case. What was Grampp's specific conflict of interest that caused him to request the trial cancelation and why did the court and state not request to know the details?"

Once again, Prosecutor Clowers' answers with a reply that seemingly tries to dodge my question. He says, " Mr. Barton — this case is of utmost importance to my office and is being handled as such. Due to the nature of this ongoing criminal investigation, I am unable to provide you with reasons certain strategic decision are made. I hope that what I was able to provide you with has been helpful." Not quite, I'm afraid.

We still don't have the details or excuse of why such an important case was put on the back-burner by a vague request by the Defense Attorney. Obviously, he would get his delay no matter what, but it's no skin off anyone's nose for the Prosecutor to ask why. As far as Clowers' excuse that by asking for the reason why, it somehow jeopardizes an "ongoing criminal investigation," that's pure hooey. The murder charges have been filed, the alleged killer has been arrested, jury trial dates have been assigned; it would seem ludicrous that the Prosecution would not be ready without some more investigation while the defendant has already been incarcerated on the murder charges.

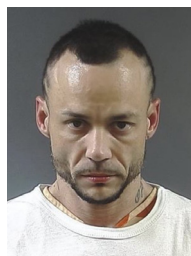
We still don't have, and never will have, a true answer as to why Prosecutor Thomas Clowers was inclined to hold his tongue in the Hall of Justice!

No doubt, there will probably be another delay coming down the pike — if the court officers operate as usual!

Please, let this trial begin!

THE ARREST OF ROBERT MCCARTY FOR DEALING METH!

By: Dan Barton
March 2022



Robert McCarty

As promised, here are the details of the arrest of Robert McCarty of Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Robert McCarty was named by Austin Kusturin, at the time of Kusturin's arrest on double murder charges, as one of the two individuals that had sold him the cell phone that was traced by police to murder victim, John Hall, in the November double murder of John and Elizabeth Hall.

McCarty was subsequently arrested on January 19, 2022, by Indiana State Police on unrelated charges of 1) Dealing in Meth, a Level 2 Felony; 2) Possession of Meth, a Level 3 Felony; 3) Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon, a Level 4 Felony; 4) Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Level 6 Felony; and 5) Maintaining a Common Nuisance — Controlled Substances, a Level 6 Felony.

According to Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers', Indiana State Police reported that McCarty was arrested for possession of approximately 190 grams of meth with the intent to distribute the illegal narcotics.

The Probable Cause Affidavit said that while law enforcement while Indiana State Police were executing a search warrant on McCarty's residence and vehicle, they located the suspected meth and over \$7,000 in cash.

During the search of McCarty's residence, officers also discovered and seized a Hi-Point .45 caliber rifle. According to court records, McCarty is unable to lawfully possess firearms due to being classified as a serious violent felon as a result of a prior conviction for dealing meth.

If convicted as charged, McCarty faces 10 to 30 years in prison under Indiana law, plus a fine up to \$10,000.

Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers also charged McCarty with the Habitual Offender Enhancement, which is based on McCarty's prior criminal history and could add an additional 6 to 20 years to any sentence.

McCarty is currently held in the Posey County Jail on a \$1,000,000 surety or \$100,000 cash bond.

A preliminary plea of not guilty was entered on behalf of the Defendant on January 24, 2022.

A Status Hearing is scheduled for March 30, 2022 with Judge Craig Goedde.

All persons arrested are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ED ADAMS - LEADER OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY!

By: Dan Barton
March 2022

I don't know why I waste my time, I really don't. Ed's answers always seem to miss the mark that I'm expecting. Fortunately, though, I've got time on

my hands and a great sense of humor, I guess.

In the Fall of 2020, during the general elections, I noticed a Dearth of Democrats running for Posey County offices, and so I got in touch with Ed Adams, head of the Posey County Democrat Party, and asked him why that was so. Why weren't the Democrats contesting every office where the Republicans had candidates. Now, just for the record, I'm neither a Democrat nor a Republican, but just doing my duty as an investigative reporter.

Ed let me know that most of the people in the county were going to vote for the Republicans anyway because of Donald Trump - that they all followed Trump's aura, or something like that. Adams also noted that the other good reason for so few Democrats on the ballots was because the Wilson's ran Posey County and everybody living in it, apparently, and voted on their advice (or demand). That was, seemingly, Ed's reasoning!

There were no Democrats running for Posey County Superior Court Judge, County Treasurer, County Surveyor, County Commissioner District 1, and No Democrat ran for District 3 County Commissioner, in the Posey County General election of 2020.

You folks might remember that the Gazette ran a column about this in the October 2020, New Harmony Gazette. The column was entitled, "Where did all the Democrats Go?"

I had emailed Ed on September 21, 2020 at 2:20 p.m. and apprised him of this development regarding "No Democrats". I said, "What gives? As the saying goes: If you're not in it, you can't win it." Ed got right back to me at 5:19 p.m. and said, "This is a long topic to type out on my phone. Let's just say we live in a red trump loving

county and until that changes there will probably be fewer people run..." At 5:38 p.m. Ed adds, "I guess everyone is happy with the Wilson's calling the shots."

And so, here we go again! I received a copy of the May 2022, "Summary Candidate Office Report" at the Gazette Office and right away I noticed that something was not quite right. Once again, a Dearth of Democrats" in the May Primary. "A mistake, maybe?" I thought. Right away I emailed Ed Adams, Democrat Party.

I say, "Hi Ed. I've been receiving emails from the Republican party on a regular basis at the New Harmony Gazette but nothing from the Democrats. I'd like a complete list from your party regarding who is running for what. I hope you can help." Ed responds by redirecting me to other sources, such as the Posey County Clerk's Office.

I got back to him, and said, "I do have the Posey County Clerk's list that they put out but wasn't sure that it was accurate, since many of the important offices did not show any democrats on the proposed ballots. I see no democrats running for the State Senate, Posey County Circuit Court Prosecutor, County Clerk, Assessor, Auditor, County Commissioner Dist. 2 or the Posey County Sheriff. Is that information correct, Ed? If so, why has the Democrat Party bowed out of contesting the Republicans for these offices?" Ed responds, "That is correct"

Not to be discouraged, your intrepid New Harmony Gazette reporter went back at him again, "Why has the Democrat Party bowed out of contesting these seats in the May Primary? There are only Republicans without your party's participation.

Ed Adams got back to me on email at 3:30 p.m., Friday, February 25th, saying; "Mr. Barton - Just because the

primary ticket on the Democratic side is not full, we do have several offices where people have filed, but this is only for the primary. Now keep in mind that both sides have the ability to fill the openings from the primary to run in the general election this fall.

"I'm taking a chance here on how you will handle this but I think you should ask yourself why are the 3 incumbents on the county council not running for re-election??"

"And let's don't forget why does the incumbent Sheriff have two opponents in the primary??"

These are all good points and good questions for Ed to ask, and I assured him that I had some of the same questions myself. I thanked him for his clarification and said I would try to leave the hard stuff for the Fall.

I reminded him, though, that The New Harmony Gazette was not a newspaper, per se, but a commentary periodical. Once a month, usually politics or crime, one and the same sometimes. I explained to him that my position was that we need to keep a strong two party system in Posey County. I also let him know that, of course, anybody can run for office, even I ran. So did Ed.

The New Harmony Gazette will keep an eye on what happens down the road based on this Dearth of Democrats in the primary, and how Ed and the Democrat party develop their strategy in the Fall general elections. It should be interesting!

**THE DEBLERT MCKINNEY
ALLEGED CHILD MOLESTATION
CASE!**

**By: Dan Barton
March 2022**

Delbert McKinney, a lifetime sex offender, alleged Child Molestation

Case, is at this writing, still scheduled for the trial dates set by Judge Craig Goedde, for March 16, 17, and 18, starting each day at 8 a.m.

McKinney was arrested in August 2020 for this crime and has been incarcerated in the Posey County Jail since his arrest. A year and a half. McKinney was previously arrested for Child Molestation on February 8, 2016.

He was sentenced to two years prison with Indiana Department of Correction by Judge James Redwine for that crime against an eight year old girl, and was released from custody after serving one year of that sentence. Then rearrested on a separate child molestation charge in 2020.

**THE HARMONY WAY BRIDGE
AUTHORITY!**

**By: Dan Barton
March 2022**

It's been awhile since The New Harmony Gazette has said or reported anything to do with the bridge. It's still closed, as all of you know. I rarely hear anything from any of the Commissioners, but I still keep tabs.

The last time I spoke to anyone about the bridge was in November 2021, when I happened to run into Bridge Authority Chairman Rod Clark. He was putting up festival signs. I didn't press him, but I did mention that there hasn't been any news from him about the federal grant application that they filed in March of '21. On this particular day, November 15th, he said that they hadn't heard anything from the feds. I asked how much he thought the grant might pay if the Authority got the whole thing; was it ten or fifteen million, I asked him. He didn't know how much the grant was for, he said.

The next day, November 16th, I heard that Bridge Commissioner Lora Arneberg spoke at the monthly Town

Council meeting and she affirmed Clark's information, saying, that the Authority was still waiting to hear on the grant funding.

On November 17th the feds announced that the grant funding had been awarded to a project in Dunes Park, in Northern Indiana. It was something over 18 million.

A short time later I ran into Bridge Commissioner Ron Eimer and he confirmed Lora's remarks as true. The Bridge Authority did not get the grant.

This is the second time in as many years that the Authority was left out of the grant award. The year before the grant went to an Indianapolis project to add a lane to one of their highways.

Now, just the other day, one of my friends in New Harmony passed on a news article from The Navigator in Illinois. It was written by Len Wells, whose been following the bridge plan development all along. People in Illinois are anxious for the bridge to reopen, just like people in Indiana. Let the commerce flow.

Mr. Wells' article, in part, says, "During a meeting Friday (December 18, 2021) of the Illinois New Harmony River Bridge Authority and the Indiana New Harmony Wabash River Bridge Authority, officials were informed that their application for a RAISE grant had been rejected. RAISE is an

acronym for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity discretionary grant program administered through U.S. Department of Transportation. Officials suggested the grant application was rejected because the bridge project was not a "shovel ready" project."

Illinois Bridge Commissioner, Ellen Schanzle-Haskins spoke about the next step in their effort to find funding for the bridge. She said, "We want to have a meeting with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Senators Durbin and Duckworth. We need to put in a request for money to complete Phase 2 of the engineering. If we can get the funding through IDOT or the Governor's office, we can finish the engineering study and the project will be shovel ready. We can't let this project stall at all. The completion of Phase 2 will tell us exactly what needs to be repaired and where. When they are ready to hand out infrastructure funding, we are ready."

Publisher's Note: If anyone of you in the public receive any information on the progress of this Bridge Authority's attempt to reopen the bridge, you can send it to The New Harmony Gazette by email - draybarton@gmail.com or to our mailing address at P.O. Box 551, New Harmony, Indiana 47631. It will be reported by this paper and would be most helpful.

MARCH GAZETTE RECIPE

By Denise Rapp

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

Makes 18

I love muffins of all sorts but blueberry muffins are my most favorite. Muffins are great snacks for any time of the day not just mornings. Make these delicious muffins next time you are in the mood for a sweet treat.

Ingredients:

2 eggs
1 c. sugar
1/2 c. canola oil
1 c. sour cream
1 tbs. vanilla
1 tsp. white vinegar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
2 c. flour
1 1/2 c. frozen or fresh Blueberries

Instructions:

Preheat oven 350
Line muffin pan with cupcake liners
Add eggs & sugar to mixer and incorporate
Add sour cream, oil, vanilla, vinegar & spices- mix well
Add flour - mix
Gently fold in blueberries
Add 1/3 c. Scoop of batter to each cupcake lined muffin cup
Bake for apx. 15 minutes for until muffins are slightly golden on the edges and tops bounce back when you touch them.
Enjoy

THE NEW-HARMONY GAZETTE.

Dan Barton
Publisher

New Harmony Gazette
P.O. Box 551
New Harmony, IN 47631

Contributing Writers
Dan Barton
Denise Rapp



The Antique Emporium is now selling:
Artisan Homestead Goat's Milk Soaps & Lotions