

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) August 2022

**POSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
RACE HEATS UP!**

**By: Dan Barton
August 2022**

It looks like we may have a contest here, with regard to the Sheriff's race. Sheriff Tom Latham appears to have a credible opponent on his hands.

As I was peering over the names of the candidates who have met the deadlines in the Posey County General Election in November, I noticed the name Tobin Riney listed as an Independent, running for Posey County Sheriff. Since I didn't know Mr. Riney, or anything about him, I emailed him an inquiry letter. Here is what was said:



**TOBIN RINEY, FORMER
VANDERBURGH COUNTY
DEPUTY:**

“From: New Harmony Gazette, Dan Barton; To: Tobin Riney, July 12th - Mr. Riney, my name is Dan Barton; I am publisher of The New Harmony Gazette in New Harmony, Posey County Indiana. It's a practice of the Gazette to email some of the candidates for office questions regarding their plans if they are elected to the office that they seek. Email has proven to be the most efficient and accurate form of communication for gathering information from both candidates and

current officeholders.

I have sent a number of questions to your opponent, Sheriff Tom Latham and I have his answers, he will no doubt receive more questions from me before the November elections take place. In the case of your challenge to Latham's office, most of the people in Posey County probably do not know who you are, and so, it's important for the Gazette to cover some of the issues that they may have questions about.

First, I'd like to know why it is you've decided to run for Posey County Sheriff, especially since you have lived in Vanderburgh County most of your life and just recently moved to Posey County.

I'd like to know what it is you plan to do that will improve the operations of both the Sheriff's Office and the Posey County Jail. How much experience do you have in running the day to day operations of a Sheriff's Office and a County Jail?

As I said, most people in Posey County have never heard of you. What is your background in Law Enforcement? What do you believe qualifies you for the job of Posey County Sheriff?

The other matter that most voters have concerns about, especially with a new candidate, is how you are funding your campaign. How are you funding yours; billboards, road signs, etc. By who, and how, is your campaign being funded?

I thank you for your time, Mr. Riney, in answering these questions for The New Harmony Gazette and the people of New Harmony and Posey County.”

“From Tobin Riney: Daniel, thank you for reaching out to me. I decided to run for Posey County Sheriff because I

live here, my family lives here and my step-son goes to school here. I have spent the last 30 years working for the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and I love what I do. I offer 30 years of knowledge, know how, resources and experience.

My plans, if elected as the Sheriff are to improve training, offer more training and develop a good working relationship between the Sheriff's Office, Fire, EMS, the Mount Vernon Police Department and the residents of Posey County. I am a firm believer in having an open door policy. I am currently working with our School Resources Deputies on how to obtain grants for full time SRO's (School Resource Officer's).

Eighteen (18) years of my career was spent working in the former and current jail. I graduated the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 2010. Since then I have worked the road, transports, and courts. During this time I became a Communications Instructor, a state certified Firearms Instructor and a Medical Instructor.

I am currently a guest instructor at the ILEA (Indiana Law Enforcement Academy). In my career I completed SWAT training at Camp Atterbury, I am a certified ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) Instructor, ERASE (Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events) certified and currently on the Southern Indiana Honor Flight Medical team.

I am currently funding my campaign through fundraisers and donations from people and businesses. With this I am purchasing t-shirts, billboards and yard signs. Again, thank you for reaching out to me and I look forward to hearing back from you.”



SHERIFF TOM LATHAM:

Sheriff Latham's been in Law Enforcement in Posey County since 1997. Most of it with the County Sheriff's Office. Latham is the Republican incumbent in the November race. Tom Latham became Sheriff in December 2018 and had previously held the Office of Posey County Chief Deputy for almost nine years. Before becoming Chief Deputy he had also served the Sheriff's Office as an Investigator (Detective) as he had stated in a December 2019 New Harmony Gazette interview. In a July 2022 Gazette interview, Latham also revealed that he was in charge of registering sex offenders in Posey County from 2008 - 2011. He holds an Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Vincennes University.

When The New Harmony Gazette first decided to look at the Posey County Sheriff's Primary race for the April edition of the Gazette, six questions were sent to Sheriff Tom Latham for his response, all of which are repeated, as follows:

Q-Gazette: To what do you attribute the cause of so many, especially Posey County inmates, currently being housed in the Posey County Jail?

A-Sheriff Latham: Depending as whether the current Posey County population are sentenced or Pre-Trial detainees would help answer the question. With that being said, as of today, March 25, 2022, there are 69 Posey County inmates, 42 are pre-trial detainees and 27 are sentenced.

Q-... why are they lingering in our

detention facility and not being quickly adjudicated and transferred to IDOC or released in some other regard?

A-I'm unable to answer this question, for my position as Sheriff is to provide safe housing to those who populate the jail, in addition provide them access to court and his or her council or representation.

Q-What does it cost the taxpayers of Posey County to house an inmate in the Posey County Jail for one year?

A-Prior to COVID we were able to keep meals, per person, down to just below \$3.00 per meal. During that time we were able to purchase milk at \$.99 per gallon where now we are paying \$3.19 per gallon. Due to food price increase we have a little more than doubled in cost. Breaking it down for an average, due to a person being indigent or not, is very strategic. According to the State of Indiana it costs an average of \$52.61 per day (\$19,202.65 per year) to keep an adult inmate incarcerated in the State of Indiana, which is ironic because the state will only pay each county in the state \$37.50 per day to house state prisoners.

Q-Why has there been such a shortage of jailers recently, and still your facility is down four positions (March 2022)?

A-The reason for shortages, not just in our jail but seems to be a nation wide issue, may be our own U.S. government. Over the course of a month we took in about forty applications for the position of jail officers. Most of the applicants were given the opportunity for interviews and never showed. Several were offered the positions and were given start dates and never arrived to work, only to not answer the phones when we attempted to make contact with him or her. Many Sheriff's Offices throughout the state are faced with this same issue. Just recently, I spoke with Vanderburgh County Sheriff Wedding, who stated he was thirty jail officers short.

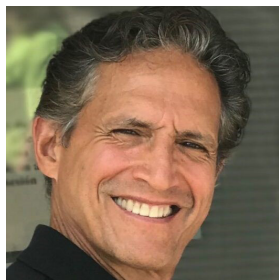
Q- Are our jailers leaving for reasons other than retirement; if not what is the reason they are leaving?

A-Most jail officers are leaving the jail for better paying jobs with better hours of work, and or other jobs they wish to take, in efforts of moving in the career field they want to take. I always wish them the best and understand if it better fits his or her life to leave, most of the time welcoming them back if able.

Q-Why is it that the Posey County Jail is having such a hard time recruiting and keeping Jailers?

A-Recruitment is always up and down, but faced with the issues of, in my opinion, government funding individuals has been an issue. In addition the stigma which the national media has thrown on law enforcement, in general, doesn't help. I believe some associate the jail as a law enforcement affiliate. Those who have come and have left, state the job wasn't for them or they too, have left for better paying jobs. The jail environment is very unique and unpleasant while working as a jail officer. Jail staff are faced with people who smear feces on the wall, throw urine, spit, bleed, and the staff must try to subdue the folks who are doing these things. A Jail Officer is a special person and not all are capable of the position. I commend those who we hire and then leave when he or she recognizes it's not for them. I have a great staff who work diligently to make the jail a safe environment for the inmates, staff, and community.

It's my hope we will continue to move forward in hiring those who answer the calling. At one point we were seven jail officers down from fifteen, and now (March 2022) we are down three. We continue to make progress, but I'm also very cautious of who I hire to work in the jail, and should be because everyone's safety is at stake.



THE GLORY OF SMALL TOWNS AND MARCHING BANDS

By: Richard Moss, M.D.

August 2022

For many years I had listened to the recitals and drills occurring in the distance, at the High School, just two blocks from my home. It was in the evenings, of course, after school, with the sun setting, glittering twilight fading into inky darkness, and the often chilly temperatures of early autumn descending upon the tormented students, marching stoically if not deliriously into the long night.

I heard the truncated blasts of the winds, the bles of the brass and the staccato of percussion, loud and abrupt, stopping and starting, shifting and adjusting in interminable reiterations, in some manic pursuit of an unattainable vision, to pluck the platonic ideal from the ethers, and magically transform this rabble into a silvery, mellifluous, marching band; it seemed a Sisyphean task from which no good could emerge, only frustration.

After the din was a voice from Mt. Olympus, emanating from a Zeus-like figure, the director, ensconced upon a mechanical perch, as if upon some cloud encrusted peak, hurling flame and thunder, scolding, hectoring, commanding his young minions to hasten or slow, play louder or softer, demanding yet better performance from his weary foot soldiers in the quixotic quest of excellence.

I came to observe the maneuvers on many occasions, lured by the sound and fury, the evolving (and, yes,

improving) renditions, the glorious misery of the students shivering in noble endeavor, with my two young children at the time, 10 years ago, convinced that I would never subject them to such chaos and tribulation, when they came of age.

I could not imagine then what possible reward could justify the prolonged agony, the incessant exercises, the competitions and recitals, the unending bus rides, the grand effort and machinery and force of numbers required to produce so elaborate a display. Little did I realize then that, as ineluctably as summer passes into fall, that, indeed, my young children would too blossom into adolescence and join the ranks of their storied colleagues, to participate in one of their town's most historic and splendid institutions, one even serving as drum major for two years.

Or that my wife and I and two other young children, the same age more or less as their older siblings when I had foolishly indulged my knavish skepticism earlier on, would attend slavishly its every performance, fascinated, uplifted, now drawn to it, to marching band, awe-struck and rapturous, unable to resist its spell, deny its charm, more than an enthusiast or fan, rather a zealot or fanatic that simply could not get enough.

I too now found myself preparing burgers at district and football games like other band parents. I too involved myself in fundraisers. I too followed the progress of the band, the weekly report from the principal, the bombastic rumination of its quirky but beloved leader (the band director), marking my calendar, and checking my schedule, my life no longer my own but an appendage of the marching band, to which I swore unflinching fealty.

I monitored the steady evolution of the program, the tightening and refinement of the execution, the

wondrous integration of music, marching, and sparkling color guard, the ordered, frenetic, put poetic movements, the shimmering flags and leaping butterfly figurines, the exquisite and soothing musical interludes interwoven with triumphant crescendos, the ever changing contours of the marchers and guard, converging and reforming in dazzling shapes, angles, and textures, darting and dividing artfully, like black and gold estuaries merging and separating in perpetually evolving archipelagoes, resisting the entropic tendencies, and channeling the energy, sound, and motion, into a glorious synergy, a magnificent unity infinitely greater than the sum of its rapidly shifting parts. What exaltation!

Their performance at State was its best. I was convinced of their inevitable triumph. Then I watched in despair when, in an inexcusable lapse, two judges on the field judges on the field delivered unto our lions a fourth place rank, falling behind bands our team had defeated handily only a week before. The disappointment was profound. I had become identified with the band. Their unjust loss was my own, and, in truth, I am still mourning.

Yet the memory of the season, the exhilaration of the band's performances through the year, lingers. Indeed, I find myself reliving the moments through videos and photos, as if unable to relinquish it, almost wishing it could go on, despite my many other obligations. I no longer cared. Such had become my attachment to the hardships and travails of the band. I had come full circle.

There really is nothing like it. The effort required to render order, symmetry, and beauty from some 175 odd teen-age marching musicians and dancers, delivering some eight minutes of unparalleled joy, mixing magically the subtle and flamboyant,

the nuanced and the majestic, the lyrical and the resound, is nothing less than inspirational.

Marching band brings forth the best of republican virtues: initiative, discipline, teamwork and devotion to a cause greater than oneself. It is from such high-minded pursuits that great citizens emerge. I applaud the Jasper Marching Band, its students, band-parents, staff and band directors.

It is, perhaps, in our small towns, tossed and scattered across the heartland, where we have our greatest opportunity to salvage the American republic. Here, we hold fast to the formerly mainstream verities of hearth and home, faith and family, God and country. Here, we cling to the customs and mores of a commercial republic, based on the principles of liberty, limited government, and private property rights. We uphold such quaint notions as sacrifice, dedication and the pursuit of one's dreams, all nurtured in an ambience steeped in the Judeo-Christian ethos, family, church, civi associations, and community.

We recoil from the sixty-year assault on our culture and civilization by the Left, and its noxious ideologies such as critical race theory, radical feminism, and transgenderism. We shudder at the horrendous damage and moral anarchy that has culminated in widespread illegitimacy, dysfunctional families, welfare dependency, drug addiction, and criminality. We are aghast at the relentless indoctrination

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of our youth in our entertainment, films, social media, and, especially, our schools and woke churches. Yet, there remains an appetite to stand athwart the cult-Marxist wave and preserve our way of life.

At the national level, it appears we are broken, hopelessly divided between two competing visions, but we may succeed on a local level, and, perhaps, at a state level, in certain red states. It is locally, though, where we can attend school board meetings, petition our county commissioners, and lobby our city councils. Locally, we are best positioned to defend our beliefs, and preserve the sanctities and traditions that bind a community and a society, and allow a people to thrive and flourish. Here, we can best defend American values and Western civilization, and begin the long march through our institutions - to retake them - or create new ones. The spiritual rot is deep, the chaos profound, and surely it begins at the head, but there remains shoots of life, sprigs and seedlings of truth, beauty, and goodness across the vast expanses of the continent, and, yes, they flourish in small towns like Jasper, Indiana.



AUGUST GAZETTE RECIPE

By: Denise Rapp

ARTICHOKE CRAB DIP

Serves 6

Nothing says Summer like artichokes and crab. Mix them both together and you have the perfect Summer appetizer. Serve this with crackers or bread crisps and you're ready for company.

Ingredients:

4 oz. cream cheese - room temperature
4 oz. artichokes hearts - drained & chopped
1/4 tsp. old bay seasoning
Sea salt & cracked pepper
Zest of one lemon
2-4 oz. Crab meat - drained (or fresh)
One clove of garlic - chopped fine
One small onion
1 tbs olive oil
1 tsp butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375
Chop onion and garlic, add to a medium skillet w/ oil and butter
Sauté on medium heat until slightly brown
Meanwhile, with a hand mixer, cream cream cheese with spices & lemon until light and fluffy
Fold in chopped artichokes and crab
Place into a pie dish or medium size baking dish
Bake for 15 minutes
Enjoy!

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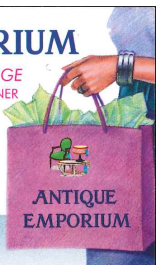
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