

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

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) April 2024

NEW HARMONY TOWN INVESTMENT STRATEGY!

By: Dan Barton
April 2024

Back in January of this year there was a lengthy discussion among council members about the 100% investment of Town money into one bank, United Fidelity, and whether it was a wise and safe way to handle town money. There were several questions and suggestions but no conclusive statements or answers on the subject so I wrote to Council President Jeff Smotherman and got answers and in a timely fashion. Here is what Jeff said:

“Your statements regarding the meeting comments discussing the CD’s are accurate, and after investigating our options to maximize our return on investment, they were reinvested at United Fidelity. At the time of the meeting you mentioned, rates were advertised at 5.48%, but by the time of maturity they were at 5.25% APR. with APY being slightly below that number. This is what we locked in at for 10 months. As to your question regarding Financial advisors and money market accounts, both were looked into and no actions taken as to hiring of one. The money market option being looked at was through a group called Trust Indiana, and they do offer an option that doesn’t penalize for early withdraw, which allows anytime access to funds, but no lock in on rates for a term. At the time of maturity rates were slowly falling which is part of the choosing to lock in at United Fidelity for the 10 months. Also many meetings held with bank officers, Posey County Treasurer, Finance/Investment advisers and other banks in the area, this seemed to be the best option for the current maturing CDs.

“The previous Board/Clerk Treasurer had invested in these CD’s as well as others that mature in July I believe of 2024. I am one who does not believe in having all our funds in one bank, and I am confident that we will be doing some diversification in the

future as things progress.

“US Department of The Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of The Currency is the group that filed the Order of Consent with United Fidelity. The stipulations set forth in the consent order have been met at each benchmark 30 days, 45 days, 60 days and 120 days and started back in October 2023.

“The town has about 4.3 million at United Fidelity, all of our funds. I believe this was decided back several years ago when there were no banks available any longer in New Harmony? Our Clerk Treasurer has full authority to make investments on her own under state statutes, but she has done her due diligence as well regarding to United Fidelity. The most important deciding factor in leaving our funds with United Fidelity is that all Public funds are fully insured under the Public Deposit Insurance Fund. No chance of losing any of our funds, maybe some inconvenience should a bank close or be sold, but no loss.”



DOCTOR RICHARD MOSS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS!

By: Dan Barton
April 2024

While speaking to my sister, who lives in Evansville, on the phone the other day she informed me that Dr. Richard Moss had entered the race for U.S. Congress this year. She said that she had seen his election campaign flier and wondered if it was the same Richard Moss who had submitted articles that were presented in The New Harmony Gazette. I told her that I was unaware of Dr. Moss running this year, but told her that I was pretty sure that it probably was him. Since then I have found out that Dr. Moss is indeed running for Congress in this Southern Indiana District.

Doctor Richard Moss has been sending a steady stream of well written articles to this newspaper for the last few years. He is a doctor from Jasper, Indiana and is campaigning to replace U.S. retiring Rep. Larry Bucshon in R-Ind. District 8, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Doctor Moss launched his campaign in January of this year but I was unaware of it until my sister told me. So this article about him was unsolicited and is being presented voluntarily by the Publisher of The New Harmony Gazette.

Doctor Moss’ campaign ad release says that he will bring a “wealth of experience” to Washington D.C. as an entrepreneur, medical doctor, author and a “conservative fighter.”

If you have been following his articles in The New Harmony Gazette then you well know that he is a “Conservative Fighter” and that he pulls no punches!

Doctor Moss’ press release states that his campaign will focus on:

- * Combating immigration
- * Improving the “failing economy”
- * “Getting big government off the backs of hardworking Americans.”

Doctor Moss says, “After much prayer and consideration, I am excited to launch our campaign for Congress.

“In just three years, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have turned our country upside down. Their reckless open-border, soft-on-crime, and socialist economic policies are putting our country at risk. Lawmakers in Washington have forgotten what it means to be hometown proud and I will bring our hometown Hoosier values to Washington.

“I have lived the American dream because my single mother, who raised five children, made sure we understood the values of hard work and an honest living. Today,

Democrats in Washington are fighting to prevent the next generation from enjoying the same dream I had. In Washington, I will continue to push Donald Trump's America First policies to put an end to Joe Biden's reckless agenda and turn our country around."

Doctor Moss is a graduate of Indiana University for both his Undergraduate Degree and his Medical Degree. He is currently a surgeon practicing in Jasper, Indiana.

NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND WHAT THEY DO!

By: Dan Barton
April 2024

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JUDGE GOEDDE MOVES KUSTURIN DOUBLE MURDER TRIAL UP TO MAY 28TH, THE EIGHTH TIME IN JUST OVER 2 YEARS OF DELAYS!

By: Dan Barton
April 2024

As publisher of The New Harmony Gazette, I have been pursuing the truth in the Double Murder of Elizabeth and John Hall that took place in early November 2021. To date it has been an exercise in futility. There has been little or no cooperation with regard to questions asked of Posey County Prosecutor Clowers, Sheriff Tom Latham and Indiana State Police Investigator Weston Kuykendall, but I am convinced that someday the truth shall prevail if I persevere. I don't know what it is they have to hide, but someday in the end we will all know.

As you see from the headline, Judge Craig Goedde has agreed to move the murder trial of Elizabeth and John Hall yet again - that marks eight delays in just over two years. Judge Goedde has never seen an excuse for dawdling and procrastinating that he doesn't like. So here he goes again! May 28th this time! If you want to believe that any of these attorneys in the Posey County Circuit Court will try a case the day after Memorial Day, then I have a bridge you might be interested in. All you have to do is go back to when Grampp took over this case from Jake Warrum and see for yourself how Grampp excused himself for the July 4, 2022 holiday. And he's been on a roll ever since, thanks to Judge Craig Goedde. It's a joke folks, and it's on you, the public taxpayers!

I make it a point not to go to bat for felons, but something smells bad about this case and I believe the least we can do for Elizabeth and John is try to deliver the truth in their murders. Not only do I want to see the right person go to prison for murder but I don't want to see the real murderer go to jail for something less than the crime he committed, and then be back out on the street in a few years with bragging rights, and once again commit another horrendous crime.

As you know, just recently a column appeared in the Official Posey County Newspaper that said, among other things, "Kusturin was arrested outside his apartment building at the 500 Block of Melody Lane in Mount Vernon on November 9, 2021. On November 16, 2021, Kusturin entered a not guilty plea on the following charges...knowingly and intentionally taking cell phones, a tablet

and an AR-15 rifle by using force which resulted in bodily injury: and unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon...for possessing a SHOTGUN AND/OR AR-15 RIFLE after a prior felony conviction."

It's the shotgun reference that interests me the most. This is a brand new development in the Kusturin case, if true. I'm finding it hard to believe that the writer of this article had any way of knowing whether or not Kusturin had possession of a SHOTGUN, unless the remark was fed to her by the Posey County Prosecutor. In any case, I do not take it as a true statement. There has been no SHOTGUN evidence linking Kusturin to the double murder. At least officially it has never been confirmed by Prosecutor Clowers, even after a couple of years of questioning by The New Harmony Gazette. Either Clowers simply would not give a reply to my questions concerning the use of a SHOTGUN, or he would hide behind Indiana Statutes to cover himself. Now, suddenly, out of nowhere, is a remark from a writer who would have no access to the SHOTGUN matter unless it was planted by Posey County Prosecutor Clowers, surreptitiously.

Why, you are probably asking yourself would he do such a thing? Well, it's called PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY! Plausible Deniability is the ability of people, typically senior officials in the court or government, to deny knowledge of "or responsibility for" actions committed or remarks made by them or members of their organization. In this case by feeding the press a remark that accuses, without proof, the defendant Kusturin of having or possessing a SHOTGUN, which is quite likely the murder weapon of choice in this crime, though he has never been officially accused of having a SHOTGUN in any official document, and then the Prosecutor either does not answer questions by the press or will deny responsibility for the remark.

Prosecutor Clowers has never confirmed openly or officially that a SHOTGUN was used in this crime, and he certainly has never remarked, at least to The New Harmony Gazette, that Kusturin ever had a SHOTGUN. It was not confirmed in ISP Detective Kuykendall's probable cause affidavit - nor by any remarks from him since his investigation that he has ever made

to the Gazette. Sheriff Tom Latham has never made such a remark, either verbally or in writing, so I wonder how come it just suddenly popped up out of thin air.

What could possibly be the reason for such a possible plant, if it is? Well, I'm sure that I don't know, but if I were to speculate, then such a statement could quite probably sway some future jury member or members to vote for conviction, influenced by this public statement. After all, once the acorn is planted mighty oaks will grow.

Now, I'm not saying that Clowers would stoop to such low-brow duplicity, but at the same time, nothing can be ruled out in the courtrooms of our nation today. It's really very often win/lose and not innocence or guilt that wins the day for a prosecutor.

Not to leave out the Publicly Paid Defense Attorney Glenn Grampp, there is such a thing as "Change Of Venue" and Mr. Grampp should look it up. The Kusturin case may already be on the greased skids, and a mistrial in the works if the court is not careful

So, my question remains, Prosecutor Clowers, "Is the statement made by Trisha Lopez in the Posey County News, that Kusturin was arrested for possession of a SHOTGUN, a true or false statement? Yes or No - Don't wait for the translation!

As of March 20th, No Answer from Prosecutor Thomas Clowers!

"LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATER, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A MIGHTY STREAM!"
KING JAMES BIBLE
THE PROPHET AMOS
The New Harmony Gazette
Publisher Dan Barton

The Following Article was Sent only to Email Readers in February 2024:

Amos - A Prophet from the Old Testament-He was the shepherd of Judah who spoke about the social injustice and economic inequality in the Kingdom Of Israel around 760 B.C.. He explains to exiled Israelites why they were punished and warns Judahites not to fall into the same trap. His warnings would seem appropriate to

we Americans today!

In the January 2024 edition of The New Harmony Gazette, two questions were posed to Posey County Prosecutor Thomas Clowers; 1) Has incarcerated murder suspect Austin Kusturin been injured in any way at the Posey County Jail and what is his present state of health? Prosecutor Clowers did not answer that question, he would only describe Publicly Paid Defense Attorney Glenn Grampp's state of health. 2) Was it a shotgun that was used to kill Elizabeth and John Hall? Prosecutor Clowers flatly refused to answer that question hiding behind Indiana Code 5-14-3-4(b)(1). That same question was posed to Prosecutor Clowers a year before and he ignored it and didn't give any answer to it.

Now, I find in the public court record that Mr. Clowers states on February 23, 2024, and requests the following: That in the Court's (Judge Goedde's) Preliminary Instructions (To The Proposed Jury, Strike") No. 9 and No. 10, paragraph 4 of each, that the wording "while (defendant) armed with a deadly weapon and it results in serious bodily injury to a person (Elizabeth and John Hall) other than defendant" be stricken.

As a Layman observer of the proceedings that have gone on for the past more than two years, I find this development outside my realm of understanding! If this means that the jury is not to be told that the defendant was armed with a deadly weapon, then how was he supposed to have murdered Elizabeth and John Hall, I wondered? It would seem to me that if Austin Kusturin did commit the murders, as he is charged, how did he do it?

Prosecutor Clowers has already offered the defendant several plea deals for Life Without Parole in this case, dropping the Death Penalty threat, on three separate occasions, July 25, 2022, September 14, 2022 and January 18, 2023, without an acknowledgement from the defendant. Now, it seems, Prosecutor Clowers is asking Judge Goedde to keep the jury "UN-INFORMED" about the use of a deadly weapon. Does he think that he can get a conviction on his charge of murder without the jury knowing if the defendant was armed with a deadly weapon, I thought? If so, and without a deadly weapon, then

how was the murder supposed to have happened? Why did Prosecutor Clowers make such a proposal to the Circuit Court Judge? It looks like we may all have a lot to learn!

I wrote a letter to Prosecutor Clowers regarding my lack of understanding regarding this matter and here is what we said:

Dear Prosecutor Clowers:
 February 27, 2024

"It has come to my attention that in regard to the upcoming proposed Jury Trial of Austin Kusturin that a new development has taken place from your office that I need to clarify before I do my next story on this case. It is always my objective to offer you the opportunity of making a clear statement on any new development before a story is written and published for the public's perusal.

"I am advised that you have requested from Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde to "Strike" from the Court's Preliminary Instructions to the Jury, instructions 9 and 10 of Paragraph 4 of each, that the wording "While Armed with a Deadly Weapon and it results in Serious Bodily Injury to a person other than the defendant" be made.

"Is it True? Will the jury be denied the information regarding the use of a deadly weapon by the defendant in these two horrendous murders?

"Do you expect to get a murder conviction in this case without the jury having knowledge of how they were slain?

"If not a shotgun, then please explain to me how exactly they were killed?"

Yours, Dan Barton.

On February 28, 2024, Prosecutor Clowers responded to my inquiry, he said:
 From: Prosecutor Thomas Clowers, To: Dan Barton:

"The changes to the jury instructions you reference will NOT have any impact on what evidence is presented to the jury. The changes simply bring the instructions in conformance with what the law requires. "The jury will also be instructed on all

other charges filed against Mr. Kusturin, including multiple counts of Murder, Burglary, Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon, as well as the following sentence enhancements: Life Without Parole, Habitual Offender and Felony Firearm Enhancement.

“You should review the instructions in their entirety to have a better understanding.”

Thanks.

Dan Barton’s Response to Prosecutor Clowers:

“Thanks for your description. I would like to review the instructions more fully. Please send them to me at the New Harmony Gazette.”

From: Prosecutor Thomas Clowers to Dan Barton:

You will need to request a copy of the court’s jury instructions from the court.

From: Dan Barton to Prosecutor Clowers: I don’t have a contact at Judge Goedde’s office, but it’ll wait. I will run what I’ve got with your explanation. Thanks.”

As this case is still in the pre-trial phase The New Harmony Gazette is taking steps not to involve Judge Craig Goedde in this discussion, but to simply put before the reading public the conversation on the matter that took place between Prosecutor Clowers and Publisher Dan Barton.

After the trial is completed, if it seems necessary, The Gazette will then contact

Judge Goedde for the jury instructions that Prosecutor Clowers refers to. It’s a learning process for most of us, I’m sure!

NEW HARMONY GAZETTE

APRIL RECIPE

By: *Denise Rapp*

MORELS IN SPRINGTIME!

Anyone who knows me understands that I love to hunt morels, in the springtime. My friends call me the “Mushroom Queen” because my foraging pays off, Big-Time!

But, I’m in competition with other fellow royalty. As such, I’m out bright and early, every morning, checking all of my favorite spots.

For those of you who know absolutely nothing about hunting for wild mushrooms, called morels, this means: I go into the woods to find where my mushrooms grow. We call those mystical, wonderful, places “our patches.”

Now, along with finding morels, I usually find lots of poison ivy. Oh, I also find just about as many tiny ticks, as I do morels! Well, that’s not true. Luckily, I’m good at finding morels, so I do find more morels than ticks find me.

If you plan to brave the Forrest, this spring, be sure to cover up and protect your body. I am giving you a recipe for tick spray that I found works well. Mix this in a spray bottle. And, be sure to spray around your ankles, waist and head. Basically, spray all over.

Tick repellent:
2 cups water
1 cup white vinegar
10 drops of tea tree oil

Be sure to wash hands and arms with soapy water, as soon as you get home, to wash off any poisonous oils. Be thorough, and take your time.

Now, another important note! When you hunt morels, you should use a bag, which allows the spores of the morels to still pollinate. So, use a mesh onion or potato sack. The holes allow your morel patches to flourish, year after year.

Now, let’s talk about the reward! How to prepare your morels:

- First, Rinse your mushrooms and place them in a bowl of salted water.
- Next, let them soak for a couple of

hours. This will kill any insects on the mushrooms.

- Then, rinse them again with water. Place the morels in your hands and squeeze the moisture out of them. Carefully, pat them dry. Place them gently on a dry paper towel. They are ready to prepare.

The amount of morels you have may seem puny. Five or six morels do not seem like much at all. However, the morel is the most flavorful mushroom there is to be enjoyed. They are highly sought after. They are at the farthest reaches of the flavor profile for all mushrooms in the world. They are quite renowned! And, imagine, they are native to the woods in our own back yard, in Southern Indiana.

I do not like to do too much to the mushrooms, because their natural flavor is the, “Super-Star!” . . . Most of the time, I follow these Cooking Instructions:

- Sauté them in butter and place them on top of anything I can get my hands on. I prefer them on top of steaks.

Or, as a slight alteration to this, two-step cooking process of sautéing and placing them on top of an item; you can just eat them right out of the skillet!

You can never really mess the enjoyment of these morels up. You can put them in scrambled eggs, or omelets. As a more “prepared” variation: you may like to crush up saltines, into a fine powder; then dredge your mushrooms.

- First, dip the morels in beaten eggs.
- Next, dredge in cracker crumbs.
- The final step is to sauté your “breaded” morels, until golden brown.

I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Now go out enjoy the woods and happy hunting!

Denise Rapp

