

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

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) August 2024

THIS IS IT!

By: Dan Barton
August 2024

This August 2024 edition of The New Harmony Gazette marks the anniversary of the tenth year that I have published this monthly news periodical in New Harmony and Posey County.

I find it remarkable that it has gone on for so long. When the first paper was printed way back in August 2014 it looked like it may run for maybe three years, as did Robert Owen's New Harmony Gazette, which had run from 1825 to 1828. To run ten years, for me at least, was out of the question.

After year number three was reached and I had notified my two writers at the time, Ann Rains and Denise Rapp; Denise promptly advised me that closing was out of the question. She said that she needed more issues in order for her to have enough of the recipes she had been running every month for an upcoming New Harmony Gazette Recipe Book she was planning on printing. So, I revised my plan and decided to run five years. As things go, one thing led to another and here we are at year ten. Well, as the Good Book says, there's a time for everything, and now it's truly time to stop. This is It. So, I hope Denise has her required number of recipes for her planned New Harmony Gazette Recipe Book. Best of luck, Denise!

My plan, presently, is to close this paper as of this edition for at least a year, more perhaps, while I take the time to evaluate a few things. It has to be done. I cannot put it off another year or I'll be looking at year 20 before I know it.

It's been a good run. The New Harmony Gazette has been blessed with good writers and good readers. The Gazette's writers over the last ten years have been Denise Rapp, The Recipe Queen, Ann Rains, one of the finest writers ever to hail from Posey County and beyond. She did the first five years and kept the Gazette running through some difficult times. Another great writer Dr. Richard Moss picked up the slack by submitting his outstanding articles of national interest for

the Gazette shortly after Ann had stopped writing. "How could a small paper like this one be so lucky." I thought. Any paper in America would count themselves as very fortunate indeed to have three such talented writers submitting well written pieces to them, as the Gazette has had. It's regrettable to me that I have to take this break, but it's absolutely unavoidable.

I'll keep it short. May all of you, writers and readers, have a happy and healthy life and may we someday all meet again under the banner of The New Harmony Gazette. Not goodbye but So-Long.

Dan Barton, Publisher, The New Harmony Gazette.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - NEW HARMONY!

By: Dan Barton
August 2024

Mayor Eric Adams of NYC has declared that 110,000 Asylum Seeking New Citizens in NYC are destroying New York. NYC has roughly 9 million citizens, so anyway - those 110,000 new citizens would add about 1.2% additional citizens to New York's population.

New Harmony Councilwoman Lora Arneburg is proposing a housing development for current young residents along with potential new young outside citizens in New Harmony that could add roughly 320 new citizens to New Harmony's current population of 825. That would be an increase of approximately 40%. WOW! And Mayor Adams thinks he's got problems.

DEVELOPMENT COSTS:

My guess is that neither Councilwoman Arneburg nor anyone else has a handle on what it could cost the citizens of New Harmony, both in real dollar terms and in social terms, to develop the 30 acres of school property into a separate community of over 300 people.

This could turn out to be a multi-million dollar project before it's all said and done. But

just how many millions the Town will have to kick-in for this little escapade can only be speculated about.

Will the present school building have to be razed and excavated - let's not forget the school sits on top of an earthen embankment designed to prevent high water flooding and would involve the removal of tons and tons of dirt and landfill? So, who knows what that will cost? Just to simply rehabilitate the school for some future new community use will cost us more than \$500,000! If it can be done!

Let's not forget the cost of upkeep! If the powers that be decide to keep the school. Insurance on the existing building, if owned by us, the citizens of the Town of New Harmony, would be upwards of around \$40,000 per year. Utility Costs could run nearly \$200,000 per year, dumpster fees and security for the building at around \$40,000, upgrading the restrooms will cost close to at least \$20,000 - and these are modest estimates. In the end building needs could top out at more than \$500,000 per year. But who's counting, it's only money!

Which begs the question, can the old school even be rehabilitated for use? Again, how much?

I'm sure very expensive studies will have to be done by our town council just to determine the answer to that question!

The costs of roads, sidewalks, sewers, water lines, power lines and landscaping, etc. etc. etc.; how much?

Where will the funding actually come from? The \$200,000 Lora Arneburg has been awarded by Posey County Politicians, on behalf of you, the citizens of New Harmony, will not touch it! Even the \$457,000 the County Politicians say they have waiting in the wings for Lora's next application for ARPA money on her undeveloped 5 acres - will probably not hope to cover all of the costs up front and per annum.

Since Council President Smotherman, has not been communicating with me about my questions to him on any of the Development

issues I have been relying on answers from Town Clerk Karla Atkins who has just notified me today, August 1, that on one question about whether anyone has filed a development plat recently, that, "The Town does not have the development plat you have requested" better late than never, I say. Thanks Karla!

Nor did the County Assessor or the County Recorder have any Development Plats. I checked. Therefore, it may not be possible that anyone on the Town Council, including Lora Arneberg, could speak definitively as to what the real configuration of the development might look like.

The possibility of a currently filed development plat would have revealed whether or not development action was being considered within the near future. As it stands, it may not yet be a concern. But owning the 30 acres and doing upkeep on the vacant land and school will go hand in hand. The last Town Council, the Blaylock Town Council, did not know what to do with the 30 acres and a building, and it may be that this current Council, the Smotherman Council, will not know either.

I've been using a study by an Architectural firm called Kennedy Hutson, who did a diagram around 2015 for some local people that had development ideas, which had three development schemes that they had dreamt up, since the new potential developer had nothing to offer and there is no other guiding light on how a possible future development might look. Use of the diagram was so that the public might be informed on this most recent matter.

In last month's Gazette, using the Kennedy Hutson housing development diagram of the thirty acres, plus the connecting five acres owned by Councilwoman Lora Arneberg, I attempted to project a reasonable facsimile of how the land in question might be developed. As I just mentioned, that diagram was from a 2015 proposed project that was never started, so I'm using educated Guestimation.

Although Councilwoman Arneberg is going to call a meeting at some unknown time in the future, she says, to discuss the purchase of this school and surrounding property, she doesn't give a hint as to when that will be. What? Two days before the dozers arrive? Yet here we all are with no information and little cooperation from her and her colleagues on the New Harmony Secrecy Council, and left sitting on a \$200,000 Federal/County Commitment Award that may very well have already committed us to owning this property, to boot.

Were any cost estimates acquired by the Council on the costs related to repairing or razing the school before the \$200,000 was applied for? Jeff Smotherman's lips are sealed! After several requests by the Gazette to Smotherman asking for the Town Council meeting date on which this project ARPA application was discussed before submission, Smotherman has opted not to reply. Again, it's a very important question to determine when Lora Arneberg and the Council actually knew about the availability of the \$200,000 funds that were eventually awarded. Citizens need to know!

Not only did I ask Smotherman for the New Harmony Town Council meeting date that there might have been a discussion and a vote on submitting the \$200,000 Grant Request, but I also asked him for a copy of the ARPA request that the Town Council filed in order to receive the Grant. Silence!

I don't know about all of you, but I'm not getting a good sense of what is really going on here behind the public scenes!

Councilwoman Arneberg has already indicated that if the \$200,000 is not enough to buy the 30 acres that she'll just dip into the town treasury for more. Does she need permission from the Council in a public meeting or does she have a blank check? After all, the last I heard was that our Town has accumulated almost \$4 million in cash assets.

Doesn't Councilwoman Arneberg have some duty to the public at large about how she can commit everyone in New Harmony to a project by taking the \$200,000 and not revealing how all of this is supposed to work until it's too late? Doesn't Council President Jeff Smotherman have a duty to provide the press and the public with relevant information about how Town money is being committed to multi-million dollar future projects?

I have also requested, from Councilwoman Arneberg, herself, a copy of the Grant Application that she filed in order to obtain the \$200,000 ARPA/County Grant, but as yet she has not replied. A La, Jeff Smotherman!

Will Councilwoman Arneberg keep coming back to the Town Treasury every time another cash need arises? This time a \$200,000 grant plus another \$100,000 from the Town, then maybe \$400,000 then a million and so on?

Would she be committing the citizens of New Harmony, by accepting the \$200,000 grant, with the requirement to buy and develop

this 30 acres and a school? Even without the citizens knowing beforehand that when the application was even prepared and filed. Some of you may wonder if this constitutes some kind of public fraud or misrepresentation? I can't say that I see it that way, but it's certainly a sleazy way to do business.

Is this housing development plan even sustainable since most of these new citizens would be young, according to Lora, and from out of the area. The question comes up - Where will they work? Where will they find a job? Posey County's unemployment rate constantly hovers around 1%, meaning there are hardly any jobs available, particularly to large numbers of new young citizens. Why do you think you see so many young citizens here aimlessly walking around our town or working at menial jobs for low pay? And worse yet, look at all of the citizens willing to sell death drugs out of drug houses or on the street, just to survive.

We need all of the facts before we can even consider accepting this paltry \$200,000 as a down payment on this multi-million dollar project commitment. Where are the facts Lora?

How could you go out on your own and commit all of us to a development that will cost millions and yet we have no facts to guide us or any explanation from you or your other council-members on what's going on here?

This new, New Harmony Town Council that was supposed to be so open with the public, does not seem to cherish the same interests that I have in the democratic process. Open up! Discuss! Take a vote! Send in the facts to The New Harmony Gazette, so that the public can be properly advised! Don't wait for me to dig them up like I had to do on the Five Acre ownership. And Truly; doesn't it seem like Councilwoman Lora has a vested interest in this project?

**JACK VICKER'S RELEASED
BY JUDGE CRAIG GOEDDE!**

*By: Dan Barton
August 2024*

New Harmony resident Jack Vickers was arrested on September 27, 2023 on a charge of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon. On July 17, 2024 Judge Craig Goedde of the Posey County Circuit Court sentenced Vickers to 3 years (1056 Days), but he Suspended 715 of those days. Vickers served less than one year out of the three in incarceration.

Vickers received 380 Days Credit for time previously served prior to sentencing, and 106 Days earned for Good Behavior or what Goedde refers to as “earned time” prior to sentencing. For a total of 426 Days Credit for the period September 1, 2023 to July 16, 2024 period. The Defendant was fined \$1.00.

Vickers has once again been released into the community. No objection from Prosecutor Thomas Clowers.

Vickers had been arrested twice previously in New Harmony. On September 5, 2023, Vickers was arrested in New Harmony for Intimidation: Where he drew a deadly weapon, For Intimidation: A threat to commit a forcible felony, Stalking: Indecent exposure- appearing in a state of nudity but not in a Public Place but with intent. He was released back into the community by Judge Craig Goedde on those charges.

On October 27, 2022, Vickers was arrested in New Harmony for Ordinary Stalking, Criminal Trespass and knowingly interfering with the possession or use of property. Vickers was released back into the community by Judge Craig Goedde.

In all cases, Vickers was fined \$1.00!

JUDGE CRAIG GOEDDE SENTENCES DOUBLE MURDERER KUSTURIN!

By: Dan Barton
August 2024

You are probably asking yourself; why would Judge Craig Goedde sentence Double Murderer Austin Kusturin to a combination of sentences adding up to 170 years instead of just one Life Sentence Without Parole? Or the Death Penalty? I know, I asked myself that question.

Well, the Internet is my friend! While politicians may not answer questions for the Press or the Public anymore, the Internet will. On one Internet Blog Site, “Too Afraid To Ask”, here is what I learned. “They do that so that the criminal has to overturn each sentence, not just one life sentence or one Death Sentence. So, if Kusturin were able to overturn one of the two Murder Convictions, rather than getting out he would have to overturn the second Murder Conviction also, along with any other charges that were deemed to run consecutively to either of the Murder charges.” In Kusturins case, other than the Murder charges, the rest of his charges will run concurrently.

“The way the laws are written today Parole is allowed after a certain number of years. Also, If that criminal is given a sentence several times the average lifespan, it ensures that they will never be eligible for parole. Let’s also not forget, in prison-time One (1) year does not equal One (1) year. Good behavior and other factors can shorten the years.” So, if there are multiple charges, like Kusturin has, the sentences can be run consecutively (back to back) rather than concurrently (at the same time).”

While there may be some way Kusturin could gain his freedom someday, the chances are pretty much nil under Judge Goedde’s sentencing. Some may forgive him for this horrendous crime, but most of us do not ever want to see him back on the street.

Here’s the way Kusturin’s sentence breaks down:

The Court merges Counts 3 and 5 into Count 1 - Murder a Felony; they are all Murder related charges, and orders the Defendant (Kusturin) to be sentenced to Sixty-Five Years in the Indiana Department of Correction.

The Court merges Counts 4 and 6 into Count 2 Murder, a Felony, all murder related charges and orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) to be sentenced to Sixty-Five Years in the Indiana Department of Correction.

On Count 7-Burglary, a Level 1 Felony, the Court orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) be sentenced to Thirty-Five Years of incarceration in the Indiana Department of Correction.

On Count 8 - Burglary, a Level 1 Felony, the Court orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) be sentenced to Thirty-Five Years of Incarceration in the Indiana Department of Correction.

On Count 9-Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony, the Court orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) be sentenced to Twenty-Five (25) Years of incarceration in the Indiana Department of Correction.

On Count 10- Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 - Felony, the Court orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) be sentenced to Twenty-Five (25) Years of Incarceration in the Indiana Department of Correction.

On Count 11-Unlawful Possession of a

Firearm, a Level 4 Felony, the Court orders that the Defendant (Kusturin) be sentenced to Ten (10) Years of Incarceration in the Indiana Department of Correction.

Counts One (1) and Two (2) shall run Consecutively with one another and all remaining Counts shall run Concurrently with each other.

The Court Enhances the sentence under Count 1 by an additional Twenty (20) Years for the finding of Habitual Offender.

The total sentence is One Hundred Seventy (170) Years executed in the Indiana Department of Corrections.

The Court has not ordered Purposeful Incarceration.

The Defendant (Kusturin) is to receive Nine Hundred Eighty-One Days Credit for time previously served prior to sentencing and

Three Hundred Twenty-Seven (327) days of Earned Time (Good Behavior) prior to sentencing for a Total: One Thousand Three Hundred Eight (1,308) days of credit earned prior to sentencing (November 10, 2021, through July 17, 2024)

The Court Orders that any evidence collected in regard to this case shall be disposed of or destroyed by the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency anytime after the Defendant (Kusturin) is Sentenced.

The New Harmony Gazette recognizes the outstanding and dedicated performance by all of the Court and Law Enforcement Agencies involved in the successful culmination of this case, in particular:

Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde and his staff, The Posey County Sheriff’s Office and Deputies, Indiana State Police, and particularly State Police Detective Investigator Weston Kuykendall, and last but not least The Mount Vernon Police Department.

Of particular note are these Law Enforcement Officers and their Agencies, who were first responders and investigators in the murder investigation of Elizabeth and John Hall :

Mount Vernon Police Department: Lt. Anthony Stallings, Police Officer Mike Collins and Police Officer Korben Sellers.

Posey County Sheriff’s Office: Sheriff’s Deputy Tyler Ritzert (Developed the first lead on Kusturin from Information he obtained

from interviewing neighbors of the Hall's),

Indiana State Police: Trooper Weston Kuykendall, Sgt. Tobias Odem, District Investigative Commander Trevor Helman, Forensic Scientist Mallory Webb and Master Trooper Justin Bean.

The U.S. Marshal's Task Force, Out of Evansville. and The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Federal Homeland Security Offices - The ATF.

And many others that are too numerous to mention. My apologies to any of those whose names I have inadvertently left out.



**GLENN GRAMPP - ATTORNEY IN
KUSTURIN CASE- ARRESTED AGAIN
FOR DRUNK DRIVING!**

**By: Dan Barton
August 2024**

Local criminal defense attorney Glenn Grampp, 76, was arrested and booked into the Vanderburgh County Jail on Friday, July 12, 2024, and released on a \$1,000 bond for drunk driving.

Grampp admitted that he'd been drinking before he crashed his SUV into a marked Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office cruiser outside a Bureau of Motor Vehicles Branch, deputies said.

Grampp, who pleaded guilty to DUI related offenses in 2011 and 2020, was preliminarily charged with two Level 6 Felonies: Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated with a Blood Alcohol concentration of 0.268 or

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more with a prior conviction and Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated with Endangerment.

An affidavit of probable cause filed by Sgt. Corey Chapman of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office sheds light on what allegedly happened.

Just after 8:35 p.m. Friday, a VCSO deputy informed central dispatch that he was involved in an accident at 4209 N. U.S. 41 in Evansville: a Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch. According to the affidavit, the deputy said a Toyota FJ Cruiser driven by Grampp struck his marked cruiser just as he placed his vehicle in drive and began to exit the BMV parking lot.

'Grampp told me that he consumed an alcoholic beverage before the accident, however, he was still good to drive,' Chapman wrote.

Due to knee injuries and poor eyesight, deputies did not have Grampp perform standard field sobriety tests, such as the "walk-and-turn test" or the "one leg stand up." But, according to Chapman, Grampp's blood-alcohol level was measured by a portable breathalyzer as .025

A later chemical test allegedly returned a result of 0.268, more than three times the legal limit in Indiana.

The July 2024 incident marked the second time Grampp is alleged to have struck a law enforcement vehicle while drunk: In 2011, Grampp was arrested after he struck a sheriff's vehicle before hitting a telephone pole, for which he later pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated.

In 2020, Grampp pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated a second time after an Evansville Police Department officer caught Grampp driving with a blood alcohol concentration between 0.188 and 0.203, results attributed to a preliminary breath test and a certified chemical test.

Glenn Grampp was most recently noted in the news as being the Criminal Defense Attorney assigned to the Austin Kusturin double murder case by Posey County Circuit Court Judge Craig Goedde. The case was postponed for over 2 and a half years by continuance delays from Grampp and Goedde, before Kusturin finally confessed to the double killings. Kusturin is now doing 170 years in Indiana Department of Correction prison facilities.

NEW HARMONY GAZETTE

AUGUST RECIPE

By: Denise Rapp

GOAT CHEESE & WALNUT TART

Serves 6-8

This is the perfect Summertime snack. If you feel like doing something nice for yourself, make this Goat Cheese Tart and enjoy life.

Ingredients

Puff pastry
1c goat cheese-crumbled
Salt and pepper
1.5 tsp Herbs De Provence
1/2 c walnuts-chopped
Honey
Egg wash
Fresh thyme sprigs

Directions

Preheat oven to 425
Roll out puff pastry and cut into 8 even rectangles
Use a fork to score a boarder on all sides and poke a few holes in the middle
Fill the pastry's with crumbled goat cheese, S&P and sprinkle with Herbs De Provence. In the center of each, add chopped walnuts & drizzle with honey
In a small bowl, whisk egg with a teaspoon of warm water
Use a pastry brush and wash the scored edges of the pastry
Bake for 20 minutes or until pastry is golden brown
Top with fresh thyme and more honey
Enjoy!

