



Football Friday – Tough night for county teams. Pages 16-17.
Late Summer Sunrise – County experiences rash of beautiful mornings - pg. 18



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

MOUNT VERNON DEMOCRAT

JUDGED INDIANA'S BEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER | SERVING POSEY COUNTY IND. SINCE 1867

75 CENTS VOL. 148 No. 37

18 PAGES — ONE SECTION

WWW.MVDEMOCRAT.COM

Judge smacks down election board

Orders Lueder kept on ballot

By Michael Webster

Posey County Circuit Court Judge James Redwine ruled in favor of Sherri Lueder and ordered the Posey County Election Board to leave her name on the ballot.

"I am going to grant the injunction," said Redwine after more than an hour of arguments and questioning in the packed courtroom, "and as a matter of declaratory judgment, find that, based upon the law, Sherri Lueder's name should be, and is ordered to be, on the ballot for the office of assessor."

"I'm just happy it's all over, and I'm ready to go forward," said Lueder after her victory. "I knew I was qualified and am happy the judge saw it my way. I'm ready to start campaigning and would like to keep it a clean race."

"I'm pleased with the ruling," said Trent Van Haaften, the attorney representing Lueder and Democratic Party. "The court did what we asked them to do - to make sure the voters have a choice, and they now have a choice. The electoral process will move forward without any interference."

"We felt like we presented a very compelling and strong case," said Election Board attorney Bill Bender. "The judge recognized that the Election Board had acted in good faith. It apparently

was a difficult decision by the judge."

The matter ended up in court because Posey County Republican Chairman Greg Newman had challenged Lueder's eligibility based on his reading of the relevant election law's requirement that a candidate for assessor "must have attained" a Level III certification. Newman maintained that Lueder had not attained the necessary certification in time to be eligible for the coming election, which, according to his interpretation of the law, was the date a candidate filed to run for office. Lueder filed to run for office on June 9. She passed the final exam needed to become a certified Level III assessor on May 2. She received the official certificate on July 21.

Posey County Election Board President David Whitten, who was appointed to the position by Newman, and fellow Republican board member Betty Postlethweight, agreed with Newman's interpretation that the Level III certification had to be attained by the time Lueder filed to run for office. Ron Bennett, the Democratic member of the election board, argued that in order to run for office, a candidate had to be certified by the Election

See Lueder, Page 14

Missing woman rescued, two (alleged) sickos arrested



Police and crime scene investigators remove the makeshift cage she was allegedly held in for over two months.

Photo/Michael Webster

Ed. Note: Story contains content some may find inappropriate for minors

By Michael Webster

Joelle Lockwood, who had been missing for almost two months, was rescued from captivity Ronald Higgs, the ex-husband of one of her captors. Soon afterwards, police converged on the mobile home where she had been held captive in Stewartsville and arrested 37-year-old Ricky Roy House, Jr. and his live in girlfriend, 44-year-old Kendra Sue Tooley.

Both House and Tooley have been

charged with multiple counts of kidnapping, criminal confinement and rape. House has additionally been charged with single counts of battery and pointing a firearm.

Lockwood, 30, was confined in a makeshift cage made from a baby's crib and chickenwire.

According to Lockwood, she was walking down Fulton Avenue in Evansville and was offered a ride by House, who was an acquaintance. She agreed to go to his trailer in Stewartsville, but when she wanted to leave, House placed a chloroform soaked rag over her mouth

and nose causing her to lose consciousness. She said she awoke to find herself chained to a bed with her clothing cut off.

Over the course of the next 59 days, Lockwood was bound to the bed or other places throughout the trailer, including the makeshift cage. She was forced to wear a red dog collar with a rope on leash attached to it. She was raped by both House and Tooley on numerous occasions.

See Sickos, Page 6

River Days are here again

The seventh annual Mount Vernon River Days Festival starts Friday, Sept. 12, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 14. This year there will be 149 vendors, including 41 selling food. Attractions include historical demonstrations, a wide variety of musical entertainment, the Smoke on the Ohio Barbecue Cook-off, a beauty pageant, a parade, a pet parade and a fireworks show among many other attractions. In addition to everything else, children can enjoy inflatables, clowns, a zip line, a monkey booth and more.

River Days began as an opportunity to celebrate the Lincoln flat boat coming down the Ohio River, and although, it has grown into a full-fledged festival with all the trimmings, it has continued to strengthen, rather than lose, its historical foundation. "River Days is a festival that celebrates Mount Vernon's historic heritage in relation to the Ohio River," says local historian and Renaissance man Jerry King. "The Ohio River is so important to our community's history. We're celebrating how it helped our economic, social and politics development. Back then, all of the industries were linked to the river: agriculture, shipping corn, salted pork, timber and timber products, as well as other



Visitors enjoy the food and attractions at Mount Vernon's annual River Days festival.

Photo/Kay Kilgore

commodities, were shipped to markets all the way down the river to New Orleans. That laid the foundation for the agriculture, petroleum, and plastics industries we have today."

"Friday is a field day for a lot of the local schools," said Kay Kilgore, one of the event's organizers. "Last year we had over 600 parents and teachers and kids there on Friday morning. Larry Williams and IGA provide them with lunch. The historical demonstrators love it."

For River Days, King and

his wife, Marsha, set up a Civil War field hospital that is visited by hundreds of local

SEE RIVER DAYS
 SCHEDULE
 ON PAGE 3

children. They act the parts of Governor and Mrs. Alvin P. Hovey and also portray a Civil War Army Doctor and nurse and display historical items. The Kings' dis-

play even includes a Union soldier.

"Ben Gibson was a corporal in the 25th Indiana regiment who was wounded in the head and leg at the battle of Shiloh," says King. "We care for him in an army field tent."

"We try to keep alive this part of our Posey County history," continues King. "Our primary purpose is to educate students, children and adults about that important time in our country's history."
 See River Days, Page 14

NH Town Board places Champlin on probation

By Jamie Grabert

In the midst of a packed meeting hall, the New Harmony Town Board voted to keep Scott Champlin as Town Marshall, placing him on probation rather than firing him. His probation lasts until Dec. 15. The terms of his probation have not yet been set.

The board opened the meeting by laying the ground rules and introducing attorney Jason Spindler, of Princeton, as special council for the matter. He explained that the process began with the meeting on Aug. 21, which he said was the equivalent of a trial.

Spindler noted that the actions came from a letter presented to Champlin on July 25. The letter spelled out the four items of concern by the town council: Neglect of duties, violation of rules, disobedience to orders in regards to cleanliness and proper attire, and moonlighting.

See Champlin, Page 14

Park vandalized, American flag stolen

By Jamie Grabert

Early Saturday morning, residents noticed something missing from Riverbend Park – the 10-foot American flag was gone from its perch atop the surround flags. Not only was the flag stolen, but signs around the park were also taken. Mount Vernon Police and Parks Department are investigating the incidents.

According to Parks Dept. Supt. Michael Harshbarger, Street Commissioner Max Dieterle notified him that some residents had reported

the flag missing. Harshbarger said the security footage from the cameras on the concession stand have been reviewed and that they saw people in the park, but could not get a clear enough view of the flag poles to determine the identity of the thieves.

He said the flag was taken sometime between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., but they believe it to have happened around 2 a.m. He said they may have a lead and are working with the

See Flag, Page 6

This Week's Phrase

Find this week's phrase inside the Mount Vernon Democrat, tear out the entire newspaper page and send it in, along with your name and phone number for a chance to win \$100 at River Days 2014. Mail entries to PO Box 767, Mt Vernon IN 47620 or drop them off at our office at 132 E 2nd St., at the corner of 2nd and Walnut. The phrase is: "Everyone was affected in some way by the civil war and many volunteered their specific talents."

Today's Index

Church	9	Legal	12
Classified	10	Obituaries	2
Community	5	Opinion	4
Crime	6	Pets	12
Events	3	Real Estate	10
Government	7	Sports	16
Horoscopes	9	Sudoku	9

Contact Us

editor@mvdemocrat.com;
 call 838-4811; fax 838-3696; P.O. Box 767/132
 E. 2nd St., Mount Vernon,
 IN 47620.



COPYRIGHT 2014