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FRIDAY Times-Mail

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AUGUST 28, 2020

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Woman dies, boyfriend in jail following argument

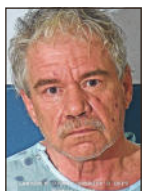
Times-Mail

BEDFORD — A 57-year-old woman is dead, her boyfriend incarcerated after a domestic dispute Wednesday afternoon.

According to a news release from the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department, dispatch received a report of a motor vehicle accident at 1:56 p.m. at State Road 158 and Avoca-Eureka Road. The caller told dispatchers the other vehicle

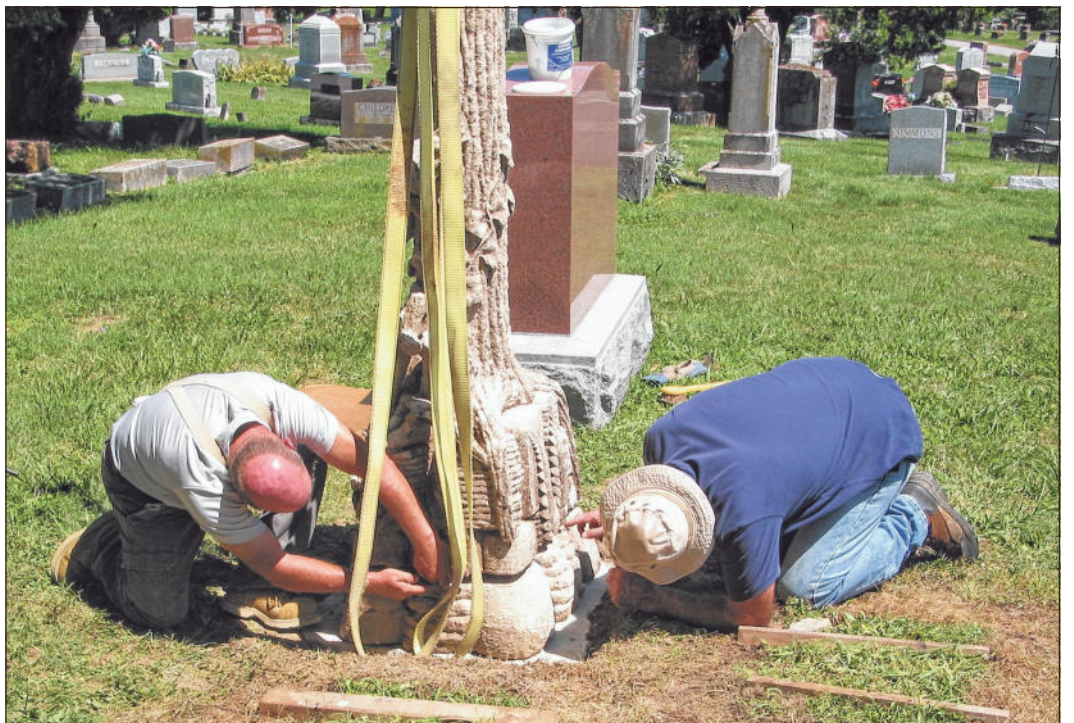
involved, a silver Ford Focus, left the scene as he was taking a woman to the hospital for a gunshot wound.

It was soon confirmed, the release stated, there was a woman at the IU Health Bedford Hospital emergency department being treated for a gunshot wound to the abdomen. She was being transported to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.



DECKARD

SEE JAIL | PAGE A6



Tom Busch, left, and Dale Platteter work to align the Gaussin marker onto its base last Thursday at Green Hill Cemetery. Platteter and a group of volunteers are working to reset many stones in the cemetery that are leaning and need to be straightened. (Jeff Routh / Times-Mail)

Bedford awarded \$241,873 in COVID relief

Grants will aid local businesses affected by pandemic

By Carol Johnson
Times-Mail

BEDFORD — The city of Bedford has been awarded \$241,873 to provide up to \$10,000 grants to small businesses, including retail and commercial entities, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Thursday announced that 42 rural Hoosier communities will receive more than \$10.09 million in federal grant funding through the second phase of the COVID-19 Response Program.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our Hoosier economy and they have made considerable sacrifices during the COVID-19 crisis," said Crouch. "This funding will help Hoosier small businesses continue to recover and will help make investments necessary to create safer spaces for



CRAIG

their customers and staff."

The grants in Bedford are aimed at retail and commercial business with 100 or fewer employees. Business must demonstrate a direct financial impact or need as a result of COVID-19.

Bedford Mayor Sam Craig said, once he receives details from the state, dates on when applications can be submitted will be announced.

Tentatively, he anticipates the application window will be from mid-September to early October.

"Those dates will be updated when the state notifies us," Craig said.

The city applied for COVID relief funds during the first phase but was not chosen.

"We're very pleased to receive the grant for our local businesses," Craig said. "Hopefully for those having financial issues, this will be a benefit to them to get through these

SEE RELIEF | PAGE A6

GAUSSIN MARKER CLEANED AND RESET AT GREEN HILL CEMETERY

Another leaner gets straight

By Jeff Routh
Times-Mail

BEDFORD — Dale Platteter and his group of volunteers continue their work to restore and reset markers in Green Hill Cemetery. Many of the older burials in the cemetery don't have family members to care for the stones, and if not maintained, they would soon topple and eventually be lost.

The most recent undertaking was the stone of Evalou Gaussin, a 7-year-old who died in 1894. She is buried near her

parents, not far from the circle at the top of the hill in the cemetery.

Evalou was the daughter of Constant and Ellen (Vaughn) Gaussin, who lived on I Street, just north and across the street from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Her father was a business owner in Bedford and donated the limestone crucifix that is above the main entrance of the church. In addition to her parents, she had a brother, Roy, who lived to be only 15 years old. There were three other siblings who lived to adulthood. After the mother's death, the father remarried and had a sixth

child, who also survived him. The mother, Ellen, died in 1895 and is buried just to the north of Evalou. A large red granite marker was erected for the mother, father and brother. The dad lived on to 1929.

The father was born in France and came to America with his parents when he was 2 years old. They landed in New Orleans and made their way to Bedford. He was in the saloon business, being a partner in at least four saloons around Bedford, starting in 1875 and continuing until the 1900s. Gene Abel, manager of Green Hill,

SEE MARKER | PAGE A6

Two more cases of COVID-19 in NLCS

Times-Mail

BEDFORD — Two additional schools in North Lawrence Community Schools reported having positive cases of COVID-19 this week.

The Oolitic Campus of NLCS posted on its Facebook page Wednesday that it had experienced its first positive case of COVID-19. According to the post, "The person self reported symptoms on Sunday, August 23 and has not been in the building since Friday, August 21. We began contact tracing as soon as we became aware of the situation and we have narrowed it down to a very small

group of students. Those families have been contacted so they can begin a quarantine period immediately."

The school nurse contacted families of students who need to quarantine. The rest of the school was notified by an automated message.

On Thursday, Shawswick Elementary School confirmed it experienced a positive case of COVID-19. "The person was asymptomatic while here. We received confirmation yesterday, and began contact tracing as soon as we became aware. Those families that are affected have been contacted so they can begin a quarantine period

immediately, as mandated by the State Department of Health. We want to thank our families, students, and community for being so supportive and positive during this time," read the post on the school's Facebook page.

Earlier this week, NLCS confirmed a student at Bedford North Lawrence tested positive for COVID-19. Students returned to school Aug. 13. NLCS is following all protocols from the local and state health departments regarding COVID-19 reporting and contact tracing. Guidelines for re-entry after quarantining are on the NLCS website.

COVID-19 Update

The Indiana State Department of Health statistics as of noon Thursday:
INDIANA
Total cases: 90,504
Total deaths: 3,047
Total tested: 1,034,746
New cases: 1,164
New deaths: 6

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Total cases: 440
Total deaths: 27
Total tested: 5,561
New cases: 9
New deaths: 0
Lawrence County COVID-19 hotline is 812-545-0008.

Scripture

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

— Romans 8:28

Weather

86 69



FORECAST, PAGE A6

Deaths

ELSEWHERE
Dale D. Cobb, 93, Indianapolis
Sheila A. Miller, 74, Fairborn,
Ohio
David L. Thompson, 54, Brownstown

OBITUARIES, PAGE A2



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<p>Today</p> <p>86 69</p>  <p>60% chance scattered thunderstorms.</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>82 58</p>  <p>40% chance for thunderstorms early.</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>79 60</p>  <p>Times of sun and clouds.</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>80 65</p>  <p>Partly cloudy.</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>79 60</p>  <p>40% chance for thunderstorms early.</p>	<p>Updates online</p> <p>The latest National Weather Service forecast, radar and severe weather alerts are at HoosierTimes.com/weather, where you can also see an hour-by-hour forecast.</p>
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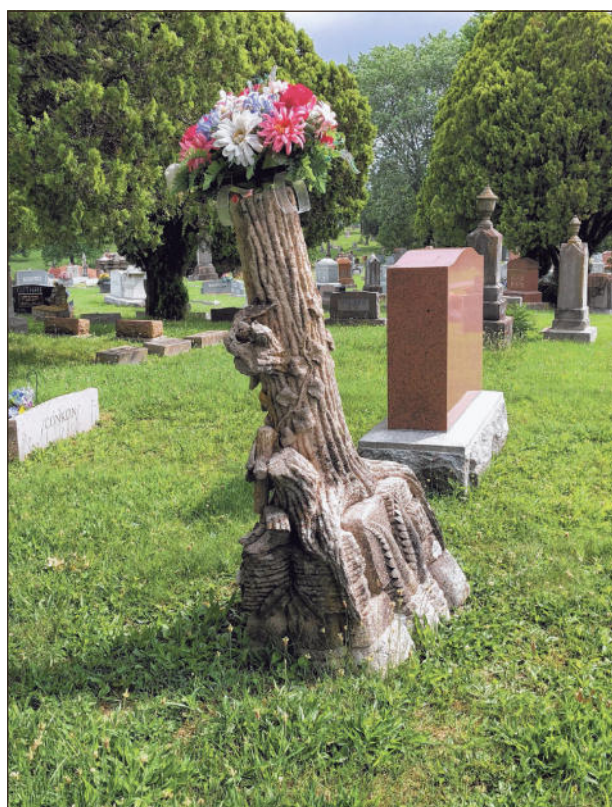
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

said he believed that Mr. Gaussin also ran a pharmacy in Bedford at one time.

Eller Taylor & Co. carved and erected Evalou's monument, which is an intricately carved tree stump, with vines, flowers, a hat and high button shoes as adornment. When it was installed, no real foundation was put under the marker and over the years it had developed quite a lean. The marker had also become discolored with a hundred-plus years of dirt, algae and mold.

The marker was taken apart a few weeks ago and sprayed with a cleaning mixture called, Wet & Forget, Platteter said. He said the active ingredient in the product is the same as Lysol wipes. It is slightly basic in composition, but not as caustic as bleach, which sometimes causes pitting.

"The hardest part of using Wet & Forget is waiting for it to work," he said. "It doesn't happen immediately. That's where



The Evalou Gaussin monument in Green Hill Cemetery was leaning and in need of cleaning just a few weeks ago. (Courtesy photo)

the 'forget' part comes in to play. It takes a few months for it to completely do its magic, but you can see results in about a month. The rain and the wind help the product do the cleaning."

After the stone was moved, Platteter and his

crew dug a hole for a foundation. Then 10 sacks of concrete with rebar were poured for the foundation. Once the concrete was sufficiently dry, the marker could be reset.

They allowed the concrete to dry four days, then

the marker was reset on Aug. 20, with the help of Tom Busch and his lift truck. First the base was set, then the trunk itself was lowered into place. A setting putty is used between the base and the actual marker.

"The hardest part of this reset was aligning the vines and all the details," Platteter said.

Platteter said he and his volunteers have restored about 20 monuments in the past year. He was assisted on this project by Busch and Abel.

"Each restoration takes about 4 to 5 days, depending on what needs to be done," he said. "With 11,400 burials in Green Hill, it seems as fast as we get one restored, another one is ready to fall."

Abel said he is still raising funds for work on the Paolini marker. The marker resembles a small Greek temple and is located in the southern part of the cemetery. He said the marker is in pretty bad shape and has been stabilized. This is a major restoration project and outside help will be needed to complete this project.

Woman accused of dealing meth

Times-Mail

BEDFORD — A Bedford woman was arrested Wednesday after she was accused of dealing methamphetamine.

Rachelle Johnson, 34, 1827 15th St., is facing charges of dealing meth and possession of meth.

A Mitchell man, 41-year-old Troy D. Tillette, was also arrested. He is being charged with possession of meth.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Indiana State Police received information Johnson and Tillette were going to Indianapolis to purchase meth in order to sell it in Lawrence County.

Wednesday, an ISP detective was driving behind a vehicle, driven by Tillette, on State Road 37, near Washboard Road;

Johnson was a passenger. The vehicle was pulled over after the driver was accused of not using a turn signal while changing lanes.

During the traffic stop, a police dog was called to the scene and alerted to possible drugs in the vehicle. According to the affidavit, police found a syringe in Johnson's purse. Police allegedly found 7 grams of meth after Johnson allegedly threw it from the vehicle.

Tillette told police they went to Indianapolis to purchase meth and that they had both used some of it, the affidavit stated. He also said they were delivering the meth to a man.

Tillette and Johnson were both booked into the Lawrence County jail.

RELIEF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

trying times."

In April, the state awarded \$10.7 million in funding to 61 communities for COVID relief. To continue addressing the economic impact caused by COVID-19 on rural Hoosier businesses, OCRA launched a second phase of the COVID-19 Response Program. Both Lawrence County and the city of Mitchell received \$250,000 each during the first phase.

"Many of the business owners face already-slim margins, which make these grants even more essential for their survival," said Matt Crouch, interim executive director of OCRA.

"OCRA is pleased to be able to continue our support for small businesses which is integral to the recovery of Indiana's rural economy."

Eligible applicants for this program could apply for up to \$250,000 and include non-entitlement local units of government.

Funding for the COVID-19 Response Phase 2 funding is derived from Indiana's CARES Act allocation. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27.

JAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

A deputy got to the hospital and was able to talk to the victim, identified as Charlene Silvers, before she was placed in a helicopter and transported to Indianapolis. She told the officer she was shot by her boyfriend, Phillip Deckard, during an argument. She said the shooting was not accidental.

Officers then went to a home at 2738 Maul Ridge Road, Bedford, where the shooting occurred, to determine if there were other victims and to secure the scene. A search warrant was obtained, and crime scene technicians from the Indiana State Police responded to help.

At 7:43 p.m., dispatchers received a call from Methodist Hospital saying Silvers died from her injuries, according to the news release.

Deckard, 58, 2738 Maul Ridge Road, was arrested and faces preliminary charges of domestic battery with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, involuntary manslaughter, a Level 5 felony, and reckless homicide, a Level 5 felony.

The release states the investigative report and probable cause affidavit will be sent to the Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office for review. Additional charges could be pending.

Judge sentences woman to a decade in prison

Times-Mail

BEDFORD — A Bedford woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison this week for dealing methamphetamine.

Kenzi Cox, 26, received the sentence from Judge William Sleva in Lawrence Superior Court II. She is set to receive 341 days of jail credit.

In September 2019, Indiana State Police received information Tracy Sego was dealing meth in Lawrence County.

After learning the information, the ISP Drug

Enforcement Section and Bloomington District A.C.E.S. partnered for a "lengthy joint investigation."

Sept. 20, two ISP officers noticed Sego driving a black 2004 Dodge Dakota north on VFW Road near State Road 60 East, according to a previous Times-Mail story. When the officers caught up with the vehicle, a person allegedly threw an item toward a wooded area. Police pulled over the truck, which Sego was driving. Cox was a passenger.

Inside, officers found

a container with a small amount of meth, as well as legend drug pills that Sego and Cox did not have a prescription for.

When police searched the area where the item was thrown from the truck, an officer allegedly found a make-up bag containing 107 grams of meth.

Sego, of Bedford, is facing charges of dealing meth and possession of meth. There is currently a pre-trial conference set for Sept. 21 in Sego's case

The Times-Mail online at www.tmnews.com

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