

The Sturgis News

Delivering
For
Sturgis
and
Union County

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NUMBER FIFTEEN

Indictments Returned By Union County Grand Jury

Union County Grand Jury convened on July 7, returning indictments against six individuals.

In the case of Joshua Blackford, the grand jury returned three indictments against the defendant. Russelburg is charged with fleeing/evading police, second degree motor vehicle, a Class D felony; reckless driving,

a violation and speeding 26 mph over the limit or greater, a violation.

Tamara Cavins was indicted on two charges: burglary third degree, a Class D felony and theft by unlawful taking or disposition all others, a Class B misdemeanor.

Three indictments were returned against Dalton Russelburg who is charged

with trafficking in marijuana greater than five pounds, first offense, a Class C felony; drug paraphernalia-buy/possess, a Class A misdemeanor and possession of a controlled substance, first degree, first offense, a Class D felony.

The case of Carlos Perry was also heard by the grand jury. Perry was indicted for

trafficking in marijuana, more than eight ounces but less than five pounds, a Class D felony and drug paraphernalia, a Class A misdemeanor.

Warren Snyder was indicted on a single count of knowingly abuse/neglect of an adult, a Class C felony.

In the case of Justin Shepherd, the defendant was

indicted on charges of drug paraphernalia -buy/possess, a Class A misdemeanor and possession of a controlled substance, first degree, second offense, methamphetamine, a Class D felony. A warrant was issued for Shepherd on indictment with a \$5000 bond ordered by Judge Daniel Heady.

Storm Season: What To Do When Lightning Strikes

Summer weather is often noted for its warmth and compatibility with outdoor activities. Whether it's kids at camp once school lets out or families hosting backyard barbecues for loved ones or seniors strolling through parks on pleasant mornings, summer offers outdoor activities for people of all ages.

Outdoor recreation is integral to summer fun, but there are instances when the festivities must be taken indoors. Such is the case when thunderstorms strike and lightning poses a safety threat. Knowing what to do when lightning strikes is vital to summer safety, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration urges individuals to take the following precautions when storms arrive.

- Know the right places to go. The NOAA notes the best place to be during a lightning storm is inside a large, enclosed structure with plumbing and electrical wiring.



- Plumbing and electrical wiring will conduct electricity more efficiently than a human body, so the safest place to be when lightning is present is inside a building, such as a home, office or shopping center. If buildings are inaccessible, the NOAA recommends retreating to an enclosed metal vehicle.

- Avoid unsafe retreats. A picnic pavillion at a local

park or a baseball dugout at an outdoor athletic complex are unsafe during storms featuring lightning because they feature exposed openings. The NOAA also notes that golf carts and any vehicles with open cabs are unsafe. The NOAA advises against seeking shelter from lightning in beach shacks, metal sheds and carports, particularly when safer re-

treats are accessible.

- Avoid bathing during a lightning storm. Adults may recall their parents not bathing them during lightning storms when they were children, and that cautionary measure is more than mere superstition. Water and metal are good conductors of electricity, so the NOAA advises against taking a bath or shower during a lightning

storm.

- Unplug devices if you plan to use them during a storm. Avoid using desktop computers during lightning storms, as such devices typically need to be plugged in for users to access them. If you must use devices like a smartphone or tablet during a lighting storm, be sure to unplug them from wall outlets before doing so.

- Keep your hands off the radio dial and ignition when riding a storm out in a car. Radio dials, touch screens and ignitions should not be touched when sheltering in a vehicle during a lightning storm. The conducting paths in radios, ignitions, and touchscreens lead to the outside of the vehicle, making people who touch them vulnerable to lighting strikes.

Lightning storms can come and go quickly or continue for an extended period of time. Knowing what to do when lightning strikes can save lives.

Sturgis Council Meets, Hears Updates For Infrastructure Projects

The Sturgis City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 8 with Mayor Billy Adams presiding and all council members in attendance. City Clerk Sandra Germane and City Attorney Vickie Davis were also present.

Following approval of the minutes for two meetings held in June, the council dealt with a lengthy agenda that included updates on various infrastructure projects in the city, approval to sell a surplus vehicle, discussions of various reports for city departments, and adoption of a revised personnel policy. The meeting lasted about an hour.

The monthly financial report showed all city accounts with positive balances. Mayor Adams told members with the beginning of the new fiscal year, city office employees will begin providing more extensive financial information. That change is intended to allow members to see the revenue and expenses for the city's enterprise accounts each month. "We will be better able to understand out financial standing each month," Mayor Adams said.

Steve Caudill with Clark Deitz Engineering addressed the council concerning the water line improvement project that will see the replacement of waterlines along portions of Main, 13th, 1st, and Kelsey streets. The bids for the project had been opened earlier in the day on Wednesday, and Caudill presented a short overview of procedures which are taking place before the final bid is accepted. He told the council his firm will review the bids and make a reference check of each bidder. Clark Deitz will then

make a recommendation to the city as to the lowest and best bid.

Four bids were received for the project, which has an estimated cost of \$1.8 million, according to Caudill. The low bid for the project was submitted by Youngblood Excavating and Contracting in Mayfield, Kentucky in the amount of \$1,129,784. Other bidders on the infrastructure project and bid amounts are Cleary Construction, Inc. of Tompkinsville, Kentucky, \$1,886,043.70; Koberstein Contracting, Inc., Evansville, Indiana, \$1,938,225; and Norris Brothers Excavating, Crossville, Tennessee, \$1,770,780.

The recommendation from Clark Deitz is expected this week, and according to Caudill, the project should begin in late August. He noted the work is expected to take about four months with a target completion date before the end of 2026.

Caudill also told members the City of Sturgis has been approved as a recipient for Abandoned Mine Land funds to be used for the installation of a new waterline on Old Sullivan Road. Three homes will have access to city water. The water to those homes has been tested by personnel from the Division of Water and determined to have been damaged by mining activities prior to 1982. As a result, the project, estimated at a cost of \$1.1 million will be funded at no cost to the city. The project will replace a portion of an existing line in the area of KY 983, and as a result, several additional home owners will have access to the new line.

Council members reviewed the water loss report

for June, which showed a 17.05% loss; however, according to Mayor Adams and Council member Hunter Davis, the required flushing because of the extreme heat in June resulted in a loss of 2,308,900 gallons of water at a cost of \$13,660.24. The mayor emphasized the flushing must be done, and reiterated the importance of Sturgis opening the local water treatment plant. Work is continuing to obtain funding for that project.

Members received the monthly activity report from Union County Sheriff Jason Thomas, and Mayor Adams added there was one arrest for driving under the influence in June and one arrest for alcohol intoxication. Officers from the sheriff's department responded to 93 calls during the month.

Members of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department responded to 47 incidents during June. Thirty-three of those runs were for medical needs, and 14 of the runs were fire related. Members of the department hosted a CPR/first aid class in June to update certifications, and members had three trainings hours for the month.

In his report to the council, Codes Enforcement Officer Greg Warmack noted a property located in the 900 block of Lee Street has been condemned. He added that personnel from the Union County Road Department will be assisting local crews in demolitions over the next few weeks. "We are still working to get properties in compliance," he said. Warmack added that most of the complaints received are for high grass, abandoned vehicles, and mown grass be-

ing blown into the street, especially along Adams Street. He emphasized the importance of keeping the grass clippings out of the storm sewer system.

Mayor Adams reported the bid process for the improvements at the wastewater treatment plant have been stopped because of a permit issue with the Division of Water. He noted bidding cannot take place until that review is completed. No timeline was announced for that review.

Council members held a short discussion concerning changes in the personnel policy concerning vacation time, paid time off, and carrying vacation time from one year to the next. The council has discussed the policy for several weeks, and last Wednesday as vote was taken to approve the new policy. Five council members – Davis, Charles Garnett, Dennis Odom, Allan Collins, and Theresa Greer – voted to accept the policy. Council member John Deibler voted no to the changes.

A request from city resident Steve Holt to erect a monument at the local ball fields in honor of the late Coach Ralph Horning was approved by council members. In a letter to the council, Holt noted that Horning coached at Sturgis High School for 21 years and is a member of the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame. The monument will be funded privately. The exact location of the monument will be determined at a later date. According to Holt, the project will take about three months to complete.

Mayor Adams appointed Brent Thompson as the new chief of the Sturgis Volun-

teer Fire Department. That appointment was approved by the council on a 6-0 vote. Thompson has been a firefighter since 1991 and is EMT and paramedic certified. He will assume his duties on Monday, July 20.

Bids were opened for several paving projects in the city. Bids were received from three companies. Sharco Paving submitted a bid of \$140,432; Rogers Group submitted a bid for \$100,109; and Scotty's Construction and Stone presented a bid of \$85,125. The bids were taken under advisement, and the winning bid is expected to be approved later this month.

Three bids were received for a 2006 Chevrolet truck which was declared surplus in June. A bid of \$501.00 from Greg Buckman was approved. The other bidders were Linda Crase, \$400.00 and Jerry Hayes, \$300.00.

Mayor Adams asked members to consider declaring a tractor and side mount bush hog parked in the city impound lot as surplus property. After discussion, it was decided to get the tractor in running conditions in order to better determine what the equipment is worth.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

Council members are expected to meet in a special session later this month to award the bid for the water line project and the bid for the paving work.

The next regular meeting of Sturgis City Council will be Wednesday, August 12, 4:00 P.M.