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Thursday, February 23, 2017

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Hancock Clarion

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Hornets spark a buzz... set school record!

Hancock County has been buzzing about its boy's high school Hornet basketball team, which has turned in a record-setting season. Head coach Darren

Lynam's team set a regular season wins record by finishing 25-4, besting the boys team that went 23-5 in 1963. That team went on to become region champions.

Social media has been full of praise and support for this year's team, which ran its record to 26-4 on Tuesday night with a win over Cloverport.

The Hornets look to become district champions on Friday night when they take on the Green Wave of Meade County at HCHS. Tip off times is 7:00 p.m.



Fans watch intently as Hancock County players Jacob White and Brenden Lewis try to trap Cloverport's Max Dubree during 11th District Tournament action at HCHS Tuesday. The Hornets play Meade County in the championship game at seven o'clock here tomorrow night.

—Clarion photo by Steve Wimmer

Mystery solved: source of thunderous booms found

By Dave Taylor

The mystery of the booms has been solved, and it's not what anyone thought it was.

Believe it or not, the origin is about 30 miles away, at a coal mine in Lynnville, Indiana.

Last Thursday evening, on the night that a Clarion article dispelled some rumors about the booms but left the origins unknown, another large boom shook homes in Lewisport and beyond, prompting requests for this paper to dig deeper and find an answer.

The previous article checked out a few theories and found only that the sheriff's department had in fact found some people shooting Tannerite, which are explosive targets, but backyard explosions didn't explain larger booms like the one on February 16 that shook homes 10 or more miles apart.

The Clarion looked into other theories, from natural occurrences like ice quakes, earthquakes and sky quakes, to manmade causes like sonic booms and blasting at Mulzer Stone or the Rockport Power Plant, or construction at Aleris.

Mulzer and the Rockport Power Plant both denied any knowledge of a cause for the booms, and Ft. Knox didn't return calls to say whether they'd been flying over the area above the speed of sound, although that's no longer legally allowed. Aleris also said they hadn't been doing anything that would cause a big boom.

Temperatures had been too warm for ice quakes, and meteorologist Wayne Hart couldn't find any satellite evidence of any disturbance in the skies.

The National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Co. didn't have any information on any earthquakes in the area, nor did the Indiana Geological Survey.

Finally, a seismologist with the Kentucky Geological Survey found proof that the February 16 boom did occur.

Seth Carpenter said he receives calls every few weeks about unexplained booms, most of which don't register on the KGS seismographs, but that he'd take a look.

"Normally I would just write this off as a man-made thing but since it's got people's attention I'll look into it a little more in-depth," he said.

"I do have something, actually," he said, looking at a chart from one of the two nearby seismic stations.

"It's pretty clear," he said, on the graph from the station in Sacramento, Ky.

"Frankly I didn't expect to see anything."

The signal started at 5:20 p.m., he said, which matches the approximate time that a boom had been reported in Lewisport.

The boom was not a natural earthquake, and likely not a natural occurrence at all.

"Whatever this thing is it's extremely shallow," he said.

The best news, though, was that he had enough information that he could give a general idea of the location of its origin.

"I think that we can say that it occurred in southern Indiana," he said. "About 25 miles northeast of Evansville. That's an approximate location."

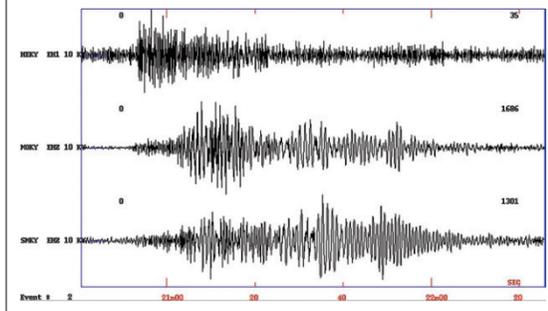
The types of things that could cause a boom at a shallow level that could radiate over such a large area were few.

"A blast, for example," he said. "A detonation, or a collapse of a structure, including a mine collapse."

But, he said, "the way that the waves look, in some ways it resembles a more routine mine blast, even for the level of shaking."

Calls to the city halls of Oakland City and Princeton yielded no results, and people there said they hadn't

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Kenergy: meters not to blame for high bills

By Dave Taylor

Recent Kenergy bills have been the subject of public scrutiny and scorn, and many have pointed to the installation of new remotely-read meters as the culprit, but Kenergy officials say the ire is misguided.

Social media posts and real-life conversations have been peppered with accusations that recent spikes in bills have coincided with the installation of the new meters, with some questioning their accuracy.

Those meters are not the problem, said Kenergy spokeswoman Renee Beasley Jones, and they have actually been installed for much longer than some people think.

Kenergy began installing the new meters one and a half years ago, she said, so some homes have had them that long.

While the new meters were installed and many homes had them for more than a year, the readings were still done by the customer until November of last year.

"Members still read them until November of last year, and nobody said anything, did they?" she said. "You didn't see a lot on Facebook. You didn't hear a lot until October, we told them 'You don't have to read your meter any more.'"

If the meters had been reading too high, it should have shown itself in the months that members were turning in readings from the new meters.

Complaints about the new meters started, she said, in January when the first larger bills arrived, which contained some rate increases, the removal of a large monthly credit, and higher use due to cold weather.

The meters are accurate, she said, and are tested at the factory according to Kentucky Public Service Commission requirements, and spot tested again by Kenergy, and must be within 2 percent high or low.

"We continue to test them out in the field now," she said.

Kenergy isn't breaking

new ground with the meters, she said, and is actually one of the last utilities in the state to install them.

"Kenergy was the last utility, I believe, but at least the last co-op in the state of Kentucky to get digital meters," she said. "There are just a handful nationwide that still allow their members to read their own meters."

For those who are skeptical of the new meters, they can continue to mark down their readings, and they can compare them with the bills.

They can also request a meter be checked to see if it's faulty.

Customers have to pay a \$52 deposit, but a Kenergy worker will come out and replace the meter and make an appointment for the customer to come watch their meter being tested.

If it fails the customer gets their deposit back, but if it passes, the charge stays.

Customers might be wrong about the cause of their issues, but they are not wrong about having higher bills.

Those higher bills come

via several causes that Jones and Kenergy have laid out previously: higher usage due to colder weather; the end of a monthly credit that had been paying a previous rate increase requested by Big Rivers to offset the loss of the Century Aluminum smelter from its system; a 3 percent Kenergy rate increase; and a billing gap recovery, which adds a day or two to each month's bill.

"If they didn't use one more kilowatt hour than they ever had before, their bill would be approximately 30 percent higher anyway, because of those factors, not counting weather," said Jones.

The billing gap recovery has been put in place to get payment that was missed due to the billing methods prior to the remotely read meters.

"The very first month that you used electricity from Kenergy, you did not receive a bill," she said. "We sent a postcard for a meter reading only."

"Then after another month of use, we sent you a bill for your first month of service that you used," she said.

The second month the customer was paying for the first month of use, and the billing remained about a

See **KENERGY** on page 2

Lewisport talks ideas for old school

By Dave Taylor

Lewisport could buy the former Lewisport Elementary School and turn it into a government building, or at least that was the pitch by one council member at Thursday's city council meeting.

Mary Hawkins brought up the idea of the city doing something with the former school, which sits at 400 2nd Street, mostly unused and in need of a renovation after being sold as surplus in 2005.

She'd been reading a magazine article about how other cities in the state had restored historical buildings and had historical districts, she said, and it made her think the city should try to save the school, which dates

to 1938.

"I don't know if there's any grant money or anything out there," she said. "They did beautifications for cities years ago on grants for historical buildings and I think we did that maybe for the farm museum."

Lewisport had turned a historical building on 4th Street into a farm museum in the 1990s with a \$1 million in state grants, taking a shell of a building and completely renovating it.

"That's a WPA project and that's historical landmark," she said of the school. "If there's any way that we could get money to help, even with the center portion."

The old school, built by the Works Progress Admin-

istration, a nationwide program to build infrastructure and provide employment during the Depression, still meets the specifications to be used as a storm shelter, she said, so it would have one use immediately.

"If our alarms go off we have no place for people in this city to go for shelter," she said.

Councilwoman Mary Rummage, who served as one of the principals in the school, said she knows of people who would be willing to help restore the building.

"I've been contacted by... individuals who are talented enough that they would help be involved in what renovations that there might have to be done, some plumbing, wiring," she said.

"Me too," said Hawkins.

The city taking on the project by itself might be too much, Rummage said, but with private help it could work.

"It is probably one of the few WPA projects that is in as good of shape as it is in," she said.

"The gym floor probably just needs to be sanded and polyurethaned," she said. "The biggest expense that building will have is updating the heating system."

"But you couldn't build a building and put a heating system in it for what you've already got," said Hawkins.

"By the time you tear that one down you're going to be spending that kind of money anyway," added councilman Wes Pate.

The city wouldn't have to go alone, Rummage said, because there are others who would help.

"There is a group of people that probably would be very interested in getting support from the city to get it renovated and have the gym like they used to," she said.

The Hancock County Library had talked about buying the building, with the plan to tear it down and build a new library branch on the land, and Hawkins wondered if there was a way to incorporate them into a new plan.

"If they built a building they're going to have to pay for heating anyhow," she said. "They could pay us rent on it."

There are other agencies that could come use the former classrooms once it was restored, she said.

"We've always tried to get a branch of food stamps down here, or social services, a building down here, a license branch down here. If they're just down here one day a week," she said.

"We would have to look at possibilities of what we could do besides a library," she said.

Finding other agencies willing to move in would allow the city to collect rent, she said, which would make the project more feasible.

"I'm just trying to think of a way that if we did do it how we could generate income on it and we wouldn't just be

See **LEWISPORT** on page 2



Avery Bolton and his wife Leann walk at Vastwood with their children Caleb, left, Adeline, in stroller, and Amelia Monday afternoon. The family comes and walks at the park about once a week. —Clarion photo by Dave Taylor

Lewisport talks ideas for old school

—Continued from page 1

out a lot of money, we'd have money coming back in," she said.

Gregory pointed out that grants like the city got for the farm museum are no longer available, and that the competition is much stiffer and requirements much higher.

"When you talk about space like that, you're going to have to have rent and lease agreements," he said. "You're going to have to have a plan before you take this to a committee for them to underwrite a grant. If you just go to them and say, 'Hey, we want to renovate this building. It doesn't work like that.'"

Another old school had been renovated with a grant from a private historical organization, Rummage said, but it required removing any parts of the structure that were not on the original 1938 building.

"There would go the cafeteria and the two things on each side," she said.

Grants for historical buildings are also limiting, said Gregory, because they dictate what you can and can't do with the building when it's done.

"The farm museum, it's a very worthwhile project," he said, "but the doors are not even open to that place not even once a year that I recall, but we can't do anything else with that building because it still falls under that grant."

The council then decided that they should set a time to tour the school to see its current condition, and then discuss the possibilities more in the future.

"If nothing else have a special meeting one afternoon and go through it and see what it looks like," said Hawkins. "We don't know, we're sitting here not knowing what it looks like."

Kenergy meters

—Continued from page 1

month behind ever since. It continues now, while they're playing catch up, she said, because the February bills are for electricity used in December up to about mid-January.

"So what you're going to catch up is those few days between," she said.

The number of days that will be added to each month's bill has been scheduled, and will be billed for the following number of days: January, 32; February, 32; March, 32; April, 32; May,

33; June, 33; July, 32; August, 32; September, 32; October, 32; November, 32; and December, 32.

Kenergy encourages customers to take steps to reduce power usage, but also to monitor their daily use using tools available online and on mobile devices.

"They can look at their energy that they're using almost in real time," she said, "And they can track their usage and they can see where they have spikes."

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Mystery

—Continued from page 1

heard of any booms. A call to the Grandview, Ind. City Hall, however, led to more corroborating evidence and what appears to be a definitive answer.

"What we have found out is that it is mining activity," said Stephanie Melton, the Spencer County Emergency Management Agency director.

She had tracked down the source of the booms, which had also rattled homes in Spencer County, to the Wild Boar mine in Lynnville, in Warrick County.

"You're right in line with where it would be coming, it's just on a straight path down through our county and it's crossing over the river then to you," she said.

Melton had been tracking the source of the booms since December, when complaints started coming in.

"She first called the National Weather Service, then the state geological survey, then the same National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado that the Clarion had talked to, where she was told that the center needed to be told within five minutes of each complaint call so they could watch for activity."

"The last several calls ended up being they pinpointed it to, they called it 'a generic area' that was in Lynnville," Melton said.

There was a mine in Lynnville, so Melton called the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which oversees surface mining.

"I had printed out all of our complaints from dispatch and then also dispatch had called Warrick County and Warrick County was receiving the same complaints at the same times that our dispatch was, and so they checked with the mine and that was the time that they were blasting," she said.

"Everything was kind of coinciding."

Finally a solid answer, with proof.

But most laymen would logically point out that if a blast shakes homes 30 or more miles away, that it would seem like it wouldn't be allowed.

"They're well within what they're allowed to do," she said. "There's nothing that they're doing wrong, but they say that weather does play a big part."

The mine has been doing very shallow blasting, and that, coupled with low cloud

cover on overcast days, exacerbates the problem and sends shockwaves over a much larger area.

The DNR has placed seismic monitors near the mine to watch for anything that might be amiss, as well as to ensure there are no bad affects to the area.

"They want to make sure there is no damage around the blasting, that nothing is changing," she said.

Melton couldn't explain why people in some cities were complaining about the booms, while others nearby said they hadn't even heard of them. The booms seemed to affect an area more in one direction versus in a radius.

"I know from where the mine is to the towns that were complaining, it has been a straight line. It has been a consistent path," she said. "Basically the path it's been taking has been a southeast path, it's almost cutting our county in half, and then straight to the river."

While it has affected people in Lewisport some, the effect on citizens along that path in Indiana was apparently greater.

"The community was concerned that this was kind of foreshadowing of an earthquake," she said. "So we've had people saying they're starting to prep."

"I really thought well I need to start looking more into this because people are starting to get into a panic mode in one of the communities," she said.

Being in emergency management she wasn't opposed to people 'prepping,' or gathering food and supplies in the event of a catastrophic event, because there is always the chance for an earthquake or especially a tornado.

"You could always prep and that's a good thing," she said, "but don't be panicked about anything. Be ready for whatever happens you never know what kind of little kinks or surprises life's going to throw at you."

The mystery of the largest booms has been solved, but it likely won't be the answer to every smaller boom, whether from Tannerite or something else, or even natural shakes like ice quakes if the weather turns cold again, but they will keep people like Carpenter busy.

"I had a call from someone in Covington on the 17th talking about booms," he said. "It turns out it's kind of a standard thing in the winter months."

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Obituaries

Pauline C. Roberts

Pauline C. Roberts, 82, of Maceo passed away on Monday, February 20, 2017 at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital. Pauline was born on January 11, 1935 in Hancock County the daughter of the late Iva and Mary Dorothy Mattingly Cambron. She was a member at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, retired from General Electric in Owensboro and a member of Local 783 AIW. She enjoyed flea markets, her garden and flowers and was always ready to lend a helping hand when needed. She was preceded in death by her husband Everett Roberts and brothers and sisters Charles Estil Cambron, Elizabeth Kelly, Grace Rafferty and Barbara Boehmann.



Surviving are five sisters, Bertha Finney, Maggie "Wiggie" Lillian Craig (Wayne), Mary Ann Hubbard (Larry), Edith Bennett (Terry) and Brenda Brown (Junie); four brothers, Robert Lee Cambron (Connie), Clyde Cambron (Anita), Joseph Cambron (Debra) and Jimmy Cambron (Ann) and several nieces and nephews.

Services are at 11:00 am Thursday, February 23, 2017 in the Taylor Chapel at Gibson & Son Funeral Home, Lewisport. Burial will be in Lewisport Cemetery. Pauline's family will greet friends from 9:00 am until service time Thursday at the Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be left for Pauline's family at www.gibsonandsonfh.com.

Wanda Elizabeth Jackson Nugent

Wanda Elizabeth Jackson Nugent, 86, of Hawesville passed away on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at Oakwood Health Campus in Tell City. She was born in Hancock County on March 14, 1930 to the late Coy and Addie Fitzgerald Jackson, Sr. Wanda was a member of Mt. Eden Baptist Church and was retired from General Electric. She enjoyed making cross stitch quilts for her family, loved her flowers and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Twenty" Nugent, Sr.; two sons, Donald Ray Nugent and Charles "Sonny" Nugent, Jr; two sisters, Vivian Johnson and Delores Board.



Survivors include her daughter, Gail (Keith) Corley; three sons, Billy Joe (Carolyn) Nugent, Gerald (Judy) Nugent and Gary "Red" Nugent; 17 grandchildren; 38 great grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren; three brothers, Coy Jackson, Jr., Billy Ray Jackson and Cletus Jackson along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2017 at Mt. Eden Baptist Church. Burial followed in Mt. Eden Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation was held on Sunday from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. and Monday from 7 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Gibson & Son Funeral Home, Hawesville. Memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Eden Baptist Church. Online condolences may be left for the family to view at www.gibsonandsonfh.com.

Anna E. Reynolds

Anna E. Reynolds, 92, of Lewisport passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at Oakwood Health Campus in Tell City, IN. Anna was born December 21, 1924 in Hancock County to the late Guy B. (G.B.) and Selma Wetzel Reynolds of Lewisport. She was a lifelong member of Lewisport Baptist Church. Anna retired after 43 years in the Accounting Department at General Electric in Owensboro.



After retirement, Anna enjoyed working alongside of her brother on the family farm, gardening and tending her flowers. She was very much an animal lover, especially the many cats and dogs she had during her lifetime. In addition to her parents, Anna was preceded in death by her twin brothers, Oscar L. Reynolds and Guy S. Reynolds and a sister in law, Hazel S. Reynolds.

Anna is survived by her niece, Marsha House and husband Danny of Lewisport; a great nephew, Brandon House and wife Johnna of Lewisport; three great-great nieces, Halley Stewart, Ella House and Ansley House.

Funeral Services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 17, 2017 in the Taylor Chapel of Gibson & Son Funeral Home, Lewisport with burial following in Lewisport Cemetery. Visitation was held on Thursday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. until service time at the funeral home. Online messages of condolence may be left for the family at www.gibsonandsonfh.com.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Anna to the Goodfellows Club, 401 Frederica St. B203, Owensboro, KY 42301 or the Hancock County Animal Shelter, 305 Gene Hayden Rd. Lewisport, KY 42351, envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Edward M. "Eddie" Winters, II

Edward M. "Eddie" Winters II, of Hawesville, Kentucky, passed peacefully in his daughter's home on February 14, 2017 to be with his Lord and Savior. He served his country in the Korean War, and was recognized by all for his bravery. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Delores Winters (Gray), and survived by his three children, six grandkids, and three great grandchildren.

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Our Heartfelt Appreciation

To our family & friends for their prayers, visits, calls and cards for Clay.

To Father Terry Devine and Bob Ogle, for their kind words at the graveside service, and to Golden Living Center and Gibson & Son Funeral Home....



Our Sincere Gratitude,
Shirlene, Dana, Ronnie & Daniel Quinn



In Loving Memory of JEFF RICHARDS

June 29, 1964- February 26, 2008

It's amazing how nine years can seem like only yesterday, and other times an eternity. The empty place in our hearts is still very real. You were a blessing to everyone who knew you and we feel so blessed to have had you for our son, brother, husband and father.

We love and miss you,
Your family



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