

River's too wide for crossing

Ohio expected to crest at 56 feet with moderate flooding, closed roads

By **HALIE BARGER**
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As river levels continue to rise, the workers at the Sinclair gas station on Third Street in Aurora keep a close eye on the water.

"Right now, we're not panicking, we're not concerned because it's supposed to crest at 56 and at 56 feet, we're good," Sinclair store manager Sherry Bruce said.

In 2018, the gas station had to close, seal the pumps and remove all of the merchandise to ensure nothing was ruined. At that time river levels were in the low 60 feet. Bruce said she didn't think that things would get to that level, but the station would be keeping a close watch on the news and the water.

"It depends on how high it gets," she said. "I was here for the flood of '18 and it was no fun ... We did get all of our pumps taken out, sealed up and taken care of and we got the store cleared out. So, the only damage was cleaning up after the flood with all of the mud and the yuck."

By Wednesday morning a portion of Third Street and Indiana 56 was closed due to high water covering the roadway.

The county has closed several roads due to high water.

East Laughery at Shiloh Lane, East Laughery at Gregory Road and Park Avenue at Cross Road were closed on Monday. Wednesday morning, the county said Park Avenue by the soccer field and Cole Lane were closed. The county was keeping watch on Lower Dillsboro Road.

The National Weather Service has reported that the Ohio River is expected to crest at 56 feet on Thursday, which is



HALIE BARGER/THE REGISTER

There will be no ballgames for a while at the park next to the Aurora Recreation Community Center as water has backed up onto every field.

higher than initial forecasts. 56 feet puts the Ohio river into a moderate flood stage. As of 10 a.m. on Wednesday the river was at 54.98.

According to Aurora Utilities Superintendent Randy Turner, portions of Lesko Park are expected to be under water this week. The streets department has shut down the bicycle trail as well, he said.

"We are making provision on removing the electric in some of our sewer pump stations along the river," Turner said.

Aurora Police Chief Josh Daugherty said if a driver comes across high water not to cross as the car can very quickly be swept away. Aurora officials are monitoring the streets and river levels using a map of the streets that are most affected, he said.

Paul Seymour, superintendent of the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District, said that nobody in the city should worry about flooding as the levy offers protection. The city also has flood gates that can be shut in the case of the water getting really high, but for this week's flooding the city is not concerned.



MARC EMRAL/THE REGISTER

Third Street in Aurora was already closed as water from the Ohio Rive was approaching the front of the Eagles hall. Dearborn County closed several road and were watching to see if more had to be blocked.

Army vaccinates at Ivy Tech

It looked like the Army had taken over the third floor of the Ivy Tech building in Lawrenceburg.

But it was the Army National Guard, and one Air National Guard, who were there administering COVID vaccinations in a mobile clinic last week.

The National Guard was there with the Indiana State Department of Health to offer the vaccine as a back-up to the Dearborn County Department of Health's clinic across the street at the Lawrenceburg Event Center.

Katie Lamoreaux, with the ISDH, said the site was open "because we saw an overwhelming need in this area. ... We like to backfill and just kind of come in and try to make sure that if there are people that want it and

eligible for it, we can get it to them as fast as possible."

The difference in the two clinics is this mobile clinic was administering the Pfizer vaccine, while the county's site was offering Moderna.

The Ivy Tech site was allocated 1,100 doses for the three days it was in town.

Staff Sgt. Michael Allison was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 18-person detail in Lawrenceburg.

"We're here to assist (ISDH) in what they need," Allison said. "At this point that is administering vaccines, that's pretty much what we're doing."

He said his team has worked at about eight vaccination clinics, but also worked at Gleaners Food Bank in the Indianapolis area



MARC EMRAL/THE REGISTER

Part of the team working the mobile vaccination clinic in Lawrenceburg last week were, from left, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Smichowski, Staff Sgt. Michael Allison, both of the Army National Guard, and Senior Airmen Alysa Holloway, of the Air National Guard.

during the pandemic.

"There's been a lot of missions across the state, now that we're doing (clinics)," Allison said. "We've had people in the Department of Corrections." They have also assisted at long-term care facilities.

"Everything has run pretty smooth. I mean, obviously, every site is different," he

said. "We just got to kind of adapt and overcome if we have any issues. ... We're ready in case it does happen."

Mark Graver, the Chancellor at Ivy Tech Lawrenceburg, said the school has offered its campuses to the ISDH for the clinics.

"We have 19 campus locations, so we're spread out

pretty much everywhere," Graver said. "We're able to provide, obviously, the footprint, the space, the parking, and of course we have the crowds coming in, the Wi-Fi, the bathrooms from the facility standpoint. So, it's a community service and we couldn't be more pleased to be vaccinating Hoosiers in southeastern Indiana."

Joy ride tears up dig site

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It is something that has happened before. But an Indiana Conservation officer happened to see two teens doing doughnuts at an archaeological site and arrested the pair.

The teens were tearing up the site near Hollywood Casino that was being worked on by Liz Sedler and the Archaeological Research Institute, based in Lawrenceburg.

Liz Sedler, the institute's executive director, said the land was privately owned but near the Oxbow property. She said it wasn't the first time her site, and the property around it, has been harmed.

"The conservation officer actually caught these guys that were driving around in the field," Sedler said. "And then last weekend, we had more people out there Monday. So, it's just something that people do, and we would like to make an example of the people that got caught. And we just really try to educate the community that this

Greendale has a new police chief

By **LAURA A. HOBSON**
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Shane Slack, 44, has been appointed new police chief of Greendale.

His chief shifts start Saturday, taking over for Chief DeWayne Uhlman who is retiring.

Slack joined the Greendale Police Department in May 2020. Prior to that, he

worked in the Aurora Police Department from April 2004 to May 2020. He became a certified crime scene investigator in May 2012.

Greendale Police De-

partment is hiring three officers bringing the total to 11 including the chief. There are two full-time dispatchers and four part-time

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Shane Slack is the new police chief of Greendale.

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