



Sports Luck to start Thursday in pre-season opener, **B1**



It's still leaky
MORE WEATHER,
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The Star

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WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 8, 2018

Auburn, Indiana THEAUBURNSTAR.COM \$1.25



Choice rehearses for its in-the-round concert Aug. 10 at the DeKalb Outdoor Theater in Auburn. Clockwise, from left, are Mike Littlejohn, Mike Penland, Mike Good, Dan Guinn and Dan Cory.

Choice goes all-original

Concert set for Aug. 10 in Auburn

BY DAVE KURTZ
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AUBURN — After 42 years on stage, one of northeast Indiana's favorite party bands could have settled for predictability.

That easy path wouldn't do for Choice, Auburn's five-man group known for its accurate renditions of classic rock hits.

"We've always tried to evolve ... not just for the people we play for, but for us, so that we continue to be inspired," said Dan Cory, a founding member of the group.

For its concert Aug. 10 at the DeKalb Outdoor Theater in Auburn, Choice will try "something totally

different than we've ever done before," said drummer Mike Good.

In the 7:30 p.m. free show, Choice will play nothing but original songs written and inspired by Cory.

"Dan honestly has been pushing for the original thing for several years, which has been great," said bass player Mike Littlejohn.

In writing the band's own tunes, "We been influenced over the years by every Top 40 rock 'n' roll band you can think of ... and some country groups," Cory said.

"It's rock 'n' roll, but it's not as hard as we used to play. We do some things that are kind of tender," Cory said about the set list for the Aug. 10 show.

In case that's not enough departure from its norm, Choice will come down from the stage and play on the grass, surrounded by the audience.

"We could turn it over to the audience and have them ask questions,"

Breakout Box

Listen to an audio file of the original Choice song "Two Lane" at kpcnews.com/thestar.

Good said.

"It's going to be different for us," Good added. "We have a comfort zone, but that evening it's going to be fun, because we're going to be a little bit out of our comfort zone."

Between musical numbers, band members will tell the stories behind the songs, which reflect their experiences over the decades.

"It's that story-telling element that I'm looking forward to," Littlejohn said.

Local charity NeighborLink again will sponsor Choice's concert.

Council passes salary amendment

Pay scale for Community Corrections receives approval

BY MARK MURDOCK
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AUBURN — The DeKalb County Council and DeKalb County Community Corrections are back on the same page.

The council passed an amendment to the county's salary and hourly wage ordinance incorporating the pay scale for Community Corrections on second and third readings at Monday's meeting.

The amendment to the ordinance had passed by only a 4-3 vote on first reading at the July 2 meeting, Monday's vote came much more quickly and was 6-1, with Councilmember Bill VanWye against.

Councilmember Rick Ring said a misunderstanding occurred at the last meeting, mostly due to Community Corrections operating on the state fiscal year and the county going by the calendar year.

Some of the salaries in the Community Corrections budget showed increases of more than the 2.5 percent limit the council had asked of county department heads.

Since it depends on Indiana Department of Correction grants, however, Community Corrections follows the state fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Its budget must be submitted in January.

"Council did not give any instructions as to the amount of raises or what we wanted to see in those budgets until June," Ring said. "You were done by the time we gave our instructions due to that fiscal year issue."

"I do apologize for the fact that there was a miscommunication last month. I understand what you're doing. You did everything correctly."

Community Corrections is preparing to move into its new facility. Construction will begin on the county farm property west of Auburn soon. Going from no building to staffing the new home for the program 24/7, many changes to staffing and work duties are needed.

"The positions that were outside the increase (recommended by the council) were new positions with new duties," Community Corrections Executive Director Kellie Knauer said. "Some of them were filled by existing employees who were promoted, but they were structured that way because of a much higher level of expectation."

Some positions won't be filled until April. Community Corrections received DOC funding for April through

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Butler Days Festival begins Thursday with a hog roast

BY JEFF JONES
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BUTLER — The Butler Days Festival returns Thursday.

Town-wide garage sales will take place throughout the festival.

Festival events begin at 4:30 p.m. Thursday with a hog roast at Butler United Methodist Church. At 6:30 p.m., the church will host a concert featuring the Mylon Hayes family.

The DeKalb County Historical Society will lead a walk through Butler Cemetery at 6 p.m. Butler's finest — police officers and firefighters — will square off in the third annual charity softball game at 6:30 p.m. This year's game at Eastside's softball field will raise funds for the Butler Community Food Pantry.

Craft and food vendors will open at 10 a.m. Friday. The historical society museum, located at 201 E. Main St., will be open from noon to 4 p.m. There will be free face painting and a graffiti wall.

American Legion Post 202 will serve sausage and onion rings from 5-8 p.m. Lamb of God Church will host the Royer Brothers concert from 6-8 p.m. The

fifth annual light parade will take place at 9 p.m., followed by a teen dance at 10 p.m. at the American Legion.

Saturday, the Butler Fire Department will host its pancake and sausage breakfast from 7-11 a.m. Butler United Methodist Church will host a 5K walk/run event at 8 a.m. The car show will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Butler Church of Christ.

Throughout the day, there will be a bicycle stunt show, with scheduled times of 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The DeKalb County Horsemen's Association will offer tours through Butler from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Jim Barron will perform his magic show at 10 a.m. in the entertainment tent. Scheumann Farm will have a petting zoo at 10 a.m. and Mark's Ark will feature exotic animals at 10 a.m. The petting zoo and exotic animals will be on Eastern Ave.

Christ's Church at Butler will host a fish fry from 4-7 p.m. Festival giveaways will be announced in the entertainment tent at 4:30 p.m. The American Legion will host Kim Robins in concert from 8-11 p.m.



Children put their talents on display at the graffiti wall during the 2017 Butler Days Festival. This year's festival starts Thursday.

FILE PHOTO BY JEFF JONES

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County council considering job study

BY MARK MURDOCK
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AUBURN — To pay people fairly and stay within your budget, you need to know exactly what they do.

The DeKalb County Council considered the idea of having a study done on the activities of all county employees in its monthly discussion with county commissioners in Monday's meeting.

"Differences in job titles between departments have been a frequent issue every year when we do the budget," Councilmember

Rick Ring said. "We're trying to set our employees' salaries and be fair, and be able to pay what it takes to get good employees."

County Director of Human Resources Doty Miller has asked department heads to submit job descriptions to provide a clear picture of what employees in each department do.

"A clerk in one department is not necessarily the same as a clerk in another department," Miller said. "That's why the job descriptions are so important as opposed to just the job title."

Miller said a salary scale is also important, with proper pay levels for a person with considerable experience compared to a person with little experience.

If department heads provide job descriptions, much of the leg work will already be done and the county will save money. Miller said she has been quoted a price of \$27,000 for the study, which would take 6-8 months to complete.

"I'm speaking only for myself, but as we're doing the budget over the course of the next six weeks, I'm

going to take into consideration what department heads have gotten those job descriptions in and done the preliminary work," Ring said.

He added that it's likely possible to use job descriptions from comparable departments in other counties as a model.

Commissioners also reported that grades for the three finalist firms vying for the chance to do the engineering work for the C.R. 56 reconstruction

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