



The Navigator

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Pot pilfered!

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

Illinois State Police are seeking information from the public about a break-in and theft at the Ataraxia Cannabis Cultivation Plant in Albion. Investigators have released little information about the burglary other than to say they were called to the facility on Monday, Aug. 3 to investigate a break-in and theft. Police said the break-in occurred sometime in the early morning hours of

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GPD continues to make departmental improvements

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

The Grayville Police Department continued to make improvements within the department after last week's City Council meeting. The council members voted unanimously to approve a new E-citation system, as well as the sale of excess radio equipment. Chief of Police, David Burrows, provided the Council with a list of identified excess equipment, and suggested that they sell these items via eBay to try

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Albion Council drops \$43K for new APD Interceptor

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Albion Police Department is getting a new vehicle. During their August regular session Monday evening, the Albion City Council approved the purchase of a 2020 Ford All-Wheel-Drive Police Interceptor for the APD. The vehicle will come at a cost of \$43,585, with Albion Mayor Wesley Harris noting during the meeting that the city's finance

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EC Sheriff reacts to Pritzker EO on IDOC prisoners

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

A new executive order from Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker will allow for the Illinois Department of Corrections to take in state prisoners from county jails, but does not require them to do so. An order halting the intake of new prisoners into

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White County hits warning level for COVID

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

White County is among 11 counties that are considered to be at a Warning Level for COVID-19. The announcement was made July 31 by officials of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Neighboring Saline and Gallatin Counties were also included in the list-all counties covered by the Egyptian Health Department.

The other counties included in the Warning Level announcement include Cass, Jackson, JoDaviess, Johnson, Perry, Randolph, Sangamon and St. Clair. All 11 counties saw outbreaks associated with business operations and activities posing higher risk for disease spread, including a rise in cases among late teens and 20's, parties and social gatherings, people going to bars, long-term care outbreaks, clusters of cases associated with

restaurants and churches and sporting events. Locally, the Wee Care Day Care center in Grayville temporarily closed its doors after three employees tested positive for the virus. The facility plans to reopen Aug. 10 after a thorough deep cleaning. Data from the Egyptian Health Department reflects more young people testing positive for COVID-19. In White County on Aug. 3, two females in their 20's tested positive along with a woman

in her 30's. In Saline County Aug. 2, two females in their teens, two females in their 30's and a female in her 40's tested positive. Aug. 1, a man in his 20's tested positive. July 31, a boy under the age of 10 and three teens tested positive plus four individuals in their 30's. One new case was reported in Wabash County on Aug. 3. Three new cases were added Aug. 3 for Edwards County.

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Mary Ruth Johnson assists a child during her time as the director of the Little Prairie Preschool program. Photo provided.

Goodbye Mrs. Johnson

Little Prairie Preschool director retires after 37 years

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

It was 37 years ago that Mary Ruth Johnson made the leap from babysitting and staying home with the kids to enriching the lives of multitudes of children through the Little Prairie Christian Church's preschool program. Johnson retired as the program's director/teacher in late July, rounding out 37 years of taking part in the early development of the county's youth. "I started in August of

1983," said Johnson. "Preschool started in January of 1983, but I started in August." Staying with the program until this summer, Johnson spent the last 26 years of her tenure at Little Prairie overseeing the program. "I started out as a teacher's aide, but then I went back to college (at Wabash Valley College) for two years and got my Associate's Degree in early childhood," she recalled. "After I got my degree, I was director/teacher qualified. "So I've been doing that since 1994." It was a combination of her love of children and the opportunity arriving at just

the right moment that led Johnson toward the preschool program. "Well, I was just a stay-at-home mom, my husband worked and I just took care of my family," she explained. "Then Little Prairie Christian Church, they decided they wanted to start a pre-school. At that time, my youngest child, my little girl, she started Kindergarten. "So I thought, 'Well, my kids will be in school, and maybe this is the opportunity for me.'" See GOODBYE, page 5A

EC to receive contact tracing aid from Wabash

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Edwards County Health Office will be receiving some help from their counterparts in Wabash County to continue implementing contact tracing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Edwards County Board of Commissioners was informed that the Wabash County Health Department was willing to share resources procured through a COVID-19-related grant during their August regular session Monday morning. The primary goal of the grant is to assist counties with their contact tracing programs amid the pandemic.

"Wabash County, they basically worked into a grant that they received, our county, since we do not have a health department," said Belinda Moore, Administrator for the Edwards County Health Office.

"With this whole COVID contact tracing, they did receive a grant, and included us in that."

Moore noted that Wabash County Health Department Administrator Judy Wisel was intending to attend the Edwards County Board meeting to help present the grant, but instead had to take part in a quarantine order hearing at the Wabash County Courthouse. As such, the Edward County Administrator presented information regarding the grant to the county commissioners.

"They are going to have staff to assist with the contact tracing," Moore stated. "The training, monitoring and entering into the state surveillance system, and there's a system that we have to input

See AID, page 5A

EC, Gville fall sports moved to spring seasons

IHSA releases plan for 2020-21 sports amid COVID-19 pandemic

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

There will be no high school sports played in either Edwards County or Grayville this fall.

The Illinois High School Association released its plan regarding sports seasons during the 2020-21 school year late last week in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, reorganizing when several sports

will be played throughout the state. Among the altered season, football and volleyball will each now be played in late winter and into the spring, with a start date set for Feb. 15 for each sport. The IHSA plan breaks down the year into four sports seasons: fall sports will be played from Aug. 10 until Oct. 24, winter sports will be played from Nov. 16 until Feb. 3, spring sports will be played from Feb. 15 until May 1 and summer sports will be played from May

3 until June 26. With football being deemed a higher risk sport in relation to COVID-19 by the Illinois Department of Public Health, while both boys and girls volleyball have been dubbed a medium risk, both sports were moved from the fall category into the spring. Also of note for student-athletes in the Edwards County and Grayville school districts, boys and girls basketball, despite being listed as having a medium risk level by IDPH, will remain winter sports with

a start date of Nov. 16. Both baseball and softball are listed as lower risk sports, but have been bumped to the summer season, set to begin on May 3. "I applaud our board of directors for choosing a model that allows every student-athlete the opportunity for a modified season," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. The IHSA Board considered several factors in formulating

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Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$34.01 as of Tuesday down 59 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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