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## Date set for Swanner murder trial

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

A jury trial date has been set for first-degree murder suspect Clayton Andrew Swanner of Crossville. During a hearing Monday, July 13, a trial date of Oct. 20 was set according to White County State's Attorney Denton Aud.

Swanner, 35, faces two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the death of his mother, Cathy Brandenstein. Prosecutors allege that Swanner intentionally set fire to his mother's 1101 Superior Avenue home in Crossville on

See SWANNER, page 3A

## Hearing on final count in Bailey suit set for Friday

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

A presumed final hearing in the Clay County Circuit Court regarding a lawsuit by State Representative Darren Bailey against Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker over his executive orders during the COVID-19 pandemic is set to take place Friday afternoon.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office, representing Pritzker, has filed a motion to dismiss count one of Bailey's lawsuit, which argues that COVID-19 did not

See HEARING, page 3A

## Guilty plea entered in Grayville Hucks store robbery

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

Brittini L. Smith, 31 of Evansville, Ind. has entered a guilty plea in connection with her role in the Dec. 16, 2019 armed robbery of the Hucks Convenience Store in Grayville. Her husband, Timothy L. Smith, 35 of Evansville has entered a not guilty plea and is await-

See PLEA, page 5A

## EC EMS Board plans to handle ambulance surplus

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The Edwards County Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors spent a portion of their July regular meeting Monday night beginning to plan how to manage its ambulances.

Kent Reid, Chairman of the Board, opened discus-

See EMS, page 1B

# Edwards County COVID cases surge

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

The number of patients testing positive for COVID-19 in Edwards County has climbed to nine with seven new cases reported since July 9.

Officials with the Edwards County Health Office recorded four new cases on July 8, two on July 9 and one on July 10.

For several weeks, the number of laboratory confirmed cases in Edwards County had been just two.

The Edwards County Health Office cautioned in a Facebook post on Thursday, July 9 that "if you attended a large party in the past week, we ask that you quarantine at home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms."

"There is the potential you

may have been exposed," the post concluded.

The Edwards County Health Office has stated that they will not be releasing additional details regarding those who have been confirmed positive for the virus, citing privacy issues.

In White County, the number of positive cases has grown to 18. Saline County recorded one new case on July 12 for a total of 17. Gallatin County has

seen a total of seven cases to date.

In Wabash County, the number of laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 stands at 23 with the most recent case recorded on July 4.

In neighboring Wayne County, the number of positive cases now stands at 19 including six new cases in the past week. The new cases involved a female in her 20's a 10-year-old child and a teen.



Edwards County High School senior-to-be Ryan St. Ledger streaks down the sideline as the Lions take on Christopher Zeigler Royalton during the 2019 football season. St. Ledger is one of many high school senior student athletes throughout the country who are waiting to see how COVID-19 will impact their fall sports season. Photo by T.J. Hug.

## Grayville begins updating City ordinances

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

At this week's Grayville City Council meeting, several ordinance amendments and updates were discussed to include the Animal Control Ordinance, the Liquor Control Ordinance and Golf Cart Ordinance. The Traffic Code Ordinance was tabled for the fourth time since it was first introduced as "new business" at the May 26 Council meeting, due to the fact that Street Commissioner Chris James is still trying to gather more information.

The Council unanimously approved to put into effect the newly updated Animal Control Ordinance, which runs 15 pages long.

Of note, a limitation on the number and type of pets and livestock have been introduced. Section 90.11(B)(1) states, "it shall be unlawful for any person or persons residing within the corporate limits to keep more than five (5) dogs and/or five (5) cats within the City, with the exception that a litter of pups, a litter of kittens or a portion of a litter may be kept for a period of time not exceeding five (5) months from birth."

Section 90.12 then discusses other prohibitions regarding animals in the City. Horses, mules, swine, sheep, goat, cattle and certain fowl, as well as wildlife to "include skunks, poisonous reptiles and other wildlife," are declared unlawful and a nuisance, thus, prohibited.

See LIMBO, page 5A

See UPDATE, page 5A

## IHSA guidelines shift, put fall sports in limbo

BY T.J. HUG and JASON CRAIG  
Of the Navigator

Releasing two sets of guidelines in the span of less than seven days, what form, if any, fall sports will take at Illinois high schools throughout the state is largely in the hands of the IHSA.

Less than a week after announcing its Phase 4 Return To Play Guidelines, the IHSA sent revised guidelines to schools on Thursday, July 9, amid reports of athletes testing positive for COVID-19, including prohibiting contact drills and any physical contact

among athletes. Additional changes include a requirement that all players and coaches must always wear masks. The IHSA clarified later Thursday that athletes are not required to wear masks outside if socially distanced.

The IHSA released a brief statement Thursday afternoon citing "an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 among high school teams around the state" as the reason for the revisions.

"Due to an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 among high school teams around the state, the Illinois High School Association and Illinois Department of Public Health are jointly collaborating to modify

the IHSA's Phase 4 Return To Play Guidelines," according to the statement.

The IHSA also clarified that there must be a strict 50-person limit to any indoor activities.

The revisions will mean big changes for programs that had either already started or had scheduled summer camps in the coming weeks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has already had a significant impact on fall sports programs for Illinois high schools, even before the two sets of guide-

## Friends of Grayville Hog Roast and Corn Hole Tournament set

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

The Friends of Grayville committee, represented by Andy Brock and Debbie Gray, attended Monday evening's Grayville City Council Meeting.

Brock began by sharing the details of the upcoming Hog Roast, set for Saturday, July 25 in Grayville. He informed the Council they were intending on blocking off the streets at 10 a.m. to begin set up for the Gray Memorial Scholarship Corn Hole Tournament, due to start at 2 p.m. that day. He also requested the barricades be made available the night prior and that the Pavilion be

stocked, cleaned and prepared for the day's festivities. Mayor Travis Thompson agreed to provide the F.O.G. with the keys by July 20 so they could begin setting up and pre-staging items.

On July 25, Corn Hole Tournament registration will start at 1 p.m., with the tournament beginning at 2 p.m. They will have boards set up, but request that each team brings their own bags. The cost will be \$40 for a team of two, with a \$500 plus 50% of entry fees payout. They will award for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

At 3 p.m., the Moose Lodge #1960-sponsored beer tent will open at the Lodge and then beginning at 5 p.m., the Smoke Rings band will start playing and food lines will open up.



Pictured are newly elected Albion Chamber of Commerce Officers Secretary Averi Goodman, President Jessica Gwaltney and Vice President Brittany Longbons. Photo by Heather Longbons of Every Beautiful Thing Photography.

## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$33.10 as of Tuesday down 53 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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