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Grayville Senior Center to hand out Christmas Dinners

For those without large family dinners to attend on Christmas Day, the Grayville Senior Citizens Center will be providing a holiday meal.

The Grayville Senior Center will be handing out traditional Christmas Dinners on Dec. 25 this year, starting at 11 a.m. They will continue to provide meals until the food supply runs out.

For those patrons who are unable to travel to pick up a meal, one can be delivered. To request a delivery, please call 618-375-9212.

Loehrlein denied new trial by Indiana Supreme Court

By LEN WELLS
Of The Navigator

The Indiana Supreme Court has ruled that Clinton Loehrlein is not entitled to a new trial despite the misconduct of the jury foreperson during his murder trial.

Loehrlein, 58 of Evansville, Ind. is serving a 149 year prison sentence for the 2017 shooting death of his wife and Grayville native Sherry Lynn (McCarty) Loehrlein and the attempted murder of his

See DENIED, page 5A

Bond reduction denied in Nichols murder case

By LEN WELLS
Of The Navigator

Murder suspect Brodey Murbarger's bid to have his bond reduced has been denied. Murbarger, 24, is awaiting trial for the July, 2014 murder of 15-year-old Megan Nichols of Fairfield.

In Wayne County Circuit Court Dec. 8, Judge Michael Molt rejected a defense motion to reduce Murbarger's bond, allowing

See BOND, page 5A

Firearm deer season ends, harvest numbers increase

By LEN WELLS
Of The Navigator

The 2020 firearm deer season has concluded in Illinois with hunters taking significantly more white-tail deer this year than in 2019. Officials with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources report the two-season total amounts to 76,579 compared to the 2019 total of 74,417.

The preliminary harvest total for the second firearm

See DEER, page 5A

Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$39.99 as of Tuesday up \$1.23 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



Local schools to go remote for rest of semester

By AMY WINTER
Of The Navigator

Recently, many schools in the local area have all chosen to resume remote learning through the end of 2020.

The Navigator reached out to several school districts in the area to determine how similarly, or dissimilarly, decisions have been in the past few weeks. Due to the short time before time of press, not all responses were received in

time, though information is still included when possible.

David Cowger, Superintendent of Schools for Edwards County Community Unit School District #1, Dr. Julie Harrelson, Superintendent of Schools for Grayville Community Unit School District #1 and Principal of the Grayville Junior-Senior High School, as well as the Superintendent of Schools/Principal of New Hope Community Consolidated School District #6, Jill Fulkerson, Superintendent/

Principal for Fairfield Community High School (District #225) and Brad Lee, Superintendent of Carmi-White County Community Unity School District #5 all told The Navigator that many factors led to the decision to close schools in their districts through the first week of January.

They all cited the problematic situation of quarantined students, and especially staff, as being a huge factor in their decision-making processes at each school.

At FCHS, "the high number of staff out either with COVID or in quarantine" was a huge deciding factor in their decision-making process. "We were using substitute teachers and pulling aides as we could. We had exhausted all resources for finding substitute teachers and felt that quality learning was not taking place," Fulkerson said on Monday.

Last week, Cowger said,

See REMOTE, page 5A



Santa Claus, along with helper Ava Gwaltney, visit with children in cars during this year's Albion Lighted Christmas Parade. The parade was organized by the Albion Area Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Janet Mapps.

West Salem Dollar General fire causes limited damage

By T.J. HUG
Of The Navigator

The quick action of one employee at the West Salem Dollar General store prevented a small fire from becoming a significantly larger blaze late Saturday night.

At roughly 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, an electrical fire broke out on a display at the store, causing smoke damage to the building and products within its walls. An employee used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire, with the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department arriving on the scene shortly thereafter.

Harvey Fenton, Fire Chief of the WSVFD, detailed the circumstances through which the fire began.

"What they had there was a display that...had a glass

See FIRE, page 5A

Albion Liquor Commission okays 2 licenses, waits on third

By T.J. HUG
Of The Navigator

The Albion Liquor Commission approved two new liquor licenses Thursday night, but decided to wait before granting another local restaurant the ability to sell alcohol.

The commission granted liquor licenses to new Albion Mexican restaurant El Cactus Tex Mex and Knapp Mart, respectively, during the Thursday meeting. El Cactus is occupying the same building which housed former Mexican

restaurant and liquor license holder El Gallito, while Knapp Mart needed a new license from the city after its parent company, Knapp Oil, was acquired by new ownership.

Brandon Huff, owner of the city's DiMaggio's Pizzeria franchise, also requested a liquor license for his restaurant.

"I'm here to obtain a liquor license for the beer and wine," said Huff. "Over the years, I've always heard that beer and pizza, everybody wants beer with their pizza, so we're going to try it if we can."

The combination is one Huff

is hoping to try out as soon as possible.

"Whenever the dining room can open back up," he said of when he'd like to begin serving alcohol at the DiMaggio's location. "That would be, probably, what I'd be looking at."

"Maybe spring." As the pizzeria could not be using the license for the entirety of 2021, there would be a break in the yearly rate given by the city, should the commission elect to allow alcohol sales in the establishment.

"We'll be prorating your license, so you won't have to pay for the months that you ar-

en't using it," said City Clerk Melissa Felling. "It goes from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, and I'll take prices off."

Felling also informed the board that the exact type of license Hoff is requesting for DiMaggio's currently does not exist within the confines of the city's liquor ordinance.

"We don't have a restaurant license which is just beer and wine," she explained. "So we'll have to make some decisions about what we charge if we decide to (grant that)."

See LICENSES, page 5A

Grayville Police Department makes temporary move to Little Wabash

By AMY WINTER
Of The Navigator

At Monday night's Grayville City Council meeting, the second reading of Ordinance No. 904, Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Grayville (Grayville Police Department) and the Little Wabash Fire Protection District was approved by the council, allowing GPD to temporarily lease - at \$250 a month - a portion of the LWF-PD building while the current GPD building is repaired. It was previously reported

that the GPD building is in a state of disrepair and at the first reading of the agreement last month, Mayor Travis Thompson noted that the effective date for the agreement should be as soon as possible at the building had no heat. The approval at Monday's meeting will allow GPD to move locations when they are ready.

The LWF-PD building is located at the intersection of North Industrial Drive and North Street, less than a mile west of the GPD building.

The second reading, and passing of the Tax Levy Ordinances No. 901 and No. 902

were approved Monday night. The recommended 2020-2021 amount to be forwarded to governmental agencies was set at \$287,235.

The tax levy estimates were displayed for 30 days, and this approval marked the final approval needed by the end of December.

Gas Commissioner Donovan Baldwin, who championed the addition of an Illinois Department of Transportation traffic study on the feasibility of raising the speed limit on Illinois Route 1 between Gray Street and the I-64 Interchange store to 45 mph, recommended tabling the agenda item until

spring due to weather and daylight restrictions this winter, which was approved.

The council did not approve the second reading of Ordinance 903, No Parking on West North Street, since the proviso recommended after the first reading, which stated that community members who currently park there for the nearby residences should be provided official notification prior to approving the ordinance and given a chance to provide feedback before a final approval.

See MOVE, page 5A

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