



# The Navigator

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\$1.00

www.navigatorjournal.com | (618) 445.2355 (618) 375.7502 | Volume 23-150, Number 8-21

## Albion Council to host special meeting on grants Friday

Three separate grants will serve as the focus of discussion for the Albion City Council when they meet in special session later this week. The council has called for a special meeting on Friday, Sept. 18 to discuss and possibly take action on three listed agenda items

See GRANTS, page 5A

## Albion Chamber, WSDA to host virtual paint-out

The Edwards County "Paint Out" has gone virtual for 2020.

Paintings from some of the top Plein Air artists in the country will be available for viewing and purchase at the upcoming art show and sale.

Who are Plein Air artists and what do they do? Plein Air easels of today—allow artists the freedom to paint "en plein air," which is the French expression for "in the open air." Plein Air

See PAINT, page 5A

## Mail-in voting: know how to get your ballot counted

By T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

With the state of Illinois allowing mail-in voting for the Nov. 3 General Election, it is important to understand exactly what needs to be done for those voting in this manner to have their votes counted.

Those who have requested a mail-in ballot will have it mailed to them on Sept. 24, which also serves as the first day for early in-person voting within the state of Illinois. There are also several reasons for which a

See VOTE, page 5A

## Navigator seeks submissions for annual Vet Day Tab

The Navigator is seeking out help from area veterans for our annual Veterans Day Tab.

Any veteran within our coverage area who would like to submit their military picture, rank and/or a write-up or summary of their service to their country is encouraged to send such materials to The Navigator's Albion or Grayville Offices. The Albion office is located at 19 West Main Street P.O. Box 10, while the Grayville office is situated at 113 North Middle Street.

Submissions may also be sent via email to gateditor1@gmail.com

The deadline for submissions for the tab has been set for Thursday, Nov. 5. For more information, call our Albion office at 618-445-2355.

## Thompson's emergency powers extended

By AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

The Grayville City Council unanimously approved to extend and renew Mayor Travis Thompson's emergency powers originally granted to him during a special meeting on Aug. 27 during Monday evening's regularly scheduled

meeting.

The Grayville City Council adopted an ordinance establishing temporary executive powers to Mayor Travis Thompson pursuant to Illinois State Statute (65 ILCS 5/11-1-6 and 20 ILCS 3305/11) for the City of Grayville, in both White and Edwards Counties, which shall expire not later than the adjournment of the

first regular meeting after the state of emergency has been declared. The ordinance originally went into effect Aug. 27, and the City Council approved to extend it on Sept. 14. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

The board did discuss that White County had returned to the blue zone from the orange

zone, but the dates are not current on the Illinois Department of Public Health weekly statistics. IDPH's provisional metrics are currently being based off the week of Aug. 30 through Sept. 15. Edwards County has remained in the blue zone.

However, Mayor Thompson

See EXTENDED, page 5A

## EC Clocktower project tacks on \$23K to bill

By T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The Edwards County Courthouse Clocktower restoration added more than \$23,000 to its tab last week.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Edwards County Public Building Committee, an offshoot of the county's Board of Commissioners, approved a change order for the project costing an additional \$23,618.90 to replace rotting wood within the structure. The project is being undertaken by Renaissance Roofing, and came with an initial price tag of \$700,000.

Matt St. Ledger, Chairman of the Committee, first presented a report on the progress of the project by Bob Yapp, a historical preservationist hired by the PBC to oversee the project.

"Everything seemed to be about where he thought it should be," said St. Ledger.

St. Ledger did inform the committee of an issue found by the Renaissance workers during the restoration process.

"What they found is much more rotting wood than what they anticipated finding," he said. "They knew they were going to find some, but there



Workers with Renaissance Roofing continue their effort to restore the Edwards County Courthouse Clocktower Monday afternoon. Photo by T.J. Hug.

See TOWER, page 5A

## Gary Bisch home after COVID-19 hospitalization

By LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

After a nearly three week hospitalization, Grayville businessman Gary Bisch is back home recuperating from the effects of COVID-19. Gary was released from an Evansville hospital on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 9. He had been hospitalized since Aug. 23. After returning home,

his daughter Tricia Myers of Grayville asked him, "So now that you've experienced the Coronavirus, do you feel that any of this has been overblown?" Gary replied, "All I know is you'd better be prepared. I wasn't, and I was ready to go kapoot! Give it up, baby!"

During his battle with COVID-19, Gary lost 23 pounds. He says he is still very weak and remains on oxygen at home. Gary added that the

virus wasn't the only thing he had to fight while hospitalized. "The loneliness - with nobody there - you just stare at the walls and listen to all the machines going off," Gary said. "But I thought to myself - I'm a bear - I will fight this!" Much of his battle against COVID-19 was waged in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital where the only people he saw were doctors and nurses. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, he could have no visitors.

"There were others there [with COVID] - you couldn't help but pray for those that had it a lot tougher than me," Gary said. "It's been the most horrible experience that I've ever had."

Gary and his wife Jean Ellen say they have no idea where he contracted the virus. Both say they have been careful with social distancing and

See HOME, page 5A



A semi-truck overturned near Burnt Prairie on Interstate 64 Monday afternoon. The vehicle damaged portions of the roadway during the accident. Photo by Amanda Trusty.

## Semi crashes on I-64 near Grayville

By LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

A Shobonier, Ill. truck driver was injured Monday afternoon in a two vehicle crash on Interstate-64 near Grayville. The crash happened shortly after 1

p.m. Monday in the eastbound lanes of I-64 about two miles west of the Grayville exit.

Illinois State Police identified the drivers as Kenneth E. Helton, 46 of Shobonier and Bobby

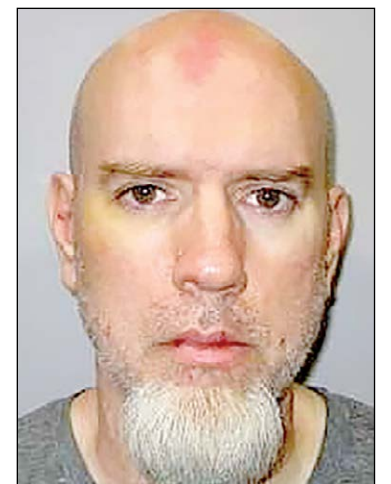
See CRASH, page 5A

## Albion man jailed on charge of strangulation

By LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

An Albion man has been bound over for trial in connection with charges he attempted to strangle his wife during an act of alleged domestic violence last month.

Michael W. Bowdoin, 49 of Albion has been formally charged with aggravated battery by strangulation, a Class-2 felony and domestic battery causing bodily harm. The



MICHAEL BOWDOIN

See JAILED, page 5A

## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$30.26 as of Tuesday down \$2.51 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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