

New health office could be coming to Edwards County

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

Edwards County may soon be getting a new health office. And the taxpayers won't even have to foot the bill. The Edwards County Medical Association expressed its intention to build a new county health office to the Edwards County Board of Commissioners during the commission's February regular session Monday morning. The ECMA made a brief presentation in an effort to gauge interest from the county regarding the project. "What we are here today to ask is if the county would be interested in

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Grayville water woes washed away?

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

Finance Commissioner David Jordan's previous finding of a discrepancy in the service agreement for the cost for engineering and grant writing fees with Milano-Grunloh has been rectified, allowing the Grayville City Council to unanimously approve the amended services agreement at Monday's meeting. This agreement is the hinge for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for Public Infrastructure that the city was selected as a finalist to receive. The city will utilize this grant money towards the first part of replacing waterlines in Grayville, which will alleviate many

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EC EMS to dissolve corporation, possibly board itself

BY T.J. HUG
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With emergency medical services for the county soon to be handled by Wabash General Hospital, the Edwards County EMS Board is now seeking to begin the process of dissolving their incorporated status. And maybe the board as a whole. The EMS board met in its February regular session Monday evening, less than 12 hours after the Edwards County Board of Commissioners voted to award operation of the county's service to Wabash General Hospital. As such, much of the board's discussions

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Wabash General Hospital to handle EC EMS

County board approves contract to hand ambulance operations to Wabash General

BY T.J. HUG
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The emergency medical services of Edwards County will now be handled by Wabash General Hospital. The Edwards County Board of Commissioners elected to approve a contract awarding the operation of its ambulance service to WGH during its February regular meeting

Monday morning. The board passed the measure by a 2-0 vote, with one board member abstaining. Meeting attendee Jon Webber, of West Salem, expressed concerns about the contract prior to the vote, after the board gave those present the opportunity to comment on the matter. "You have not really addressed West Salem, Bone Gap or other areas outside of Albion when it comes to this,"

said Webber. "You said you're going to give us better service. I want to see it in writing." County Commissioner Duane Lear argued that gaining access to the ambulances stationed at the hospital's Mount Carmel location will lead to improved service for Edwards County. "You're forgetting that this is a team effort between Wabash and Edwards," stated Lear. "There's going to be three ambulances now, and

two of them are going to be advanced life support." Webber reiterated that the contract between the two parties called for a minimum of just two employees, or one crew, in Edwards County per shift, and that any further service provided by the hospital should be stated in the con-

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Adam Niemerg gives an answer while fellow District 109 Representative candidates John Spencer and Andy Hires prepare to do the same during their respective turns at the Candidate Forum at Wabash Valley College Thursday night. Photo provided.

109th District Rep candidates tackle issues at political forum

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

Those running for the Illinois 109th District Representative spot soon to be vacated by current state senate candidate Darren Bailey gave voters in the area surrounding Wabash County plenty to think about Thursday night. Wabash Valley College hosted both the two Republican and single Democratic candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives 109th District in the third part of a

series of legislative forums put on by the Edwards, Richland, Lawrence, Jasper, Wabash, Wayne, Effingham and White County Farm Bureaus in conjunction with the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. One question asked of the three candidates revolved around keeping the Illinois power grid strong. Adam Niemerg, a COUNTRY Financial agent from Dieterich, stated that oil is the most important resource when talking about Illinois energy. "We need to bring back oil and gas to our district," said Niemerg. "We've got to get our oil and gas resources booming

again, and that will bring our economy back in southern Illinois." The way to do that, in Niemerg's estimation, is to reduce regulations imposed on the industry at the state level. "We need to pull back on these outrageous regulations on oil and gas," he said. "The cost just to drill is astronomical. Why do it?" And Niemerg stated that he would cut some of that red tape if he were elected to office. "I will fight and sponsor legislation to do that." Democratic Primary

candidate and Clay County Democratic Party Chairman John Spencer, of Louisville, highlighted promoting wind and solar energy when asked how to keep Illinois' power grid strong. "They create jobs," he said. "They create good jobs." Spencer did state that he was not against the use of fossil fuels, but emphasized that "the weather has changed" and that Illinois needed to promote greener energy sources

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Changes coming for contractors using Grayville brush dump

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

At Monday night's City Council meeting, the commissioners discussed a way forward regarding the brush dump. Mayor Travis Thompson said, "we brought this up a couple months ago, three months ago, about contractors dumping at the brush dump. Again, it happened, so I'm bringing it up again to see if there's anything that we want to do to prevent it, because we didn't make any motion the last time." He continued, "with them dumping at the brush dump, it can cause us issues because we're the ones that have to pay

for it to be pushed back." Street Commissioner Chris James told the council, "Well, I [saw] a big truck up there about a week or two ago, that was coming out of there, so that'd probably be it, wasn't it? Thompson replied, "I'd venture to say that'd probably be correct." Chief of Police, David Burrows noted, "we've got it on camera." James continued, "That's what I thought. I [saw] it coming out with another truck behind it. Well, my question is...unfortunately, are we going to have to put a cable across there and have the guys unlock it?" The mayor admitted that was one concern he had, "by doing that, you limit for the weekend, when our citizens use it." He added that was a

main reason why, as far as he remembered, it was not addressed with a motion several months ago, stating "it was a difficult question to answer on how we were going to go about maintaining it-keeping the contractors out." Gas Commissioner Donovan Baldwin shared his concerns with the council as well, as he noted, "I think if we put a cable up or something, then when our employees are on their weekend off, and I've got to trim my rosebushes, and want to take them somewhere, I don't have any place to go, and that's probably when the majority of the citizens use that, is on their time off...in the end, our guys could be out on a gas leak or repairing a street, and they'd have to stop

to go unlock it." It was suggested that a sign-or possibly more than one type of sign-be put up, reminding contractors that cameras were in use at the brush dump site, as well as noting a fee for contractor use of the brush dump since it was for public (local) use only. James also suggested a weight limit sign on the city park road, would also curb large trucks from travelling to the brush dump site, which would also help alleviate road deterioration and the costs associated with that. "It's a city street, I don't see why we couldn't put what we want on it. It is not a class three truck

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Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$43 as of Tuesday up 50 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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