



# The Navigator

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## Musgrave drops from 109th Race

On Dec. 23, Cory Musgrave announced the end of his campaign for State Representative in 2020. He said, "I have always felt that my responsibility to my wife, five children, and church should take

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## Albion Christmas Parade dubbed a success

Downtown Albion turned into a Christmas celebration for this year's "Parade of Lights— A Quilted Country Christmas" parade!

The parade through town, folks on the square, business open house events and Painter House Tour were so enjoyable and made for a wonderful Christmas with friends and families!

The Albion Area Chamber would like to send a big thank you to the many band members and parade participants who braved the cold, those who offered up a place to come for a warm visit, refreshments and all who attended!

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## Reward offered for Crossville theft info

A \$5,000 reward is being offered out of White County for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who recently stole a 2018 Orange Kubota Skidsteer and 1995 CZ black trailer from the yard of Illinois Basin Supply in Crossville. The skidsteer has custom gray two inch square tubing on its back, and the trailer has a license number 74536TG. The thefts reportedly happened between 4 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. yesterday. Anyone with information

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## New Grayville Days officers appointed

After a disagreement between the City and the Grayville Days Committee led several members to resign their position and leave the committee altogether, a call went out for community members to join the committee; several people answered that call. The committee is now comprised of Javen Cox, Jade Guthrie, Tyler Howell, Ron Burklow, Denny Reese, Cindy Judge, Whitney Howell, Ashley Thompson, Ciara Niehaus, Todd Bai-

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## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$54.75 as of Tuesday up \$1.50 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.

## Indiana pledges \$350K to NH Bridge restoration

Multiple media outlets misreport that Illinois will match "seed financing" monies

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The state of Indiana gave a financial jumpstart to the restoration of The Harmony Way Bridge in late December. An effort to reopen the four-span Wabash River Harmony Way Bridge between Illinois and Indiana, closed since 2012, will get a \$350,000 from the

Hoosier State. Indiana officials announced the funding Dec. 20 for the bridge which connects Indiana State Road 66 from New Harmony, Ind. to Illinois Route 14 in Crossville, Ill. The New Harmony Bridge and Wabash River Authority, an entity created by the Indiana General Assembly to help assume ownership of the bridge, released a statement about the funding, which has been referenced as "seed financing" from the Office of Indiana

Governor Eric Holcomb. "This money will cover half of the estimated inspection and repair costs to re-open the bridge, which should then self-sustain as a toll bridge once it's re-opened," the bridge authority said in a news release. "The other half of the funding is expected to come [from] the state of Illinois through the Illinois Bridge Authority as equal partners in this innovative solution to this regional need."

Several media outlets have reported that Illinois has indeed promised to match the \$350,000 pledged by the Hoosier State. However, Illinois New Harmony Bridge Authority Chairman Mike "Spud" Eggbert denied those reports when reached for comment by *The Navigator*.

"I saw a lot of inaccuracies in

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## "You're just born with it"

Alex and Sherry Mewes restart family farming legacy decades after predecessors retire EC ag scene



Young Dean Mewes is perched atop a bale of hay as father Alex climbs up to join him. Photo by Amy Winter.

T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

For Alex Mewes, his farming background began back in the days of him riding with his Grandpa Charlie as a boy.

"He used to talk about how they would put it in gear and sit on there and steer," said Sherry Mewes, Alex's wife. "(He wasn't) big enough to touch the pedals or anything, but they would be bailing hay and just sit him on there.

"From a young age, he was around farming and helping a lot."

For the past four years, the Mewes family has reestablished its farming ways within the county. What started as a mere 120 acres has grown five-fold in that span, expanding to 600 acres of corn, soy bean and wheat.

"It was something that I always wanted to do, but really didn't think I could do," Alex explained. "But later in life, I got the opportunity and went for it."

That opportunity actually began in the 1990s, when his father, Dennis Mewes was still in the farming business.

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## Sun sets on Republic Services' trash contract with Grayville

BY TYLER A. BURR  
Of the Navigator

After the commissioners had given their reports during the Dec. 23 regular council meeting, the council heard from representatives from both Republic Services and Sunrise Sanitation concerning the city's waste disposal service. During the council's last meeting, the issue had been tabled until the service providers could prepare an apples-to-apples comparison. Finance Commissioner David Jordan addressed the two representatives before the council weighed the options and selected which company would be awarded the contract.

"I would like to say that I appreciate you both getting back with us and getting everything on the same page for us to compare. We do appreciate the

extra effort you've made."

Mayor Travis Thompson then read out Republic's proposal for the council.

Republic Services listed their prices over a five-year span. The first year would cost \$15 per resident; the second year would cost \$15.45; year three would run \$15.91; year four would run \$16.39; and year five would cost \$16.88.

For residents who would need more than one garbage bin, the price for an additional bin increases over the five-year span of Republic's proposed contract. An extra bin would initially cost the resident \$5 per month but would increase steadily in price to \$5.63 per month by year five.

Republic's proposal includes service for all of Grayville's churches, two four-yard containers to be emptied weekly, a 20-yard container to be set out the Thursday before Labor Day, two city-wide curbside

heavy disposal days each year, and one 20-yard container to be emptied bi-weekly. The council then moved on to consider Sunrise Sanitation's

proposal.

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Everly and Emalyn Pierson are riding in the 1st place Motorized entry with Wee Care Day Care during the Grayville Lighted Christmas Parade. Emalyn was excited to spot her family in the crowd. Photo by Tricia Cunningham.

**COMING SOON**

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