



# The Navigator

CHARTING A COURSE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

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## CORRECTION

In the May 13 edition of The Navigator, in the story *ECHS, GHS Drive Thru Graduation set for Friday*, we reported that Edwards County Community Unit School District #1 was sponsoring a drive thru graduation for ECHS seniors on Friday, May 15.

The district has since reached out to The Navigator and made it known that we had received incorrect information on the event, and that the district did not sponsor the event. According to the district, the state has not released schools to host such events amid Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker's Stay at Home executive order regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event was instead organized by parents of the graduating seniors.

The Navigator would like to apologize for any confusion the initial report may have caused.

## EMS Board sets March date for county transfer

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The County of Edwards Emergency Medical Service is set to begin operation as an arm of Edwards County on March 1, 2021.

The Edwards County EMS Board, an incorporated body currently charged with operating the county's ambulance service, voted unanimously to set a date of March 1, 2021 to transfer its assets to the County of Edwards EMS and cease running the ambulance service during their May meeting on Monday, May 11. Edwards County EMS is then expected to dissolve following the transfer.

The date needed to be set as part of the application process to allow the County of Edwards EMS to attain

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## Harmony Way Bridge to undergo Phase 1 study

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The next step in the effort to restore the Harmony Way Bridge is underway, with an engineering firm being chosen to undertake a bridge study to determine what work must be done to make the bridge safe for use once again.

The Illinois New Harmony Bridge Authority, during a Thursday morning meeting, approved Phase 1 of a bridge study for the Harmony Way Bridge, hiring West Jenning Engineering Firm for a cap of \$150,000 to complete the phase, pending approval from the authority's Indiana counterpart, the New Harmony and Wabash

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## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$24.82 as of Tuesday up \$7.68 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



# EC School finances hit by virus closure

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

On Monday evening, the Edwards County Board of Education met for their regularly scheduled, social-distanced board meeting at West Salem Grade School.

Yet some measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic have had a negative impact on the district's finances.

During his Superintendent's administrative report, Superintendent of Schools David Cowger updated the board on summer projects that are still planned, to include the upgrades to the restrooms by the football field and the removal of the old Albion Grade School concession stand.

In regard to money, Cowger noted that the district is not receiving the expected revenues due to the school clo-

sure, which meant that the district's expenditures were not fully covered by those received revenues. He also noted that though they are receiving the sales tax revenue, it averaged about "\$5,000 less than usual," according to Cowger.

On the ECHS Business class curriculum adoption agenda item, Jo Rector asked if it was possible to suspend the second reading and have the board

vote on its approval immediately, was granted. Due to the nature of an uncertain educational future and potential remote learning, Rector surmised it might be best for Mrs. Rotramel to immediately acquire the curriculum items, namely Google Apps for Learning Digital Citizenship Texts and MindTap Century 21 Accounting Multicolumn Journals, altogether totaling just under \$2,700.



(TOP) Edwards County High School senior Gus Beadles celebrates with a large crowd on the Albion square Friday evening during a parade organized by ECHS senior parents to commemorate the Class of 2020's graduation from high school. Photo by Amy Winter.

(LEFT) The ECHS senior duo of Darcy Clodfelter and Regan Bell travel down the streets of Albion together as the Class of 2020 was celebrated by the people of Edwards County in Friday evening's parade. Photo by Amy Winter.

## Mewes fills seat on West Salem Board

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

The Village of West Salem added a new member to its board of trustees Monday night.

Misti Mewes was appointed to the board during its May meeting on Monday. The meeting was conducted on the West Salem IL Listens Facebook page.

Mewes was voted in unanimously by the rest of the board after being recommended for the position by Village President Dan Baker. She replaces Susan Giese, whose resignation from the board was accepted prior to Mewes' appointment.

Also during the meeting, the board declined to open its park system to the public. During the public comments portion of the meeting, Brad Lake inquired as to whether a family could practice baseball and softball at Centennial Park in light of summer league sports being cancelled state-wide.

The board first consulted with their attorney on the issue.

"The law appears to be changing quick as to whether the governor's orders have the weight of law," said Darrin Rice, West Salem Village At-

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# EC FFA highlights accomplishments despite school closure

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

Edwards County High School FFA Advisor, Michelle Wiseman, presented her annual report to the Edwards County Board of Education on Monday evening at their regularly scheduled board meeting.

This COVID-19 situation,

according to Wiseman, prevented several field trips from taking place, and many FFA contests were held virtually. It was definitely a different experience, but the ag teachers provided various virtual field trips to help enhance the stay-at-home learning experience for the students.

Wiseman told the board that 185 out of 275 ECHS students were enrolled in the 2019-2020 Agriculture Education

program, which equated to 66 percent of the student body, up one percent from last year. Wiseman noted that she felt this was "a good number to be at, and we can always shoot for more. Running out of seat space to have too many more." The projected numbers for the 2020-2021 school year, based on course requests, indicated 283 duplicated students for the first semester. Wiseman felt they were in a good place.

In 2014-2015, 103 students (38 percent) were enrolled in ag courses. The numbers remained steady in 2015-2016, with 106 students (38 percent) enrolled. In the 2016-2017 school year, the ag department saw a dramatic 20 percent spike in enrollees, with 165 students (58 percent) taking ag courses. Again, in 2017-2018,

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# New trial now up in limbo for Loehrlein murder case

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

The Vanderburgh County, Indiana prosecutor has asked a higher court to review an Indiana Court of Appeals ruling that convicted murderer Clint Loehrlein should get a new trial. Loehrlein, 58 of Evansville is serving a 149 year prison sentence for the shooting death of Grayville native Sherry Lynn (McCarty) Loehrlein and seriously injur-

ing the couple's twin daughters in 2017.

Feb. 21, 2020, the Indiana Court of Appeals overturned Loehrlein's conviction and ordered a new trial after it was revealed the jury foreperson in the trial had lied on a questionnaire about a prior criminal charge and her history as a victim of domestic violence.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Nicholas Hermann has asked a higher court to review the appellate court decision to overturn Loehrlein's conviction, a spokesman said



CLINT LOEHRLEIN

Monday. The spokesman added that due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, no new court dates have been set and until the higher court reviews the case, no trial dates will be considered.

In reversing Loehrlein's conviction, the Indiana Court of Appeals concluded that "Juror L.W.'s untruthful and misleading responses on the jury questionnaire constituted gross misconduct that harmed

See LIMBO, page 5A

# COMING SOON

## Horizon Healthcare Carmi Medical Clinic

