

New 4-way stop on West Salem's Broadway Street

The Village of West Salem would like to remind residents and visitors that there is a new 4-way stop at the intersection of N. Broadway St and W. School St. Please use caution in this area. Keep our children safe!

Mount Carmel Woman Sentenced in meth case

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

A Mount Carmel woman arrested by Crossville police last month on a methamphetamine charge has been sentenced to prison.

Charlene Read, 28, was sentenced in White County Circuit Court to three years in prison on a class-3 felony conviction of being in possession of less than five grams of meth. After serving her sentence, Read will have to serve another year of parole.

In addition to prison time,

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Albion FUM to celebrate year's end

The Albion First United Methodist Church will be celebrating 2019 on Sunday during the 9 a.m. worship time at the church located at 127 E. Main Street in Albion. We have seen many things happen during 2019 and we want to celebrate that in light of the gospel message of the babe born to us at Christmas.

When we look at the events of the year we realize that no matter whether the things in our lives were running at a great level of joy and excitement, or if

See FUM on page 5A

Bethel-Ellery to celebrate year's end

The Bethel United Methodist Church in Ellery will be celebrating 2019 on Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. worship time at the church located south of Ellery. We have seen many things happen during 2019 and we want to celebrate that in light of the gospel message of the babe born to us at Christmas.

When we look at the events of the year we realize that no matter whether the things in our lives were running at a great level of

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Wells therapy dog a comfort to kids



BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

What's better than having a dog come visit and lay down with you while you read a book at school?

Meet Jolie, the resident therapy dog. Jolie visits with the children, spending time listening to them read her books at Wells Elementary school.

Two years ago, Jennifer Neal brought Jolie home to be the family pet. One thing lead to another, and she, along with her 12-year-old daughter, began taking Jolie to Tri-State K9 University in Evansville, Ind. There Jolie began therapy dog training in the K9 Angels Therapy Dog program with trainers Nat and Karissa.

Jolie is a big, beautiful, black two-and-a-half-year old Labrador Great Dane mix. She is full of energy and loves to run, catching her balls and frisbee in the mornings. Jennifer gets to school early, so she can spend time outside with Jolie before the school day begins. It's a way for her to "...get her energy out," she mentioned. Jennifer then has to put the balls and frisbee up high so Jolie doesn't see them, "...because, you know. She'll want to play," Jennifer revealed.

Bella Morris, daughter of Miranda Morris—the first grade teacher at Wells Elementary School, sits and reads a book with Jolie. *Photo provided.*

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Albion Fire Departments become first responders

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Albion and Albion Rural Fire Departments are now able to serve as first responders.

The decision for the Albion Fire Department was approved by the Albion City Council earlier this month, with the pitch being made to the Albion Rural Fire Protection District presented shortly after during a rural department meeting. The council heard from a representative from the city fire department during the night of their December regular meeting. "After a lot of thought and consideration, the Albion Fire Department wishes to become

first responders," said Danny Iverson, Albion Fire Chief. "We've had two (emergency medical calls) in the last month. We've been asked by several people in the community."

Iverson stated that this decision was not made so that the fire departments would become a support team for ambulances. "To kind of sum it up, we would not be ambulance chasers," he explained. "We're not going to go on every call they go on.

We're probably going to limit it to about four things: heart attack, stroke, diabetic and respiratory." Iverson did note that they would also be available if an ambulance was not within a certain distance of Albion. He also clarified that they would

still respond to the lift assists which they do currently.

Iverson did make clear that the fire departments would be becoming first responders to handle emergencies and had no interest in other duties traditionally handled by ambulances.

"Like just a transfer or something like that, we're not interested in doing that," he stated. "Just the major medical."

The fire chief continued. "We had a situation a couple months ago where an elderly lady fell," recalled Iverson. "Both of our ambulances were gone, and they actually dispatched an ambulance from Wayne County. Long story short, she laid for about 30 minutes before anybody got to her. This will fix that problem."

The AFD Chief also present-

ed the council with the costs associated with starting a first responder program within the two departments.

"There is going to be an initial startup cost," Iverson said. "We've talked to the medical director at Deaconess, and with what we're going to have to do with the hoops you have to jump through, the estimated startup cost is about \$7,000. "That would be split between you and (the Albion) Rural (Fire Protection District)." Iverson also stated that each case would see the appropriate department respond, with the rural fire protection district taking rural emergencies and the city fire department handling calls within the city

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IASB and GCUSD 1 hope to name new superintendent by April

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

Effective July 1, Grayville Community Unit School District #1 will have a new superintendent. The application process has begun; now it's a waiting game for GCUSD 1. A new name to go with the title won't be known until at least April.

Last Wednesday night during their December regular session, the board observed another presentation by Tim Buss, former superintendent of Wabash County School District #348, who is current-

ly employed by the Illinois Association of School Boards. This time, the presentation centered on the review of the vacancy ad that went live on Friday, being available to "...6,000 people, plus the websites," according to Buss, such as the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

The current superintendent of schools, Sarah Emery, will be resigning from her position, effective June 30, so a replacement must be found to start July 1.

At last month's session, Buss highlighted four areas upon which the board itself should focus on when considering a new superintendent. These areas included whether

or not the applicant must have previous experience as a teacher, previous experience as an administrator, previous experience as a superintendent and finally, whether the applicant must reside in the district after appointment.

The board agreed with the first two, decided previous superintendent experience was not required and came to the conclusion that the vacancy will not state the new superintendent is required to live within the district but that it would be "preferred." The general consensus of board members was that the requirement might scare off potential applicants. "...Successful teaching and administrative experience

is required'...underneath that, 'ideal candidate,' then I'll just change [to] 'resides in the district after appointment is preferred,'" Buss concluded.

Buss expects the vacancy ad to close on Jan. 24, and have enough time to review all applications and have the top six chosen in time for the February regular session. At that point, Buss will present the applicants to the board in closed session and interview dates will be set. Currently, the board expects to conduct the six interviews between Feb. 24 and March 4, though

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Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$53.25 as of Tuesday down 75 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



COMING SOON

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FAIRFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE