

## Crossville fire victim dies from injuries

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

Crossville fire victim, Cathy Brandenstein, has died. The 61-year-old registered nurse died Friday, Jan. 10, at the University of Louisville Burn Center following more than two months in the hospital's intensive care unit. Brandenstein's son, Clayton Andrew "Andy" Swanner now faces additional charges in connection with the alleged arson fire death.

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## Crossville woman, others face meth charges

BY LEN WELLS  
Of the Navigator

A Crossville woman who had been reported as missing and endangered has been arrested on a felony methamphetamine charge. Tiffney L. Whitley, 32, faces a methamphetamine possession charge following her arrest at the Budget Inn motel in downtown Fairfield on Jan. 7. Two other individuals have also been arrested as a result of

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## EC School Board talks curriculum in special meeting

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

After President Dale Woods opened the Edwards County School Board Special meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8, he noted that earlier in the day, "I had somebody ask me in the public today-what our meeting was about, and I said, 'well, basically, we start talking about a subject, and it's too big to talk about during a regular board meeting, so we're having a special board meeting.'"

"If we wanted to do something regarding curriculum, like vocation...so, there's a lot of things that could possibly come up, so I don't know where it'll go, but it's an open discussion," said Woods.

Woods then discussed some topics that came up while on the tour with urban legislator Diane Pappas (D) back on Nov. 15. He shared that "[Nelson] talked about...his vision for maybe using this building over here someday..."

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# "The decision has already been made"

EC EMS Board declines to make recommendation on contract with Wabash General Hospital

BY T.J. HUG  
Of the Navigator

There will be no formal recommendation to the Edwards County Board of Commissioners before they vote on a contract to allow Wabash General Hospital to assume the operation of the county's ambulance services.

The Edwards County Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors decided against making a formal recommendation regarding a contract for Wabash General Hospital to take over Basic Life Support services for the county during their January regular meeting Monday night. The board cited the county commissioners indicating that such a recommendation would have no

impact on the decision as the primary reason for declining to vote either in support of or against the contract.

"My personal opinion is, I don't see a reason for us to vote," said Alex Bond, of the EMS Board. "It's already been determined."

Seth Fearn, Chairman of the EMS board, informed the rest of the board that steps are already being taken by the

county to make the transition with WGH easier.

"They talked to (EMS Administrator) Tanya (Boewe) and I," said Fearn. "I think they've already kind of made steps to have things in place when they do vote at their next commissioners meeting."

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# Hometown Hero: Remembering Michael McGarvey

BY STEVE HARTSOCK  
Of the Navigator



Grayville's Michael "Mac" McGarvey stands beside his favorite tractor. Photo provided.

Grayville lost a dear son on Monday with the passing of Mike "Mac" McGarvey.

He was one of those special people bigger than life and at the same time so giving of himself and down to earth; he defies easy description. He was a hero. He was at once a native son, born and bred with roots going back generations in Grayville.

But he was much more than that.

He was the stuff of legend. He was the United States Marine who fresh out of high school, had his arm blown off in Vietnam, telling his teary-eyed platoon leader at the time, "Knock that stuff off, Lieutenant. It's only an arm."

His bravery earned him a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Back from Vietnam, Mac faced what many returning soldiers endured. He was spat on and pushed around by antiwar protesters. He and another amputee were derided for wearing their Marine Corps uniforms to a college gathering place.

Unwilling to let his injury to define him, Mac soon became a motorcycle mechanic. He was a prosthetics specialist with the Veterans Administration, helping other servicemen and women who were amputees. He managed the most famous Honkey Tonk in Nashville, Tenn., Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, hobnobbing with country music stars. He would own with "husband-in-law" Stan "Bugger" Moore, the famous Anchor Inn in Grayville during its hey day. The stories of his exploits abound.

Mac didn't come back from Vietnam and wallow in his loss. There was no Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, that anyone could see anyway.

When others might have complained about

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# Grayville receives \$500K boost from waterline grant award

BY AMY WINTER  
Of the Navigator

During the Grayville City Council meeting on Monday, Jan. 13, Mayor Travis Thompson announced that the City of Grayville has been selected as a finalist for a Community Development Block Grant for Public Infrastructure. Thompson noted, "we have a few more documents to check off then we will officially be a grantee."

This is a \$500,000 grant which the city plans to utilize towards the beginning of waterline replacement, and the city's match was \$120,000, which covered engineering and grant writing fees.

The CBDG program was established by the U.S. Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and assists Illinois communities that do not receive a Housing and Urban

Development direct entitlement allocation. It also provides federal funding for various community-based projects in non-metropolitan areas, like Grayville, which is using the CBDG towards public infrastructure.

According to the Community Development webpage, "local governments that need to improve public infrastructure and eliminate conditions detrimental to public health, safety, and public welfare" can request the grant money in order "to undertake projects designed to alleviate these conditions..."

Water Superintendent Codey Lynn, City Clerk/Economic Development Coordinator JoEllen Seil, Water Commissioner Tyler Howell, Mayor Travis Thompson, Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission and Milano & Grunloh Engineering Service were all instrumental players in the lengthy process towards investing in

Grayville's future.

Finance Commissioner David Jordan also reminded the board that the 2020 budget worksheet is due March 1, so it can be put on public display for 30 days prior to being approved. Gas Commissioner Donovan Baldwin mentioned he had several projects that would require funding.

The city commissioners broke out for a closed executive session to discuss whether or not to accept Grayville Police Department Dispatcher Tammy James' resignation; they motioned to approve, with regrets, effective Jan. 21. They also approved to post the job position availability.

Will the City of Grayville get a new website? That was a topic at the council meeting that generated a lot of questions. Mayor Thompson recalled being told "...the website is just...there." Chief of Police David Burrows provided a detailed

list of several available options for website design, hosting and email capabilities for the council to consider. Mayor Thompson said he'd prefer to keep the current web domain address, cityofgrayville.com. The council approved to discuss the possibility of buying that domain from its current owner. The council decided to revisit the topic at the Jan. 27 council meeting.

The city commissioners also approved to include the city pavilion in the same category as the park pavilions, charging \$10 for personal use. For community events, there will be no charge. Residents will need to call City Hall to make reservations. Also approved were the new trash pick-up contract with Sunrise Sanitation, to adopt the updated Drug Policy and the Edwards County Dispatching Services Agreement. The Navigator hopes to follow up on this agreement.

## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$51.25 as of Tuesday down \$4.50 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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