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# The NAVIGATOR

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## Mendenhall sees appeal rejected by Tennessee court

BY LEN WELLS  
*Of the Navigator*

The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld the first degree premeditated murder and abuse of a corpse convictions of Bruce D. Mendenhall, a former over-the-road truck driver from Albion. The latest appeal stems from Mendenhall's conviction for the June 6, 2007 slaying of Samantha D. Winters, 48 of Lebanon, Tenn. In 2018, a jury in Wilson County, Tenn. found Mendenhall guilty of the murder with the judge imposing a life sentence

See REJECTED, page 5A

## Driving Range Plus to change hands if city can help

BY AMY WINTER  
*Of the Navigator*

Last week, the Grayville City Council held a Special meeting following their Public Hearing to address a TIF 1 and revolving loan request from Greg O'Neal. O'Neal presented the board with a 3-year proposed plan supporting his interest in purchasing 4.5 acres currently occupied by Driving Range Plus for \$15,000, to include the land and all assets and accessories.

The request for money

See HELP, page 5A

## WS Board approves ability to accept \$900K IEPA loan

BY T.J. HUG  
*Of the Navigator*

The Village of West Salem is now ready to receive a \$900,000 loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. During their July regular meeting Monday night, the West Salem Board of Trustees voted to authorize the village to accept a loan

See LOAN, page 5A

## GCUSD #1 makes changes to school calendar

BY T.J. HUG  
*Of the Navigator*

\*In our last edition, our front page story about the EC Sports Booster raising funds for a new lion statue, we inadvertently repeated the jump. We apologize for this error, and have re-run the story. The Edwards County School District's Albion K-12 building may be getting a new roof. See LION, page 5A

## Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$34.60 as of Tuesday up 79 cents from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



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## Grayville Wee Care shuttered due to COVID-19

BY LEN WELLS  
*Of the Navigator*

The Wee Care Day Care Center in Grayville closed last week after a number of employees tested positive for COVID-19. Owner Terri Garman confirmed that three employees tested positive for the virus, forcing the temporary closing of the facility. "The employees are at home in isolation," Garman said. "We are now deep clean-

ing the entire facility and will not reopen until Aug. 10."

Officials with the Egyptian Health Department have been notified of the situation and have done contact tracing procedures for those who may have come in contact with the employees that tested positive. While the day care center was only required to close for fourteen days, the owner decided not to reopen until Aug. 10.

Privacy laws prohibit the health department from identifying those testing positive for

COVID-19. However, Egyptian Health Department CEO Angie Hampton acknowledged there has been a surge of COVID-19 positive tests in White County over the past week.

As of Tuesday, July 28, there had been 53 total cases reported in White County. The biggest spike of cases was reported on Sunday, July 26 when seven cases were recorded. They included a male under the age of 2, a female in her teens, a male in his 20's, a female in her 30's, a female in her 50's and two

females in their 60's. On Saturday, July 25, three new cases were reported in White County. A female in her 20's, a female in her 30's and a female in her 60's. Friday, July 24, five additional cases were added. A male in his 20's, a female in her 40's, a male and a female in their 50's and a male in his 70's. No new cases were reported in White County on Monday, July 27, and two new cases were reported on

See COVID, page 5A

## WS Board tables TIF request for new liquor store

BY T.J. HUG  
*Of the Navigator*

A new business moving into West Salem may get a little help from the village setting up shop.

Vikram Singh, owner of the Shamrock Motel and Eighth Street Liquor, both located in Mount Carmel, made a request before the West Salem Board of Trustees for monies out of the village's TIF Fund during the board's July regular session Monday evening. Singh has recently purchased the Small Town Spirits building along West Church Street, and is seeking help from the village to renovate the property. "I felt there was opportunity here to do some improvement to this village," said Singh. "I've taken over the liquor



Penny Pritchett, Rick Conners, Joe Bisch, Moriah Piper and Xander Hawkins help out at the Grayville Hog Roast Saturday afternoon. Photo by Steve Hartsock.

See TIF, page 5A

## COVID-19 Claims life of longtime Grayville educator

BY LEN WELLS  
*Of the Navigator*

Longtime Grayville educator Jim O'Donley died Monday, July 27 from complications of COVID-19. He was 83.

"Jim suffered from dementia. On March 27, he went into memory care at River Valley Estates in Yuma, Ariz.," said his wife Carol O'Donley. "He contracted the virus there, was hospitalized for four days and passed away Monday."

Due to strict COVID-19 restrictions, no one was allowed to visit Mr. O'Donley in his final days.

"That's what was so very difficult," Carol said.

O'Donley's career in education spanned 33 years, 31 of those in Grayville. He received a Master's Degree from Murray State University at Murray, Ky. and taught for two years at Grayville, starting in 1963. After completing advanced work at Murray State, he was named principal at Wells Elementary School and later was named principal at the Grayville High School. He ended his career at Grayville serving as school superintendent, retiring in 1994. He went on to serve the last two years of his educational career as superintendent in Rossville, a Vermillion County community near Danville.

Jim O'Donley's remains will be cremated with a memorial service to be held at a later date.



Jim O'Donley, a long time teacher within the Grayville School System, passed away from COVID-19 early this week. Photo provided.

## Bridge study calls for Harmony Way Bridge to return to first design

BY T.J. HUG  
*Of the Navigator*

The Illinois New Harmony Bridge Authority reported some positive news regarding the effort to restore the Harmony Way Bridge on Tuesday afternoon.

The INHBA met on Tuesday via phone conference to discuss the results of a preliminary bridge study conducted on the bridge in June, with the results showing that the primary repairs for the bridge being needed on the Illinois

and Indiana approaches, rather than the bridge itself. It was particularly noted that the bridge trusses were in "pretty good shape," by Ron Elmer, a member of the Indiana New Harmony Bridge and Wabash River Authority who also has both a law and engineering degree, who also attended the conference. The Indiana and Illinois authorities co-own the Harmony Way Bridge. The engineers who conducted the study also recommended the bridge be restored to its original structure, rather than modernized during the

restoration process. Those specifications would allow for a weight limit of 15 tons to cross the bridge. One thing the engineering firm Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., who were commissioned to perform the study, emphasized in their report was the need to fully restore the bridge, rather than just bring it to a usable level. "They made it clear that we can't just put a band-aid on the bridge," said Ellen Schanzle-Haskins, member of the INHBA. As such, the authority suggested that they might formulate

both short and long-term plans in their approach to restore the bridge, allowing for tolls collected from bridge use, as well as funds raised from event hosting should the two authorities elect to dedicate a lane to pedestrian use, to be put toward the long-term plan. The repaving of Illinois Route 14, which links Crossville and Phillipstown on the Illinois side of the Wabash River to the Harmony Way Bridge, has been undertaken by the Illinois Department of Trans-

See BRIDGE, page 5A

## MOBILE MAMMO EVENT



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