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Grayville budget tentatively projects \$50,000 in black

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Grayville City Council approved a tentative budget that would leave the city with a slightly above \$50,000 surplus during a special meeting on Monday, March 16. According to the budget approved by the council, the city would end Fiscal Year 2021 \$53,365 in the black. The budget hinges on revenue generated from

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EC School Board tables bond money upgrades

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

The Schneider Electric cost proposal caught the Edwards County Community Unit School District #1 board members by surprise at last week's regular board meeting. The Schneider Electric estimates, according to Superintendent of Schools David Cowger, "most of them came in more than what we had talked about

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GCUSD #1 to get additional security equipment installed

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

The Grayville Community School Unit #1 will get additional security equipment installed in the gym as well as outside on the playground. Last week, the School Board approved the purchase of additional cameras and DVR recording device to store the additional footage. The DVR will also allow more cameras to

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WS Board approves Coronavirus emergency plan

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Village of West Salem met, short three members, Monday night in regular session. The board announced its intentions to host meetings with only three members of the board and Village President Dan Baker until the public health threat posed by Novel Coronavirus,

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Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$17 as of Tuesday down \$3 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.



Grayville First Baptist Church Pastor Dave Smith preaches from the bed of a pickup truck Sunday morning, as members of his congregation listen to his sermon through their car radios via a transmitter procured by the church. Photo by T.J. Hug.

Pastor preaches from pickup pulpit

Local churches find new ways to reach congregations in COVID-19 crisis

BY T.J. HUG
For the Navigator

The sound of car horns honking and windshield wipers swiping, along with a mixture of praise music, filled the air of the northern outskirts of Grayville Sunday morning. In light of Governor J.B. Pritzker's stay at home order issued on Saturday, March 21, which effectively bans all non-essential travel and calls for businesses considered non-essential to close down as the state of Illinois attempts to halt the spread of Novel Coronavirus, several businesses

and organizations have ceased operations until at least April 7, when the order is set to end. Among those organizations, virtually all churches in the Edwards County and Grayville area have elected to stop hosting services until at least the end of the month, when they will reevaluate the situation. "Well, first and foremost was the safety and health of our congregational family," said Brad Henson, Head of the Edwards County Ministerial Alliance, regarding the churches respective decisions to cease in-person services. "That was at the top of our thinking. Second were the mandates and recommenda-

tions of The President, CDC and our Governor. And then our bishop, Bishop Frank Beard, sent out a notice to all of us to follow those guidelines. "It was a difficult decision to make, but one that had to be made in light of the current situation." That doesn't necessarily mean congregation members are left without a means to worship, however. Some local churches have found alternative methods through which they are able to

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Stabbing Suspect nabbed; attempted murder charges filed

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

Double stabbing suspect Sanjay J. Lewis of Grayville is behind bars following a four day manhunt. Lewis, 45 is accused of stabbing Savannah Earl, 35 and Paige York, 25 in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 17. The attack took place around 1:20 a.m. at Lewis' 102 South Main Street apartment in downtown Grayville. "Savannah lost one eye in the attack," said Grayville Police Chief David Burrows. "The doctors are working to save her other eye. Her condition is stable at this time." Chief Burrows said Paige York's injuries included a stab wound to the abdomen and one to the shoulder. York was treated for her injuries at an area hospital and was released the same day as the attack. Savannah Earl remains in an



Sanjay J. Lewis, accused of stabbing two women in Grayville in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 17 is led out of the woods along Interstate 64 near the Indiana-Illinois border by local law enforcement agents Friday afternoon.

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SE Illinois still COVID-Free, for now

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

As of Monday, March 23, no confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Southeastern Illinois. However, several cases have been confirmed in the southwestern part of the state. Williamson County reports one case, with two in Madison, three each in Clinton and St. Clair and one in Washington County. There are confirmed cases in 31 of the state's 102 counties now, with Monroe County being the latest addition to the list. In neighboring Indiana, two confirmed cases have been reported in nearby Gibson County. They include a 33-year-old individual and a 65-year-old patient. Indiana now reports 259 positive cases statewide with seven deaths. Other counties in Indiana reporting confirmed cases include Vanderburgh County with one, Vigo with one and Dubois County with one. The number of reported cases in the Illinois continues to rise sharply. During Governor J.B. Pritzker's daily COVID-19 press briefing Monday afternoon, it was announced there were 236 new cases over the previous 24 hour period. The number of cases statewide stood at 1,285 with twelve deaths. There were three new deaths reported over the previous day - all in Cook County. They included two men in their 80's and one man in his 90's. As of Monday, the state had completed 9,868 COVID-19 tests.

Dr. Patrick Molt Speaks Out About COVID-19
Dr. Patrick Molt, noted Fairfield Memorial Hospital surgeon and president of the hospital board offered some strong advice about the virus. "This is a very contagious virus. It is a slow motion catastrophe," Dr. Molt said. "People really need to take the social distancing and hygiene measures very seriously. If you are sick - stay home. COVID-19 is much more contagious than the seasonal influenza - and a lot more serious." Dr. Molt added that fortunately, only a small minority of patients get seriously ill from the virus. "These are folks with underlying health conditions such as cancer, immune disorders and those over the age of 60," Dr. Molt said. "People can be assured that we are ahead of

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Grayville Council grants Thompson emergency powers

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

In a nearly empty room, the Grayville City Council practiced the mandated social distancing while they attended to city business amidst the current COVID-19 situation. In that environment, the council approved Mayor Travis Thompson emergency powers for financial responsibilities contingent upon any future council meetings. The council unanimously approved to accede Thompson emergency powers in order to ensure the City's financial obligations are not held up at any time during this emergency situation.

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COMING SOON

Horizon Healthcare Garmi Medical Clinic

