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Stabbing Victim Home; Damaged Eye Removed

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

Savannah Earl is now out of the hospital and is recovering from injuries sustained in a brutal stabbing attack last month in Grayville. The knife attack has left her with only one eye.

"A few days ago, doctors had to remove the eye that was really badly damaged," said Grayville Police Chief David Burrows. "She has lost about five percent of vision in the other eye and had to have some teeth removed because of the attack. She was hurt really, really bad."

Savannah is currently recuperating at the home of a relative in Carmi.

The alleged attack happened in the early morning hours of March 17 at the 102 South Main Street home of Sanjay Lewis. A second victim in the attack, Paige York, 25 of Grayville sustained one stab wound to the abdomen and one to the shoulder. She was treated and released from an area hospital within hours of the attack.

The suspect in the attack, Sanjay J. Lewis, 45 of Carmi remains in the Carmi-White County jail pending trial. Lewis appeared in White County Circuit Court at Carmi on Wednesday, April 15 via video and waived his right

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ECCUSD#1 Board approves Consolidated District Plan

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

During the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, the Edwards County Community Unit School District # 1 motioned to approve the 2020-2021 school year Consolidated District Plan, referred to as the IL ePlan. The IL ePlan was instituted last year by the Illinois State Board of Education to consolidate and streamline the federal grant application and management process to reduce the burden on grantees and support holistic service to students, according to the Feb. 14, 2019 announcement of the program by Tony Smith, the previous State Superintendent of Education before Dr. Carmen I. Ayala succeeded him on March 1, 2019.

According to Smith, "the IL ePlan supports planning and grant management that takes multiple funding sources into consideration to fully meet each student's needs. The IL ePlan also will help ISBE understand each grantee holistically, so we can provide improved technical assistance grounded in equity." The Consolidated District Plan will allow Superintendent of Schools, David Cowger to answer one set of

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Buy the Barrel

The posted price for a barrel of Illinois Basin crude oil stood at \$3 as of Tuesday down \$10 from the last posted price, according to Countrymark Cooperative.

COVID-19 reaches White County, infects toddler

BY LEN WELLS
Of the Navigator

A toddler from White County is the latest individual to test positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The laboratory confirmed case was announced Sunday, April 19 by officials with the Egyptian Public Health Department. Officials there said the child was at home and "doing well". This marks the first COVID-19 positive case in White County. Health depart-

ment officials are now investigating who the child may have come in contact with prior to being diagnosed. Currently, there are no laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Edwards Counties – the last county in Southern Illinois without a confirmed case. Testing statistics are now being provided by local health departments, giving residents a better look at how possible cases are being tracked in our region. In Edwards County, 33 individuals had been tested for COVID-19 with four tests still

pending. In White County, 68 individuals have been tested. A total of 142 tests have been administered in Wabash County with seven tests pending. In Gallatin County, 26 tests have been administered with 136 tested in Saline County. In Wayne County, 79 tests had been administered. (The Egyptian Public Health Department oversees the testing in White, Gallatin and Saline Counties) Laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our region include one in Wabash County, one in White County, three in Saline County, two in Gallatin,

one in Wayne and one in Hamilton County. Other confirmed cases continue to pop up in neighboring counties. On Saturday, April 18, officials were notified of a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in Hamilton County. Health Department officials identified the individual as a woman in her 30's. The woman is currently in isolation at home. Last Thursday, April 16, the Health Department in Fairfield was notified of a Wayne

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Wabash Valley Service Company employee Jim Johnson loads fertilizer from a tender truck into a spreader for Steve DeStefano. Fertilizer is currently being spread on farmers fields. Most farmers have tested the soil so they know how much fertilizer to apply. The fertilizer is the nutrients that the crop will use to grow. By using the three R's - right time, right place, and right rate- farmers are able to be good stewards of the land. Stewardship is important to preserve the land for the next generation. Photo provided.

Grayville School hires part-time Superintendent, JH/ HS Principal

BY AMY WINTER
Of the Navigator

In an interesting turn of events, the Grayville Community Unit School District #1 Board of Education approved the employment of Dr. Julie Harrelson as part-time District Superintendent of Schools and Junior High/High School Principal. Harrelson is currently the Superintendent/Principal of the New Hope School District in Fairfield. Current GCUSD #1 Superintendent of Schools and Junior High/High School Principal Sarah Emery said, "Julie will continue part-time at New Hope and part-time here at Grayville."

The board also approved to elevate existing JH/HS Athletic Director and Director

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Drury Inn Alternative Housing activated for local health care workers

BY T.J. HUG
Of the Navigator

The Mount Vernon Drury Inn has its first guests as an alternative housing location booked, and they're local. "I received a phone call early this morning from the IEMA Director, Brigadier General Alicia Tate-Nadeau, informing me that a request has been submitted to activate the Drury Inn for housing," said John Lewis, Mayor of Mount Vernon in an April 19 Facebook post. "She had personally

assured me earlier in the week that she would call me directly if there was any change, and she kept her word." The Mount Vernon mayor also specified that the request to use the alternative housing location came from the local government itself. "The request originated from our county for our people," he said. "This is not being activated to bring people in from outside our area. "This is a local request to the state for assistance with containment of the virus from an outbreak at the Green Tree Residential Living Center."

Lewis noted that the request was for employees of Green Tree to have an optional place to stay in order to avoid possibly spreading the virus to family members. "These employees that we are requesting this facility to be activated for have tested negative for the virus." Such use of alternative housing falls in line with the state's aims for the procured facilities. A respondent from an email address The Navigator was referred to when making inquiries into the matter stated that alternative housing should be as local-based a

process as possible. "The goal is to keep the person regionally based to remain close to family and his/her healthcare provider of record," the respondent stated. "All counties are required to have their own alternative housing plan with accommodations to house at least 25 people. "State plans are not activated until the local jurisdictions have exhausted their local resources." However, this seems to

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Pandemic unemployment: Illinois' financial issues in an economic crisis

BY TYLER A. BURR
Of the Navigator

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major upheavals in several major sectors of the economy: financial, manufacturing, retail, tourism. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, though, the national economy had been performing well, with unemployment at the lowest it has been in the last 25 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the state of Illinois also saw unemployment at its lowest in

years, coming in at an average of 3.5 percent for January and February. Now, after several weeks of huge swaths of the economy being shut down and unemployment rates skyrocketing, the economy has slowed considerably. Representative Darren Bailey, of Illinois Legislative District 109, talked with The Navigator about the issues caused by unemployment and the implications they hold over the economy. The first thing Bailey pointed out was the growing exodus of taxpayers and businesses alike out of Illinois. "Businesses are moving out of the state. Our work comp

is two and a half times that of any other state; now, we've raised the minimum wage. For many of entry-level jobs, people are coming from across state lines and securing jobs. The vast majority of that money doesn't get spent in Illinois. So, no. No matter what we're being told, the numbers suggest and show that the unemployment rate is simply due to a strong and robust national economy." He doesn't take credit for himself or anyone in Illinois, though. Bailey credits President Trump for the state's improved economic performance. "We call it 'The Trump Economy' for a reason. You can't

deny the good he's done for the national economy. The economy had grown, factories were producing and people were buying and there was a whole lot going on. Things were working." The pandemic has changed all of that. However, Bailey suggests that Illinois could have been much better prepared to whether this economic crisis and help its citizens had it not been for one thing: Illinois' finances. "When you take a look at Illinois' finances— which I've been railing against since day

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