



## PORTABLE PERFECTION

Is there anything more delightful than a hand pie? PAGE 7A

# HERALD-WHIG

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WEDNESDAY

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## County board appropriates funds for 48th, State roundabout

By **DREW ZIMMERMAN**  
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**QUINCY** — The Adams County Board voted Tuesday to appropriate \$1.7 million for a possible roundabout project at 48th and State.

Of the \$1.7 million, about \$459,000 would come from Re-build Illinois funding, which is specifically tasked for projects such as a roundabout.

Adams County Finance Committee Chairman Bret Austin said this commitment is the next step to advance the project.

“We have to go back to the property owners (and) we have to get easements and right of ways,” Austin said. “We have all the agreements in place (and) those have to be executed.”

“Both the city and the county have allocated money for that so that’s going to get done because even if you change the intersec-

tion to a different type, you’re still going to need this.”

The board voted 18-1 in favor of the appropriation with Travis Cooley, R-4, voting no. Board member Matt Obert, D-5, was absent and Megan Howell, R-2, recently resigned.

Cooley said he feels the current issue is from the south approaching John Wood Community College.

“I know we have a different number of avenues of doing this besides just a roundabout and I

feel like that’s the major issue,” Cooley said.

Adams County Engineer Jim Frankenhoff said signalization and other options had been explored when the project was vetted back in 2014.

However, each project would require a lot of the same actions, such as the lane widths and sidewalks. Therefore, the selection of a project came down to what was most economical, which was a roundabout. “(Roundabouts are) not a novel

idea that it was eight to 10 years ago,” Frankenhoff said. “It’s becoming the prevalent way of people handling intersections if the room and space is available.”

The total estimated cost for the roundabout project is about \$4 million, which would be split evenly between the city and county except for certain infrastructure projects along State Street that would be covered solely by the city.

SEE **ROUNDAABOUT, 3A**

### LEARNING TO FLY



H-W PHOTO/MIKE SORENSEN

The All America Mountain Bike Park is open and ready for the warmer seasons, and riders like Brandon Cruz Smith were taking full advantage of the spring-like weather on Tuesday afternoon.

## ISBE grants target trauma, recovery from pandemic

By **DEBORAH GERTZ HUSAR**  
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**QUINCY** — A new state grant clears the way for Bella Ease to expand its services for Quincy youth.

Finding ways to provide neighborhood-based mental health services and boost the graduation rate for minority students already were priorities for Bella Ease, then COVID-19 “didn’t help any of the situations our at-risk kids have on a regular basis,” Executive Director Cheryl Williams said.

Bella Ease and Jacksonville-based Four Rivers Special Education District, which serves students in Brown and Pike counties, were included in grants through the Illinois State Board of Education to address trauma and support recovery from the pandemic.

ISBE awarded 136 community grants, totaling \$86.4 million, statewide.

The community partnership grants will support collaboration between school districts and community organizations to address the trauma students and educators experienced during the pandemic, ISBE said, by promoting alignment between services students get in and out of school and sustainability by deepening connections between schools and communities.

Williams said plans call for providing distance learning opportunities for students having difficulty in school at the planned new home for Bella Ease at 707 Broadway.

SEE **ISBE, 3A**

## Wagner elaborates on decision to not run for sheriff

By **DREW ZIMMERMAN**  
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**QUINCY** — Adams County Sheriff Rich Wagner has called his time as sheriff “an honor and a privilege” but the time was right to retire from the sheriff’s office at the end of his term.

In a statement sent Tuesday, Wagner said he has worked in law enforcement for 27 years and it has been a true blessing to serve the citizens of Adams County. How-

ever, there are times when a person must do what’s best for themselves and their family.

“I ask the Adams County community to continue to show all police officers, correctional officers and first responders your support and appreciation,” Wagner said. “They need it now more than ever.”

Although Wagner was the only county-wide elected official to not seek re-election, five Adams County Board members also are not seeking re-election.

Board members Megan Howell, R-2; Taylor Rakers, R-4; Matt Obert, D-5; Mark

Peter, R-5, and John Brady, R-6, did not file nominating petitions for re-election during the filing period.

The Adams County Board accepted the resignation of Howell, who was appointed to the seat vacated by former board member Rebecca Weed, during its Tuesday meeting.

In a resignation letter to the Adams County Board, Howell said other commitments have become too great to continue to fulfill her requirements to the board.

SEE **WAGNER, 3A**

## Ukraine sees room for compromise, as 20,000 escape Mariupol

By **ANDREA ROSA**  
The Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine** — Ukraine said it saw possible room for compromise Tuesday in talks with Russia, while Moscow’s forces stepped up their bombardment of Kyiv, and an estimated 20,000 civilians fled the desperately encircled port city of Mariupol by way of a humanitarian corridor.

The fast-moving developments

on the diplomatic front and on the ground came on the 20th day of Russia’s invasion, as the number of Ukrainians fleeing the country amid Europe’s heaviest fighting since World War II eclipsed 3 million.

A top Ukrainian negotiator, presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, described the latest round of talks with the Russians, held via videoconference, as “very difficult and sticky” and said there were

“fundamental contradictions” between the two sides, but added that “there is certainly room for compromise.” He said the talks will continue Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, another aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ihor Zhovkva, struck a more optimistic note, saying that the negotiations had become “more constructive” and that Russia had softened its stand by no longer airing its demands that

Ukraine surrender.

In other developments, the leaders of three European Union countries — Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia — visited the embattled capital, arriving by train in a bold show of support amid the danger.

Meanwhile, large explosions thundered across Kyiv before dawn from what Ukrainian authorities said were artillery strikes, as Russia’s bombardment of the capital ap-

peared to become more systematic and edged closer to the city center, smashing apartments, a subway station and other civilian sites.

Zelenskyy said barrages hit four multi-story buildings in the city and killed dozens. The strikes disrupted the relative calm that returned after an initial advance by Moscow’s forces was stopped in the early days of the war.

SEE **UKRAINE, 3A**

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## A baby's bath time



**ROBIN WRITES**

By Robin Garrison Leach

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I remember the slickness of her pink skin. The translucent soap bubbles that decorated her smooth, flawless body with peek-a-boo pops. Her tiny bottom smooched against the washcloth in the base of the sink as she leaned back against my arm.

I cupped my nervous hand around my newborn daughter's shoulder and closed my fingers to encircle her armpit. Not too tight, but tight enough — a delicate balance of tender security that was as new to me as the baby I was bathing. She didn't notice the exaggerated calmness in my voice as I whispered syllables of bravery to myself.

"There. I've got ya." The voice above her was as familiar as her own heartbeat and she was used to the sound. Play-Doh-y pliant, she wiggled gently, and her legs kicked in a spasm of ducky delight.

My shoulders hunched over the sink and cast their shaky shadow along the warm water. Muscles clenched in ready; prepared for sudden peril. Eyes darting like dragonflies across my baby's shiny flesh in tiny flutters of concentration.

Andrea was safe. I was keeping her that way with the strength of my arms and the growing experience of motherhood. As long as I was here, watching and holding, she would be perfectly fine.

And although I sometimes doubted my ability as a mother, I was always sure of my grasp.

She grew. In spite of and because of my attention, her childhood was safe and secure. Never far away, I was always ready to pull her from sudden dunks and dry stinging eyes. Little arms that flailed helplessly so long ago now wrapped themselves around life with increasing strength — and an increasing ability to support her own weight and break her own falls.

My senses were buoyed by the freedom her growing maturity afforded. I could relax tense muscles and rest strained, watchful eyes more and more as the years floated past.

Andrea's adolescence was a tug-of-war that pulled her slowly away from my constant presence and we alternated game plans: one time holding tightly, another time letting the rope slither through reluctant hands.

Hundreds of stumbles averted. Thousands of tears dried. Dangers, real and imagined, held at hugging-arm's length. My body had sculpted a space beneath my heart where her form fit like a final puzzle piece.

And then — just when I finally felt sure of my grip. When I knew how gently I should hold my baby. How to cup my body around her and soften life's pummeling blows.

Just when I needed to hold her more than she needed to be held.

Andrea tossed an obligatory wave over her broad, womanly shoulders. She patted the pocket of her jeans to make sure her brand new driver's license was there. The keys in her hand glinted in the harsh sunlight, slicing an eye-watering reflection in the storm door between us.

I held back warning words. I forced myself to stay behind the glass, screaming motherly wails of worry without making a sound:

"Don't go. Not yet. Be careful. Watch out for..."

I just looked away for a second. She was gone. I walked to the kitchen, leaned my empty arms against the kitchen sink and marveled at the ebb and flow of it all.

## City accepts bid for riverfront dock change

By **DANNY HENLEY**

Special to The Herald-Whig  
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**HANNIBAL** — The revision of a docking area on the Hannibal riverfront to accommodate a Viking Cruise Lines boat is closer to becoming a reality following Tuesday night's meeting of the Hannibal City Council at city hall.

The council accepted a bid of \$149,690, which was the lowest of two bids received, from Dubuque Barge and FleetIng Service Co., DBA Newt Marine Service.

According to Andy Dorian, the city's director of central services, Viking has agreed to pay for the project provided the city utilizes the \$50,000 that Viking gave the city for dock work as part of the original contract agreement. Dorian added that the city had not used any of the money as it was specifically set aside for dock repairs or modifications,

such as the project that Viking is requesting.

Viking has asked that the riverfront's southernmost dock be modified to better accommodate its ship that is expected to begin cruising on the Mississippi River this summer.

"The need for the modification is due to the Viking ships having an entrance to their ship further from the bow than the other cruise ships," Dorian said.

The modifications will entail removing the dock spud poles and relocating the current dock approximately 50 feet further south than it currently is. Contractors would then set the poles back in place.

Additional work will entail setting a new "dead man" to tie up to and a new landing pad for the gangway.

In other business, the council gave first reading to a ground lease with the Hannibal Board of Public Works. The lease is necessary for the HBPW to secure approximately \$11 million

that it needs to pay for its share of the 160 Finn Project which includes construction of 2.75 miles of new 161 KV transmission line, a 34.5vK tie line and substation improvements.

Street closures were approved for the 27th annual Hannibal Cannibal on Saturday, July 2.

Mark Bross of Citizens for Proposition 1, spoke to the council regarding the proposition, which if approved by voters in April, would increase the city's sales tax by one-half cent.

A bill was given a second reading that would amend the city code regarding sidewalk signs. The ordinance would clarify guidelines regarding portable signs, locations in which they may be used and restrictions on their use.

Second reading was given a bill that would amend the city code and create a Committee for the Management of Traffic Problems.

Approval was given the

placement of a dumpster and the closure of a parking space during the VFW Post 2446's club and kitchen renovation project.

The Hannibal Rural Fire Protection District was given permission to use city-owned parks department property to conduct its annual firehose tests on Thursday, April 7.

Approval was given the sale of city-owned property at 415 Smith St. and at the end of Riverside Drive to Michael and Michelle Hagan for \$575 per property.

Approval was given the sale of city-owned property at 2003 Gordon St. to Eugene D. King for \$575.

A contract for \$543,395 with T.G.B., Inc. was approved for the Hannibal Regional Airport runway lighting rehabilitation project.

Approval was given the state bid of \$90,450 from the Tri-State Truck Center for a 2023 Mack MD7 truck.

## WAGNER

**FROM 1A**

"It feels best for me to make room for someone with the time and energy to devote to this position," Howell said. "It's been a pleasure being a part of the Adams County Board."

Brady said he has served on the board for 14 years and would like to see new blood serve.

Peter echoed these remarks and said after serving on the board for 20 years, most of which as a committee chair, he feels like he's done enough. He added

that he hopes to visit his grandchildren in Washington once new members are sworn in.

"I've enjoyed all of it but it's time to move on," Peter said. "There's lots of other people interested, we've got lots of good people here and it'll be time."

## ROUNDBABOUT

**FROM 1A**

Last week, the Quincy City Council accepted two resolutions related to the project: one for the right-of-way acquisition for the project and one for the appropriation of \$69,000 for the right-of-way and the

relocation of a natural gas main.

The board also accepted an inter-governmental agreement to assist with emergency medical services for Hancock County.

Under the agreement, Adams County would provide executive leadership to

manage routine operations. However, Adams County ambulances and EMTs would not be used to respond to Hancock County calls and vice versa.

The agreement would be in effect until Nov. 30, at which time the agreement would go month to month until terminated.

## UKRAINE

**FROM 1A**

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessment, said that the Russians were using long-range fire to hit civilian targets inside Kyiv with increasing frequency but that their ground forces were making little to no progress around the country. The official said Russian troops were still about 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the center of the capital.

The official said the U.S. has seen indications that Russia believes it may need more troops or supplies than it has on hand in Ukraine, and it is considering ways to get more resources into the country. The official did not elaborate.

Before Tuesday's talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow would press its demands that Ukraine drop its bid to join NATO, adopt a neutral status and "demilitarize."

In a statement that seemed to signal potential grounds for agreement with Moscow, Zelenskyy told European leaders gathered in London that he realizes NATO has no intention of accepting Ukraine.

"We have heard for many years about the open doors, but we also heard that we can't enter those doors," he said. "This is the truth, and we have simply to accept it as it is."

NATO does not admit nations with unsettled territorial conflicts. Zelenskyy has repeatedly said in recent weeks that

he realizes NATO isn't going to offer membership to Ukraine and that he could consider a neutral status for his country but needs strong security guarantees from both the West and Russia.

The U.N. said close to 700 civilians in Ukraine have been confirmed killed, with the true figure probably much higher.

Two journalists working for Fox News were killed when the vehicle they were traveling in was hit by fire Monday on the outskirts of Kyiv, the network said. Fox identified the two as video journalist Pierre Zakrzewski and Ukrainian journalist Oleksandra "Sasha" Kuvshynova, who was helping Fox crews navigate the area. Another journalist was killed Sunday in Ukraine.

## ISBE

**FROM 1A**

"At-risk kids that may not want to go to school or go into school might come to our site located in their neighborhood," she said. "We're hoping that having a site in the neighborhood to do homework, do credit recovery will help turn (things) around."

Bella Ease also hopes to provide a range of other services when renovations are complete at the new site.

"We want to partner with other agencies to bring mental health (services) to that area," Williams said. "Writing the grant with a focus on us bringing several programs to that area falls right into the community partnership part of what this grant represents."

Four Rivers will "partner with a pur-

pose" with Regional Office of Education 1, Midwest Youth Services and the Midwest PBIS Network to "provide more intensive trainings to our staff and build in more social emotional learning supports into our big overall programming," Director of Special Education Tracey Fair said.

"What it's doing is making us dedicate a big chunk of our time, which is really important, to social emotional learning pieces now that we have funds," she said. "If we can help the kids manage those issues, hopefully the learning kind of follows on top of that."

The overall goal, Fair said, is to maximize effectiveness and efficiency by "blending strengths" of school and community — and the grant funding "is a really nice additional piece."

Fair, a school psychologist by training,

said the fear and uncertainty surrounding COVID led to skyrocketing rates of anxiety and depression.

Targeting that is a priority for educators, "but without some of these supports we don't have the staff to do a lot of additional therapy and stuff because we're so busy with the daily things," Fair said.

Grant amounts will be released in late March. Bella Ease sought \$250,000, while Four Rivers requested \$201,000.

Grants are awarded for two years with funding from the second and third rounds of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief.

"When you have anything multi-year, it's wonderful," Williams said. "It gets you time to get a program off the ground, see that it's working and find other funds to sustain it."



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