

# METROPOLIS PLANET



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## Snow falls on southern Illinois



CLYDE WILLS | The Planet

Piper Jeffords, 9, learns the skill of snowboarding Tuesday at Fort Massac State Park. At the top of the hill is her mother Molly Jeffords. Metropolis received 6 to 7 inches of snow on Monday. According to WPSD, the region received 6 to 12 inches of snow depending on the location and drifting. The snow fell steadily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. The National Weather Service in Paducah recorded 8.9 inches, making it the fifth-largest single-day snowfall since record keeping began in December 1937. The largest was 14 inches on Dec. 22, 2004. Another 4 to 12 inches was expected in the region mid-week.

## Commission passes county cannabis ordinance

### Imposes additional tax in municipalities, unincorporated areas

BY TERRA TEMPLE  
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Massac County's need for a cannabis ordinance has been a frequent topic of discussion between State's Attorney Josh Stratemeyer and the commission.

That discussion jumped a hurdle last week as the commission unanimously approved the Massac County Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax.

The Feb. 9 vote came two weeks after Stratemeyer last discussed the need for an ordinance with the commissioners.

"We've discussed it going back quite some time and have never made a final decision. It's getting to the point where we really need to

one way or another," Stratemeyer told them on Jan. 26. "Currently, we don't have anything in the county that says you can or can't have cannabis dispensaries, grow operations, those types of legalized operations. We also don't have anything regarding the taxation of cannabis."

Stratemeyer informed the commission that it has four options ranging from doing nothing to taxing to probating operations in the unincorporated areas of the county.

"I would say this," he told them on Jan. 26, "there's an illegal drug problem in Massac County, I think everybody knows that. That's something we battle, it's something we fight, it's something we see the effects of every single day. I think the answer to our drug problem Massac County is not more drugs. There are still effects on the county even with it in city limits — law enforcement costs, jail costs, you name it —

there's additional costs that will be incurred as a result of this, certainly. ... But it's not up to me; you tell me what to do and I'll prepare the ordinance."

The ordinance the commission had Stratemeyer prepare and that they approved on Feb. 9 establishes the maximum taxes allowed — 3.75% in unincorporated areas of the county and 3% in its municipalities — be applied to cannabis purchases.

"All this ordinance does is apply an additional sales tax to any cannabis sales within the county," Stratemeyer clarified to the commission at its Feb. 9 meeting. "It does not do anything with regards to zoning of cannabis businesses. It simply imposes the additional sales tax. To look at (the zoning of cannabis businesses) at any time in the future would be a separate ordinance would need to be done."

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## Brookport council considers water leak protection plan for residents

BY ANN DOUGLAS

With Kathy Tucker acting as mayor pro tem for the Feb. 9 meeting, the Brookport City Council discussed the city's plan to allow residents to purchase for \$1 a month an insurance program for leaks and water adjustments.

Leaks do occur, sometimes unknown, until the water bill comes due. Only for those who opt in to the program will the city consider a water fee adjustment. Proof of repair of the leak will be required. Previous water bills will be averaged to calculate the adjustment. Those who do not sign up will not be considered for a change in billing.

Approved was the amount of \$44,201.47 in bills to be paid, which included the purchase of a zero-turn mower for \$4199 and tree removal of four trees for \$9500.

Treasurer Alison Boyt reported December's general fund account to be \$139,657.79. January's statements came too late for reconciliation.

City Clerk Lori Klotz reported \$118,151.97 in collections for the month.

There was no report from the fire or police department.

Council approved payment for the contractor's pay estimate No. 7 of \$50,406.75 and the engineer's observation bill of \$12,887.20 relating to the water system grant.

Brown & Roberts Engineering was given approval for \$30,000 towards a grant for sanitary system improvements through Rural Development. This is another step in infrastructure improvement.

The city will apply for a \$75,000 grant for Round 5—Abandoned Residential Property. If the application is successful, there will be additional cleanup of some properties besides the Strong Communities Grant.

Several items were tabled due to lack of information. Maintenance supervisor Paul Martin volunteered that he and Donnie Henson will reroute the sewer from the maintenance building so they can have a functioning bathroom.

Discussion had been held to remodel the community center into the fire department's training hall since it is not used that much as a community room to bring in sufficient funds. A wall was to be built and the gas heater moved, but if the sewer line is reworked, then that remodeling will not be necessary. Once the sewer line is rerouted, then the new pole barn can be considered. Brown & Roberts had a redesigned blueprint, but council tabled that discussion before bids would be advertised.

## City disburses \$62K in grants to businesses

BY TERRA TEMPLE  
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Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kyle W. Heine, owner of Heine Dental, has seen the price of gloves, a daily essential for his business, sky rocket as they are now part of PPE in many other businesses.

"A box of gloves that was \$6 is now going for \$60 or \$70 box," he said.

Heine's is one of 24 businesses around Metropolis to receive a City of Metropolis Economic Support Grant. The \$62,000 in total funds —

ranging from \$900 to \$3000 — were dispersed Feb. 5.

"This was a welcome assist," Heine said. "It helps us not take other loans out to help pay for PPE. I'm sure it's been a help to the small businesses that received it. It was nice to get this help from the program."

City of Metropolis Economic Support Grant recipients are: Yesterday's Home Cookin'; WOW Vintage, LLC; West End Plaza; Waterway Ag Inc.; Super City Antiques & Collectibles; Studio A Hair Salon; Split End Salon; Sixth and

Vintage Boutique and Marketplace; Silver Collections; Salon Envy; River Ag of Illinois; Ribbons & Beaus, LLC; ReFind A Junktique Market; Helton's Edge; Dr. Kyle W. Heine; Bliss Bodyworks Spa; The Zone; Super City Bar & Grill; Super Museum Historic Foundation Inc.; Green Rock Productions Inc.; Southgate Health Care, Inc.; Cordavino's Italian Kitchen; Burnham's Collision Center and Towing; and Sheila's Strong Styles.

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TERRA TEMPLE | The Planet

Ribbons & Beaus is one of 24 Metropolis businesses that applied for and received the City of Metropolis Economic Support Grant earlier this month.



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