

# BREESE JOURNAL

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Get ready to rumble ...

Prep football kicks off Friday night with Central hosting Greenville, Mater Dei facing Effingham at home, Carlyle at Vandalia and Wesclin meeting Chester. See information on all the high school teams in our Fall Sports special section.

## Aviston gets \$119,000 for preschool

Aviston Elementary School District #21 received news on Wednesday, August 16 that they were the recipients of a Preschool for All Grant awarded by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The grant, awarded to just 106 sites statewide, will provide \$119,000 in funding for 40 preschoolers in the Aviston school district to attend daily sessions in the 2006-2007 school year.

Mrs. Lenore Gray, who previously taught under a grant written by the Regional Office of Education, will be the teacher and program coordinator for the Aviston Elementary program, now administered by the school district.

The Aviston district's growth in student enrollment led them to seek an off-site location for the preschool, which made it necessary for them to leave the grant umbrella of the Regional Office.

The Preschool for All program at Aviston will be housed at the St. Francis Parish school site, located just off Aviston-Albers Road.

See **PRE-SCHOOL** on page 3A

## Suspect arrested in Carlyle Rash of vehicle thefts reported

By KELLY JO ROSS  
Breese Journal Reporter

A Sandoval man was charged with motor vehicle theft, a Class 2 felony, on Aug. 22.

Travis J. Elling, 24, of Florida Avenue in Sandoval, posted the \$2,000 bond and was released from the Clinton County Jail on Monday.

Carlyle Police arrested Elling at about 2:30 a.m. Aug. 21 for allegedly breaking into a parked car located near the intersection of Fourth and Franklin streets.

Court records stated that Elling had committed the offense of burglary in that the said defendant, without authority, knowingly entered a motor

See **THEFTS** page 8A

### Carlyle Lake Elevation—

Fri., August 18 ..... 445.27  
Sun., August 20 ..... 445.28  
Tues., August 22 ..... 445.18

### Precipitation—

August 16 ..... .00  
August 17 ..... .00  
August 18 ..... .00  
August 19 ..... .07  
August 20 ..... .25  
August 21 ..... .00  
August 22 ..... .00

“Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars.”

HENRY VAN DYKE

## Racing to find a cure for JM & Gracie

Aviston family hopes to promote public awareness and raise funding to find a cure for juvenile myositis.

By VICKY ALBERS  
Breese Journal Editor

Just three days into the new school year, six-year-old Gracie Jasper has already decided that math is her favorite subject. The bright-eyed blonde is excited about being able to start first grade at Aviston Elementary. Just nine months ago her body was so fatigued that she couldn't ride the school bus because she couldn't climb the steps.

In early November 2005, Gracie was diagnosed with juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM), a rare disease that affects the autoimmune system of children and teens causing muscle weakness and pain, fatigue, and many other debilitating symptoms.

Gracie developed a rash on her cheeks last October. When the rash spread around her nose

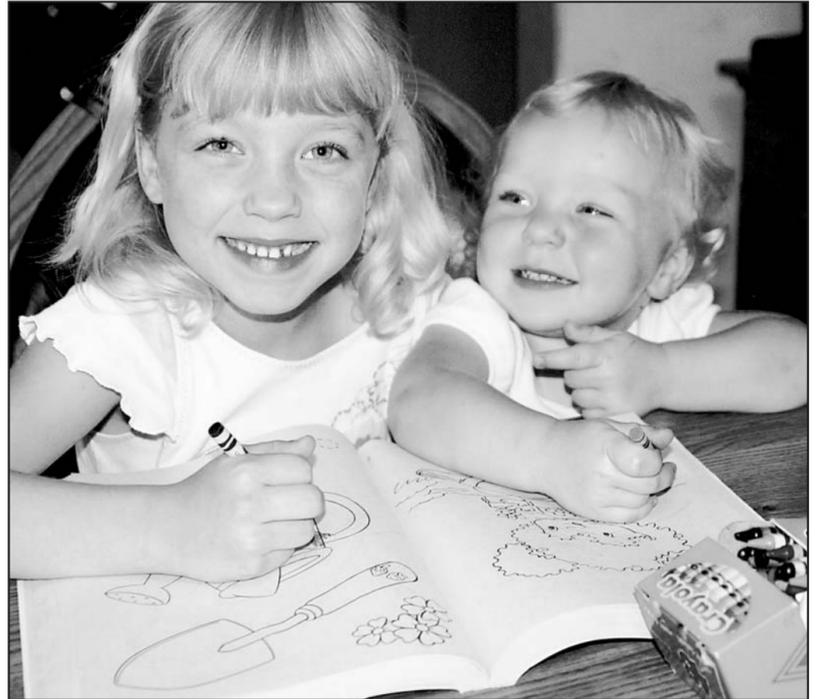
and onto her eyelids, her parents, Casey and Greg Jasper, took her to see the family doctor.

After a test for lupus came back negative, Dr. Doug Kruse referred Gracie to a dermatologist at Children's Hospital in St. Louis. Casey said the dermatologist was 99 percent certain that Gracie's rash was caused by JDM.

“We took Gracie there thinking that she would get a cream for her rash, and it was heartbreaking to hear the diagnosis.”

See **GRACIE** on page 2A

At right: Gracie Jasper and her little sister Claire pose for a photo while coloring at the Aviston home of their grandparents, Pete and Joni Wilken. A fun-loving first grader, Gracie was diagnosed last fall with a rare autoimmune disease that causes a variety of debilitating symptoms.



## County Board announces \$111,930 savings in health insurance costs

By VICKY ALBERS  
Breese Journal Editor

The Clinton County Board's Insurance Committee presented a report Monday night announcing that the county has saved more than \$111,930 in health insurance premiums over the last four months. The savings was made possible due to the county's decision in April to change insurance coverage.

Projected insurance costs for May 1 to date with the county's previous insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, would have totaled \$258,719.75. Using the Einstein Consulting Group's cost management method, it was determined that the county has paid a total of \$146,789.34 for the past four months, resulting in a savings of \$111,930.41.

When the county decided to study its insurance options, seven companies submitted bids and three were chosen for final review by the Insurance Committee. A bid from Meritain Health was approved with coverage through Healthlink.

The insurance comparison was prepared by Bill Schmaltz, a senior partner with the Einstein Consulting Group, an insurance consulting firm which will be preparing quarterly reports to see

where the county stands on claims.

In other business, the board heard a brief report from Ed Weilbacher of the Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). Weilbacher explained that RC&D, which is headquartered in Mascoutah, covers a seven-county region and promotes economic development and the enhancement of natural resources.

He said RC&D is in the process of updating its five-year economic development plan for the region.

Weilbacher also spoke about the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP), a voluntary program to preserve land along waterways which could bring about \$40 million to the 22 counties in the Kaskaskia River Watershed. CREP allows agricultural landowners to receive incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices.

Weilbacher said the only other CREP in Illinois involves the Illinois River. He asked the county to sign a letter of support for the proposed CREP. Board member Dave Lampe, who is the county's representative on the RC&D Council, asked board members to review information about the conservation program and con-

See **COUNTY** on page 8A



## Hot wheels

Classic automobiles were on display at Schoendienst Park in Germantown on Sunday during the 39th Annual Spassfest. Dale and Shelly Robke's 1969 Chevy Camaro Convertible was a big hit among the younger crowd. Calvin Robke is pictured in the passenger seat while Jacob Theising, Zach Kloekner, Austin Fields and Jacou Brauer check out what's under the hood. See a few additional Spassfest photos on page 5C.



A pickup truck parked down the street from the home of Ben Huntington was struck by three bullets during a shooting incident at the Royal Lake area southwest of Carlyle early Sunday morning. Police believe the shots were fired with a Ruger 10/22 rifle.

## Charges filed after alleged drive-by shooting

Two felony charges of aggravated assault were filed Wednesday morning in Clinton County Circuit Court against a suspect who was identified following an alleged drive-by shooting in the Royal Lake area southwest of Carlyle.

Charged was Kyle Kampwerth, 18, of Emerald Road in rural Carlyle. According to State's Attorney Henry Bergmann, Kampwerth allegedly committed an assault by discharging a firearm and placing Ben Huntington and Heath Ford, both residents of the Royal Lake area, in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery. Aggravated assault is a Class 4 felony.

Kampwerth was also charged with two misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property.

Huntington, who resides at 310 Cypress, just off of Camp Joy Road, said he was awakened by loud noises around 4 a.m. Sunday, August 20. Minutes later an estimated 10 shots were randomly fired — four directly at his home — by what police believed to be a Ruger 10/22 rifle.

Upon hearing noises, Huntington said his first thoughts were that someone was stealing his truck, so he turned on the porch light and stepped outside to investigate.

He discovered the noises were coming from the vacant lot next door where the driver of a pickup truck with a loud muffler was driving recklessly and doing doughnuts.

Huntington said the driver must have noticed the porch light and started to leave but stopped a short distance from the Huntington residence as one of the truck's occupants began yelling racial slurs.

Ford, who is Huntington's neighbor, was also awakened by the commotion and was able to write down the truck's license plate number as the vehicle headed out of the Royal Lake area.

Huntington said this was the second time in a month that a truck had done doughnuts in the same lot so his neighbor called the police with the license plate number.

They both thought the incident was over, but a few

See **SHOOTING** on page 8A