

Hancock County awarded Court Modernization Grant

For the Daily Gate City

Hancock County has been awarded a total of \$413,035.72 through the Court Modernization Grant, aimed at improving technology and infrastructure within the local court system. Hancock County Circuit Clerk Keara Weber expressed her excitement about the award— particularly noting that \$332,000 of the grant will be used to install a whole-building generator at the Hancock County Courthouse in Carthage. “After the Halloween

power outage in 2024, we started thinking outside the box about what improvements we could include in this year’s grant application,” Weber said. “The idea of a generator came to us immediately— it’s a game changer for continuity of operations and courthouse functionality during emergencies.” In addition to the generator, the grant will also cover:

- Maintenance costs for the county’s case management system;
- Ongoing support and updates for the

court’s mobile app;

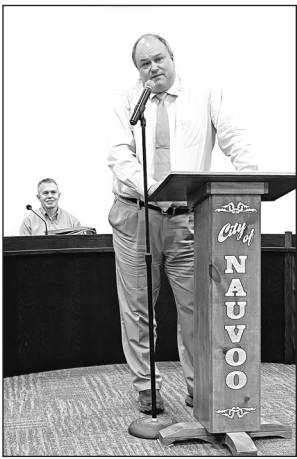
- Additional hardware and cabling upgrades.

“We’re thrilled to have found ways to save local tax dollars while advancing Hancock County’s productivity and technological resilience,” Weber added. The Court Modernization Grant is part of a statewide initiative to help counties invest in tools and infrastructure that support modern, efficient court operations.

Nauvoo-Colusa Supt. asks for support of 1% sales tax

ALAN MOBERLY
Correspondent

Nauvoo-Colusa School District 325 Superintendent Mark Scott is advocating for the one percent County School Facilities Tax (CSFT), which will appear on all Hancock County ballots during the April 1 Consolidated Election. Appearing before a gathering at the Nauvoo City Center sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association, he asserted that the retail tax applies to most goods sold within the county, including items from restaurants, gasoline stations and department stores, but notably excludes services, vehicles, groceries and certain agricultural supplies. The tax, which affects both residents and non-residents shopping in Hancock County, has already been implemented in 57 other Illinois counties. It requires a simple majority vote for passage and is expected to generate about \$1.212 million annually. Revenue



ALAN MOBERLY/MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PUBLISHING
Nauvoo-Colusa School District 325 Superintendent Mark Scott advocated for the one percent school tax before a gathering at the Nauvoo City Center sponsored by the Nauvoo Betterment Association.

would be allocated among local school districts based on student enrollment, with Hamilton CCSD #328 projected to receive the largest share of \$287,000, followed by Carthage at \$205,000 and Warsaw at \$200,000. Nauvoo-Colusa would receive about \$92,000. Superintendent Scott emphasizes that the funds from this tax will exclusively support facility needs,

including crucial projects like a new roof for Nauvoo-Colusa school. The generated revenue cannot be used for teacher salaries, operational costs or supplies, making it a vital resource for upgrades and maintenance, especially as local schools receive less funding from federal and state sources compared to their counterparts in other counties. This tax has been on the ballot before, but has always been defeated, though the margins have been close. He noted that Nauvoo always votes for it, as does Carthage and Warsaw. Hamilton, which has the most to gain from this tax, has always voted against it. Some in the audience pointed out that many tourists visit Nauvoo and spend money there, in effect “paying our taxes for us.” The polls will be open on Tuesday, April 1, from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. For information on advance voting, contact the Hancock County Election Office.

Luigi Mangione may get a laptop in jail to work on his defense in CEO murder case

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge cleared the way Thursday for Luigi Mangione to get a laptop behind bars — if his jailers agree — so he can examine documents and other material in the UnitedHealthcare CEO murder case. New York state Judge Gregory Carro

wrote that he had “no objection” to Mangione’s request for the device, which would be configured to allow him only to review case materials. But Carro noted that it’s ultimately up to federal authorities who oversee the lockup where Mangione is awaiting trial

in the December shooting death of Brian Thompson, the 50-year-old head of one of the biggest U.S. health insurers. Mangione, who also faces a federal murder charge, is being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center, a federal jail in Brooklyn.

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