



Clancy’s ex-husband says retrial would be ‘painful’

NEWS, 6A

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‘A gray area’ Hemp THC drinks find foothold despite concerns

Cassidy Waigand Peoria Journal Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

When Andrea Taylor meets up with friends, alcohol isn’t typically her drink of choice. • THC beverages are. • One might hear THC – the part of cannabis responsible for the high – and think of products sold at dispensaries. The drinks Taylor (and many others) enjoy, however, are offered in restaurants and bars. Beverages boasting THC can be found at gas stations and other retailers, as well. • It all comes down to one subtle nuance: the beverages contain hemp-derived THC. • The story of how such beverages came to exist outside of dispensaries is a complicated one. It involves a legal loophole, a booming beverage industry and an impending “extinction level event” brought on by federal changes. See THC, Page 4A



◀ Beverages infused with THC are becoming popular alternatives for alcoholic drinks and other types of cannabis products.

TOP: Andrea Taylor is an avid proponent of THC-infused beverages as an alternative to alcoholic drinks that may cause problems for consumers with particular medical conditions or addiction issues. PHOTOS BY MATT DAYHOFF/JOURNAL STAR

COVID-19 cases on the rise in Illinois

Health officials let residents know they don’t need to worry

Hannah Hudnall and Mary Walrath-Holdridge Peoria Journal Star USA TODAY NETWORK

COVID-19 cases are ticking up in Illinois as summer draws to a close, with most states following suit, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though cases are consistently increasing, COVID-19 activity was still categorized overall as “very low” nationwide by the agency as of Sept. 1, with the Illinois Department of Public Health saying residents don’t need to worry. See COVID-19, Page 2A

Mother’s note sheds light on Lincoln’s school years

Janis Reeser Springfield State Journal-Register USA TODAY NETWORK

A newly acquired letter at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum offers a glimpse into a struggle familiar to many families: a parent apologizing when a child arrives at school unprepared. The note, written by Mary Lincoln on April 17, 1868, was recently donated to the Springfield institution, according to a community announcement. Addressed to her son’s teacher, the former first lady explained that illness had prevented her from helping Thomas “Tad” Lincoln with a geography assignment. See NOTE, Page 3A

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