

Unprecedented order limits gatherings of 10 people or more

BARRY COUNTY ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

On March 23, 2020, the Barry County Commission and the Barry County Health Department announced adoption of two Emergency Declarations to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Barry County from the emergence of COVID-19.

The declarations activated the Emergency Operations Plan and established necessary emergency measures. Those measures include; **prohibiting gatherings of greater than 10 people, social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between unrelated people, and restriction to curbside or drive-thru restaurant service.** Roger Brock, Administrator of the Barry County Health Department noted that **there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Barry County.** He commented, “social distancing is the best way to limit the spread of COVID-19. We understand these measures may be inconvenient, but they are the best way we have to protect our citizens.”

The Barry County Historic Courthouse has restricted access to the West Handicap entrance. Those with business in the courthouse should read the posted advisories before entering. Instructions posted at the entrance of each office will have directions for access. You are encouraged to contact courthouse offices directly with questions. Presiding Commissioner Gary Youngblood stated, “The County Commission is dedicated to maintaining important county services, but it is imperative to the safety of citizens and county employees that we enact these precautions.”

COVID-19 Symptoms: Cough, fever, difficulty breathing. Symptoms may occur two days to two weeks after exposure. Although most of the cases have been mild, the disease is especially dangerous for the elderly and others with weaker immune systems. Those most at risk should avoid unnecessary travel and contact with non-family members.

To be evaluated for symptoms of COVID-19, or if symptoms worsen, we ask individuals to call their local medical provider or hospital before seeking treatment. People who feel they might have the virus need to give health care providers a warning so safety precautions can be taken before their arrival to help prevent the infection of health care workers and others at the facility.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is operating a hotline for residents and health care providers to call for information and guidance about COVID-19. The statewide hotline number is 877-435-8411. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missouri Governor Mike Parson further emphasizes, in a press release issued

see ORDER on 5A



Briley Artherton, 9, Rhett Artherton, 5, and their grandmother (Mimi), Trish McCracken, practice skipping stones across Flat Creek while social-distancing in Cassville’s downtown park on Tuesday.

MDC to temporarily waive fishing permits starting Friday

Starting March 27, people may fish in Missouri without a permit through April 15.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (MARCH 24, 2020) – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Conservation Commission announce they are temporarily waiving permit requirements for sport fishing and daily trout tags for Missouri residents and nonresidents whose fishing privileges are not otherwise suspended.

The waiver of needing a permit or trout tag to fish will run from Friday, March 27, through April 15. MDC will reassess the situation at that point. All season dates and limits will continue to apply and be enforced.

“The current public-health emergency caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) has many Missourians and others looking for safe ways to get outside in nature,” said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. “Missouri’s rivers and streams offer high quality fishing as a way for people to connect with nature while still complying with all health and safety recommendations. Fishing is also a great way to get some much needed physical and mental health benefits during this stressful time.”

Pauley added that it is still critical for everyone to continue to heed all recommendations for hand washing, social distancing, and other public-health measures while fishing and during other outdoor activities, including maintaining at least six feet of distance between all individuals who are not family members.

The James Foundation announced it has closed Maramec Spring Park in St. James to the public for trout fishing and all other activities until further notice. However, Missouri’s three other public trout parks remain open for day use and fishing: Bennett Spring State Park in Lebanon, Montauk State Park near Licking, and Roaring River State Park near Cassville.

To reduce possible increased social congregation, MDC will suspend daily trout stocking at all trout parks starting Friday and has suspended other fish stocking in waters around the state until further notice.

According to DNR, Missouri State Parks remain open. However, in reaction

see STATE PARKS on 6A

TAXPAYERS GIVEN A REPRIEVE

Sheila Harris

For individuals and corporations who have not yet filed a tax return, nor paid taxes if owed, a reprieve has been granted. Mirroring the federal guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) tax filing and payment deadline has been extended from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020.

According to a press release issued by Missouri Governor Mike Parson, this payment relief applies to all individual income tax returns, income tax returns filed by C Corporations, and income tax returns filed by trusts or estates. The Department of Revenue will auto-

matically provide this relief, so filers do not need to take any additional steps to qualify.

This relief for individuals and corporations will also include estimated tax payments for the tax year 2020 that are due on April 15, 2020.

Penalties and interest will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of July 16, 2020. Individuals and corporations that file their return or request an extension of time to file by July 15, 2020, will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the tax paid by July 15.

On a local level, Cassville tax preparer Melissa Burchfield, of Burchfield Tax Services, admits to some relief.

“When COVID-19 began spreading, I was prepared to shelter-in-place in my office and work around the clock to ensure that my clients could file by the former April 15 deadline,” she said. “I’ve already been working about 120 hours a week. Now I can take a deep breath and get a little more sleep.”

Shawna Flowers, tax preparer and owner of Sanders Accounting, admits to a little relief, too, especially when the state changed their deadline to mirror that of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

“At first I was still under some pressure,” Flowers said. “I was afraid if Mis-

see TAXES on 8A

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Some screenings, surgeries and imaging to be postponed at local hospitals

Sheila Harris

According to spokespeople from Mercy and CoxHealth hospitals in southwest Missouri, as the health systems prepare to serve patients diagnosed with COVID-19, elective surgeries may be postponed.

The situation is currently being evaluated.

Elective procedures may encompass any procedure that is not an emergency. Patients whose procedures are impacted will be notified as soon as possible, but since this is a fluid and evolving situation, there is no specific time frame for surgeries that may be postponed. Patients should assume that their procedure will continue as scheduled unless told otherwise.

According to Janell Patton, Community Relations Manager at Cox Monett, the decision is not taken lightly, given the fact that it will inconvenience patients. However, it's felt that the system must be prepared to care for patients in emergency situations who are impacted by symptoms of COVID-19 and require hospitalization to potentially save their lives.

All screening mammograms at CoxHealth will also be postponed starting March 19 for 30 days.

The change only involves screening mammograms.

Non-screening breast exams such as diagnostic mammograms, follow-up appointments and biopsies, will continue as scheduled and ordered.

Patients who have a mammogram scheduled in the coming weeks at CoxHealth locations will be contacted to cancel and reschedule.

In line with this change, the event for free screening mammograms scheduled for March 19 at Cox Monett and April 15 at the Breast Care Clinic in Springfield have also been cancelled.

Mercy spokesperson Sonya Krullman states that Mercy Hospital will postpone all non-urgent screenings, including the following cases:

- Screening Mammography
- CT Lung Cancer Screening
- Non-urgent CT
- Non-urgent MRI
- Ultrasound
- Plain film X-ray Exams
- All other non-emergent or elective Radiologic and Imaging Guidance Exams or Procedures

General election postponed until June 2

Sheila Harris

According to Barry County Municipal Clerk, Jill LeCompte, the Barry County general municipal election scheduled for April 7 will be postponed until June 2, along with all municipal elections throughout Missouri.

"Given the growing concern surrounding COVID-19 and the large number of people elections attract, postponing Missouri's municipal elections is a necessary step to help combat the spread of the virus and protect the health and safety of Missouri voters," Missouri Governor Mike Parson said. "Postponing an election is not easy, but we are all in this together. We are thankful to Secretary Ashcroft and our 116 election authorities for their leadership, cooperation, and commitment to doing what is best for their communities during this time."

"The closing date to register to vote in the municipal election remained at March 11, and the filing deadline for write-in candidates remains 5 p.m. March 27," LeCompte said. "In-person candidate filing must be completed by 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 31."

With a new election date, the following revised dead-

lines apply:

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot (Section 115.279, RSMo) shall be May 20.

A public test of voting equipment shall be completed no later than June 1.

In-person absentee ballots may be cast until 5 p.m. on June 1.

The deadline by which absentee ballots must be received by the election authority (Section 115.293.1, RSMo) shall be 7 p.m. on June 2.

Military and overseas voters must request a ballot from an election authority by 5 p.m. on May 29, and the deadline for local election authorities to make ballots available to such voters is April 18. Military and overseas ballots must be received by the election authority by June 5.

Local election authorities are also directed to post information on their website, use social media if available, issue press release, conduct public appearances, and directly contact stakeholders such as candidates.

Absentee curbside voting, at the Barry County Courthouse, may be arranged by calling 417-847-2561

Cassville City Hall lobby to close temporarily.

Beginning Wednesday, March 25, the Cassville City Hall lobby will close to the public. Payments can be made online, in either of the two outside drop boxes, or over the phone. Please call 847-4441 if you need any services

related to water, sewer and trash utilities or Municipal Court. Please call 847-3121 if you need any services related to making a police report, or to have an officer contact you. Please call 911 if you have an emergency.



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Community Calendar

Community Calendar page is free as a courtesy to local events. If your event is relying on advertising for attendance, then it is vital for you to place a paid ad. There is no guarantee that your event will be placed in Community Calendar. The deadline for community calendar is Friday at 4 p.m. The contact person is Elaine Phaneuf, class@4bca.com or (417) 847-4475. Thank you for keeping us informed of all updates/changes to local events.

Notice:

Please Note: Because of safety measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus including social distancing, many events will or have been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended to call ahead if you are unsure of the status of an event. The Barry County Advertiser has been informed of cancellations and postponements of formerly published events. Those cancellations are indicated in this section. Thank you.

Beginning Wednesday, March 25, the Cassville City Hall lobby will close to the public. Payments can be made online, in either of the two outside drop boxes, or over the phone. Please call 847-4441 if you need any services related to water, sewer and trash utilities or Municipal Court. Please call 847-3121 if you need any services related to making a police report, or to have an officer contact you. Please call 911 if you have an emergency.

Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary of Washburn has closed to the public temporarily due to the coronavirus, Covid-19, as a cautionary measure. All scheduled appointments will still be honored.

All Branches of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Libraries will be closed until April 6, 2020.

The Chairperson of the Barry County Democrats has announced the mass meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, is cancelled. There are new guidelines coming out for selection of delegates for the state convention. Those who are interested in becoming a delegate should email maella.blalock@gmail.com. Instead of a Barry County meeting, delegates from all counties in the local congressional district will be selected on May 30, 2020, at a mass meeting. Location and other information to be released as it is confirmed. The state convention has moved from KC to a central Missouri location, to be announced, and the original date of June 20, 2020, is now uncertain. The form to file for a state delegate on online.

Starting in March, the Wheaton Depot Museum will be open on the second and fourth Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Watch the Community Calendar for updates on the time and the dates. The Wheaton Depot Museum is the major project of the Wheaton Historical Society.

Habitat for Humanity is looking for families to apply for a home in Wheaton. For more information or to apply, stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 900 10th St. in Cassville. They are open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

2020 Southwest Yearbooks are on sale now. The cost is \$25 and the deadline to order is May 31. For more information, contact Mr. Voyak at svoyak@swr5.net.

Seligman Chamber will host a dance every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. For information, call (417) 662-3612. **The Seligman Chamber Dance for Saturday, March 28, 2020, has been cancelled.**

March 27th

Due to the Coronavirus, the music at Clio Community Building originally scheduled for March 27th is cancelled.

March 28th

A Fundraiser Breakfast will be served at the fire house in Eagle Rock from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

April 3rd

Due to the Coronavirus, Ozark Country Quilters of Cassville is canceling their 16th Biennial Quilt Show, “O C the Quilts”, April 3, 2020, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 4, 2020, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Crowder College, 4020 N. Main, Cassville.

OATS limits service due to COVID-19

As OATS Transit continues to adjust to the COVID-19 crisis, we are only offering essential service trips at this time. We are limiting the number of individuals on our buses to facilitate social distancing, and drivers are cleaning buses on a routine basis. The essential trips only service will remain in effect until further notice. Individuals can call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 1-800-770-6287 for information on local service. Visit our website at www.oatstransit.org/health for updated information on this topic.

Essential service transportation is defined as dialysis, doctor appointments, grocery shopping, food banks, etc. “This is a difficult decision and one we are not taking lightly, but it is the right thing to do during this national crisis,” said Dorothy Yeager Executive Director.s Individuals who are sick should stay home.

Several measures have been put into place to ensure the safety of everyone on board the buses:

- Drivers are doing routine cleaning and disinfecting on the buses throughout the day, and cleaning surfaces that riders may come into contact with.
- The amount of people on each bus will be limited to ensure safe distances for riders and drivers.
- Non-essential appointments should be delayed if possible to limit exposure.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, riders should expect drivers to refrain from touching any personal belongings and packages. OATS asks riders to be understanding and prepared for this adjustment to our normal routine.

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Eagles, Auxiliary partner with Central Crossing Senior Center



The Fraternal Order of Eagles of Shell Knob and the Auxiliary recently partnered with the Central Crossing Senior Center in Shell Knob as a sponsor. Pictured above, from left to right: Carmen Engel, Eagles Auxiliary; Becky Heob, Eagles Auxiliary; Regina McIlrath, Senior Center Partners Program coordinator; Scott Prothero, Eagles; and Sam Herkelman, COO of the Central Crossing Senior Center.

Central Crossing Senior Center Closed

The Central Crossing Senior Center may be closed for the activities and services we have come to enjoy and appreciate, but one service is available that is new for our area seniors!

Drive thru meal pickup is here! Drive to the Center between 11:15 and 12:30, pull up under the canopy and honk once or twice (please do not lean on it) and one of the staff will bring out a meal to go. You will have to heat it in the microwave, but you will get out of the house for a short time, see one of the friendly staff and have a meal you didn't actually have to make.

The Central Crossing Senior Center is located on YY-

15, just a short distance past the Ozark Villas and Mountain View Estates. For more information, please call 417-858-6952 and Terri will assist you.

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ORDER from FRONT

March 21, residents are restrained from visiting nursing homes, long-term care facilities, retirement homes, and assisted living homes unless to provide critical assistance.

Schools shall continue to remain closed, although they are not prohibited from providing child care and food and nutritional services for those that qualify. Teachers and staff may enter buildings as long as they follow the directives set forth in the order.

Local public health officials are directed to enforce these provisions by means of civil proceedings, according to the Missouri executive order signed by Governor Parson. That order will remain in effect until 12:01 a.m., Monday, April 6, 2020, unless extended by further order of

the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services. Extensions are not to exceed the duration of the effective period of Executive Order 20-02, in which Governor Parson declared a state of emergency in Missouri to allow more flexibility in the utilization and deployment of resources around the state.

On a positive note, people are *not* prohibited from visiting grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, as long as necessary precautions are taken and social distancing is observed.

In an effort to help restaurants whose business has been curtailed and alleviate shortages at supermarkets, Governor Parson signed another executive order on March 23 which allows the temporary sale of unpre-

pared foods to the public by restaurants.

“Due to the public health threat caused by COVID-19, many restaurants have been forced to limit or cease their normal business operations,” Governor Parson said. “We hope easing this regulatory burden will assist restaurants financially, avoid unnecessary waste and help meet the increased demand for food across the state.”

“This is a serious time for our state and nation, and we must continue taking all steps necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19,” Governor Parson said. “The more people who reduce public contact, the sooner the virus will be contained, and the sooner we will overcome this challenge.”

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Catron honored for Lodge service



Pythagoras Lodge #383 was proud to present a 50-year pin to Brother Raymond Catron on February 20, 2020. "Thank you for your years of service to the Masonic Lodge," said Kevin Lingle and other fellow lodge members.

CoxHealth to invest in paid time off fund for employees

CoxHealth will begin offering two weeks of paid time off to employees when unable to work due to COVID-19 confirmation or exposure. "We made this decision for the benefit of our employees who may be affected by COVID-19, as we want to support them in this time of uncertainty and we feel it's the right thing to do," says Steve Edwards, president

and CEO of CoxHealth. If 10% of the health system's employees utilize the benefit, it will result in a \$2.7 million investment by the health system. Funding for the benefit will come from a variety of sources, including from the annual employee banquet, which has been cancelled in light of COVID-19 concerns. However, the vast majority will come from operating revenue from CoxHealth and flow through the CoxHealth Foundation's Employee Assistance Fund, which has existed for decades to help support employees in time of need. The funds are available to employees in the following categories:

- Employees who are confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Employees in multiple and extreme high-risk categories.
- Employees who are put off

work because of possible exposure. • Employees who need to care for a family member because of a COVID-19 diagnosis. The benefit will be available to full and part-time benefits-eligible employees across the health system. This fund is being established in addition to existing ETO and sick leave programs.

STATE PARKS from FRONT

to COVID-19 and out of an abundance of caution, Missouri State Parks will temporarily close all campgrounds and lodging effective Friday, March 27, through Thursday, April 30. This includes campgrounds, park-run lodging and concessionaire-run lodging. While they are not able to accommodate overnight guests, Missouri State Parks remain open to the public

sures now to reduce the impact of COVID-19," said Missouri State Parks Director Mike Sutherland. "The outdoors provide a great opportunity to relax and destress. Even outdoors, it is important to practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings and wash your hands often." MDC and DNR remind people to make outdoor activities as safe and enjoyable as possible by taking the following actions:

- If you have been sick in the last two weeks, please stay home for your health and the safety of others.
- Travel in a small group with a maximum of 10 people.
- Avoid popular areas where people may congregate, such

as scenic overlooks, buildings, playgrounds, etc. • Maintain at least a six-foot distance between you and others. • Pack water, soap and/or hand sanitizer. Get more information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on best practices for keeping you and your family safe at gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html. MDC has closed its regional offices, Department headquarters in Jefferson City, and other public contact offices, nature centers, visitor centers, educational centers, and staffed shooting ranges to the public until April 15. While MDC public offices will be closed to general

visitation, offices will still be staffed. Visitors with official business will need to notify the office to gain access. Find MDC office contact information at mdc.mo.gov/regional-contacts?county=All. MDC has also cancelled its public events and programs around the state until April 15, including hunter education classes, nature center programs and events, shooting range programs and events, and landowner workshops. MDC will reassess the situation at that point. Conservation areas, nature center trails, unstaffed shooting ranges, and boat accesses remain open to the public. Hunting, fishing, and trapping seasons continue as scheduled. MDC managed hunts and mentored spring turkey hunts continue as planned.

For more information on MDC, to contact MDC offices, to buy permits, and more, visit MDC online at mdc.mo.gov.

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LOCAL FUEL STOPS SERVE MEALS TO KIDS

Caden Swearingen
Two local fueling stations help local students and families during trying times.
The Stage Stop in Butterfield and Trojan P.Q. Mart in Washburn are both on a mission to help local students, as well as their families, during the trying times after the cancellation of schools in Barry County due to COVID-19.
Darrell Mathis has owned Stage Stop in Butterfield since 2011.
“We are offering students a free breakfast and lunch meal to help feed students, so the parents have one less thing to worry about. We are doing it as a way to thank the local community for supporting our business since we opened. It’s a way to pay it forward,” said Mathis.
“Kids are important and we are feeding them so none go hungry during school

closings,” said Kim Hernandez, cashier at Stage Stop. “We are working hard and sanitizing every hour to make sure we have a clean environment.”
Stage Stop is offering free lunches and breakfast Monday through Friday. Breakfast is served from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and includes a breakfast sandwich, plus juice or milk. Lunch is available from 11 p.m. to 1 p.m., and includes a sandwich, chips and a juice or small fountain drink.
There is a donation jar by the register to help pay it forward. The Stage Stop is located 9429 State Highway W in Butterfield. Business hours Monday through Thursday are 4 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Friday 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Robert and Leta Shockley, owners of Trojan P.Q. Mart in Washburn for the past eight years, are also providing food to students after

a few community members came together to make sure no student or kid went hungry during the cancellation of schools.
“We have an awesome community. It’s small but we work hard together,” said Shockley. “We clean the the area inside every chance we get. We are fixing hot box meals, pizza and grill carry-out orders. We can deliver the food outside to you, as an option for your convenience.”
Trojan P.Q. Mart is offering free lunches from their hotbox Monday through Friday, free of charge, for any students needing food while they are out of school. They are located 112 S. Old Wire Rd, in Washburn. They are open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.



Trojan P.Q. Mart at 112 S Old Wire Rd. in Washburn serves lunch to students.



The Stage Stop at 9429 State Highway W in Butterfield serves breakfast and lunch to students.

Cassville United Methodist Church held USDA Food Distribution



Church members gather at Cassville United Methodist Church to hold a social distancing curb side service USDA Food Distribution on Tuesday, March 24, to help families in need in the area. They gave out around 120 boxes of food. Pictured above are volunteers with CUMC: Chuck Miner, Daryl Wedel, Janice Fratus, Larry Olson, Mike Fratus, David Samuel, Treva Samuel and Greg Gosvener.

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MADSEN
FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
Sam Madsen has filed as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Public Administrator in Barry County. Sam and his wife, Jenny, are owners of a small business in Cassville. They have operated At The River, an outdoor sporting goods store located on Main Street in Cassville, since 2016. Sam is a lifelong resident of southwest Missouri and is employed at Cassville R-IV School District.
“I certainly look forward to the opportunity to serve the citizens of Barry County as the Public Administrator. Barry County has been blessed to have had great public servants in the capacity over the last several years. I know that Keith Daniels has done a great job and I understand how difficult of a job this can be and I relish the chance to continue the service he has provided to his clients and to the people of Barry County.”
Sam and his wife, Jenny, live east of Cassville with their two sons, Eli, age 8, and Connor, age 5.

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Cassville Primary School Authors of the Monday for February



Kindergarten Author of the Month: Danny Beuterbaugh, left, with teacher, Mrs. Hoffman.



First Grade Author of the Month: Dexter Beyer, right, with teacher, Mrs. Rose.



Kinder Academy Author of the Month: Jemma Meltabarger, right, with teacher, Mrs. Ramaeker.



Second Grade Author of the Month: Kinley Humphrey, right, with teacher, Ms. Krallman.

His House Foundation serves meals

To assist in the health and safety of our community, His House Foundation, 23837 State Highway 39, Shell Knob, will be providing a To Go dinner each night Monday through Saturday, starting this Saturday, March 21. This dinner will be available for pick up from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day until further notice. There will not be a meal available on Sundays.

These meals are for families in need during the current national crisis. Please STAY in your vehicle. Meals will be delivered to your vehicle. Please only order one meal per family member since we are providing dinner each night. Help spread the word and extend a helping hand to those in our community.

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Crowder College closes campus, classes go online

Online instruction will continue for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. Graduation ceremonies will be cancelled for Saturday, May 9, 2020. Graduates will be welcomed to participate in a future ceremony and additional information will be sent to all graduates at a later date. The campus closed at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020, and will reopen 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020. College operations will move to online methods and staff will work remotely until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020.

The residence halls will close at noon on Friday, March 27, 2020, for all students who are able to return home. Housing and meal accommodations will be made for those who are not able to return home. Please feel free to use the WiFi in the parking lot at any of the campus sites; however, none of the college buildings will be assessible during this time period. At any time, please refer to the Crowder College Webpage www.crowder.edu for information and updates associated with COVID-19.

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TAXES from FRONT

souri didn't change their filing deadline, we might have to file extensions for those who owed money to the state. I feel better now, though."

Burchfield is interested in what kind of economic stimulus package national lawmakers will agree on for the relief of those affected by the detrimental economic effects of COVID-19.

"I recommend that people file their taxes as soon as possible, even though the deadline has been extended," she said. "If you are entitled to a tax refund, I suspect it might be put on the back burner, in favor of pushing the stimulus package through, once it's agreed upon."

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Barry County schools recap plans for breakfast, lunch delivery

In the wake of Barry County school closings, schools continue to prepare and distribute packaged meals either from designated pick-up points or by bus delivery. Following is a recap of their plans, including modifications made to Cassville's schedule, plus the addition of plans for Southwest schools.

Cassville Schools (changes made to pick-up times):

Grab & Go Lunch and the next day's breakfast will be provided at no charge on regularly scheduled school days. Please call 417-847-4042 between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., to order meals. Meals may be picked up by parents at the following locations and times.

Primary/Middle School Cafeteria: 11:30 a.m. (curb-side pick up in the circle drive)

Butterfield First Baptist Church: 11 a.m.

Eagle Rock Shore Line Campground (across from

Eagle Rock Corps of Engineers): 11:30 a.m.

Golden First Baptist Church: 11 a.m.

Jenkins Fire Station, located off of Highway 248: 11 a.m.

Students K-12 in the Shell Knob area may order and pickup meals at the Shell Knob School District starting Monday, March 23, by calling 417-858-6743 ext. 201.

Continue to follow this link as we provide updates to our students and parents:

<http://cassville.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v/ART/5e6a895260cf6>

Exeter Schools:

For students 18 and younger, lunch and the following day's breakfast may be picked up, at no charge, in front of the elementary school doors between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Wheaton Schools:

For students 18 and younger, lunch and the next day's breakfast are available

for pick up, at no charge, between 11:30-1:00 at the elementary school.

Purdy Schools:

Grab & Go bagged lunch, dinner and the following day's breakfast, provided by Life 360 in Monett at no charge, may be picked up by students on the north side of Purdy Schools from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Southwest Schools:

Buses will leave campus at 8:30 to begin delivering sack lunches and breakfasts, at no charge, to students on bus routes. Extra meals can be left for younger children. For children who do not ride buses, meals can be picked up at the following time and locations:

People's Bank of Washburn and People's Bank of Seligman between 8:40 and 10 a.m.

Day cares may also pick up meals for their children from these locations.



Secretary for Director of Operations, Netta Ellis, from Cassville Schools serves meals.

BRETT: "PET OF THE WEEK"

Meet Brett, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Brett is a handsome five year old, 47 pound heeler mix. He was adopted from the Haven in 2016 and it was the perfect home for him. Sadly, his adopter had to move to an assisted living facility and Brett came back to us. Brett is now looking for a new person to love. He's a happy, fun-loving dog. He loves going for walks and spending time with people. He's good with other dogs but likes

human friends the best. If you think Brett might be your new best friend, give us a call at 417-835-3647. We're temporarily closed to the public to protect the health of both our staff and adopters, but you can make arrangements to take Brett home just as soon as possible. We hope to see everyone soon!



More changes result from COVID-19

- Child care subsidy benefits extended for 90 days
- The Child Care Subsidy program can pay for additional hours of care for a child's attendance due to school closure or the parent is required to work additional hours.
- Child Care Subsidy provider application renewals are extended for 90 days.
- Waive all Food Stamp adverse action notices for 90 days.
- Waive initial in-person Food Stamp interviews for 90 days
- Extend Food Stamp certification periods by 6 months.
- Approve additional hours of care for families on a case-by-case basis

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60148911 - ONE OF A KIND! Over 600 ' shoreline. Gentle walkdown to 10x24 boat slip with lift. Home has 3-car attached garage & 2-car carport. Includes storage building and 49x60 insulated shop with 14' sidewalls. House has patio and upper deck. \$500,000
60058815 - COMMERCIAL LOT IN SELIGMAN . Corner of State Hwy. 37 & Cemetery St. City utilities. 1.3 acres m/l. \$15,000
60149364 - TOP OF THE LINE kitchen & bath remodel in 2017. Open 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is move-in ready. Quartz counter top, two ovens, all appliances. 6 acres m/l, 30x50 shop, 24x40 machine shed and much more. \$235,000
60100458 - INVESTMENT PROPERTY on State Hwy 112. Close to commercial businesses. Home & shop. \$35,000
60154613 - EXCELLENT POSSIBILITY for a corporate get-a-way, or Bed & Breakfast. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Newer kitchen. Situated in middle of 30 acres m/l of paradise. Close to Roaring River State Park. \$444,444
60158138 - 32 ACRES M/L of lake front property. Close to Eagle Rock Bridge. \$114,900
60130380 - EXCELLENT ACREAGE for multi-family units. Close to downtown, schools, and shopping. Easy access to Hwy. 37 for quick commute to Arkansas or Monett. \$40,000
60147834 - NEWER SINGLE WIDE MOBILE HOME with almost 11 acres. Garden area, some pasture land & some hunting land. Several outbuildings, & 1-car carport. Sits on paved road close to shopping, schools, and Table Rock Lake. Nice property that is affordable. \$89,000
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CAROLYN S. BRATTIN
Carolyn S. Brattin, age 77, of Cassville, passed away Friday, March 20, 2020, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. She was born May 9, 1942, in Stella, the daughter of Argyle and Geneva (Smith) Haynes. On May 27, 1960, she was united in marriage to Charles R. Brattin, who survives. Also surviving are three daughters, Tonya Belk and Jerry, of Joplin, Tammy Pueppke and Daniel, of Cassville, and Teresa Stumpff and Donnie, of Cassville; three brothers, Melvin Haynes and Betty, of Rocky Comfort, Wesley Haynes and Carolyn, of Wheaton and Gary Haynes and Melissa, of Claremore, Oklahoma; three sisters, Freida Kite, of Carthage, Wylene Clouse, of Springfield, and Veva Lee and Bill, of Cassville; three sisters-in-law, Joan Haynes, of Wheaton, Esther Haynes, of Fairview, and Edna Haynes, of Monett; brother-in-law, Don

Brattin and Geraldine, of Aurora; six grandchildren, Paul Dolis, Tracy Dolis and fiancé, Kolby Fountain, Trent Pueppke, Dillon Stumpff and Savanna, Parker Stumpff and Ashley, and Shania Stehlik and Cody; eight great-grandchildren and one on the way; and many nieces and nephews.
Preceding her in death were her parents; three brothers, Claude, Bill and Darril Haynes; one sister, Joyce Akin; four brothers-in-law, Sonny Akin, Bud Kite, Robert Clouse and Larry Riddle; sister-in-law, Beverly Riddle; and special uncle, Hugh Smith.
Carolyn grew up and received her education in Wheaton, where she graduated from high school in 1960. She worked in banking for many years. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church. She will be missed by many friends and relatives.
Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services. Burial was at Muncie Chapel Cemetery in Wheaton.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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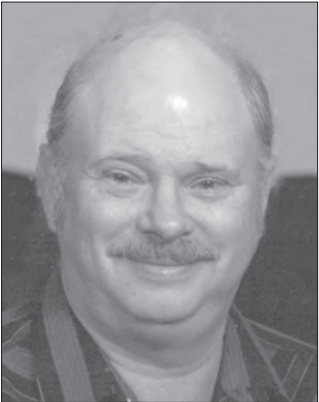


TERRY LEE LUNEY
Terry Lee Luney, age 74, of Eagle Rock, passed away Thursday, March 19, 2020, at his home.
He was born April 23, 1945, the son of Marjorie Luney. On April 22, 1996, he was united in marriage to Linda Howerton, who survives. Also surviving are his mother, Marjorie, of Eagle Rock; four sons, Jamie Chambers, of Galena, David Chambers, of Savannah, Georgia, Gary Atkinson, of Aurora, and Donnie Atkinson, of Sarcoxie; three daughters, Tina Luney and Terrie Luney, both of Aurora, and Sheila Sane, of Joplin; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Terry grew up in Barry County and attended school at Mineral Springs. After school, he served in the United States Marine Corp. In 1995, he moved from Aurora to Eagle Rock to make his home. Some of his favorite pastimes were fishing and

riding horses.
No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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VICKI KAY CORNMAN
Vicki Kay Cornman, age 74, of Jenkins, passed away Thursday, March 19, 2020, at Landmark Hospital in Joplin.
Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2020, at Clio Community Church in Jenkins, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend Bob Allmon conducted the services. Burial was at Clio Cemetery in Jenkins.
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**ALBERT LEON
"BUSTER" ROLLER**
Albert Leon "Buster" Roller, age 65, of Seligman, passed away Monday, March 16, 2020, at his home.
He was born January 9, 1955, in Wheaton, the son of Glen and Patsy (Stewart) Roller. On August 14, 1978, he was united in marriage to Debbie Hayworth, who survives. Also surviving are his parents, Glen and Patsy Roller, of Seligman; one daughter, Jessica Thomas and her husband, Michael, of Rogers, Arkansas; one brother, Rodney Roller and his wife, Kris, of Monett; three grandchildren, Landrie, Garrett and Averie Thomas; and many nieces and nephews.
Preceding him in death were his grandparents.
Buster grew up and received his education in Washburn, where he graduated from Southwest High School. For many years, he worked as a railroad engineer and also enjoyed carpenter work and cattle farming. Some of his favorite pastimes were playing bluegrass music and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of Washburn First Baptist Church where he enjoyed being a song leader, Sunday school teacher and Deacon.
Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2020, at First Baptist Church in Washburn, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend Glenn Erwin and Reverend Jim Erwin conducted the services. Burial was at Dent Cemetery

in Seligman.
Contributions may be made to Washburn First Baptist Church in memory of Leon Roller.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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**EDDIE DOUGLAS
HILL**
Eddie Douglas Hill, age 58, of Aurora, passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Monett.
No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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GARY ALLEN SCHOEN
Gary Allen Schoen, 75, of Monett, passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Monett. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

**NORMA DEAN
BOWMAN**
Norma Dean Bowman, 88, of Freistatt, passed away Monday, March 23, 2020, in Monett. Graveside services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at King's Prairie Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

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We want to give out sincere gratitude and thank each and every one for the love and kind words of encouragement that were shown to us during our time of great loss of our husband and daddy. We felt all the prayers that were sent up for us. We appreciated all the food, calls, texts, visits, and Facebook posts.

We love you all,
Connie, Angela, Jennifer,
and all the Cowherd family

25pd

Freezing, thawing aid in seeding legumes over thinning pastures this winter

Present weather with frequent freezing and thawing helps farmers overseed weakened pastures. Natural fluctuations in soil help work broadcast seed into thinned grass stands.

“It’s no-till help,” says Craig Roberts, University of Missouri Extension forage specialist.

Thin stands of grass caused by summer weather, overgrazing or other reasons can be rebuilt. Broadcast seeds are even helped by melting snow.

End-of-winter seeding improves pastures by adding legumes — a high-protein forage — to fill thin spots. That’s better than overseeding more grass, Roberts says. Long-term MU research plus farm experience show legume advantages.

“Don’t wait for spring to plant,” Roberts says. “Get seed on early to gain growing time when spring returns.” Tiny, hard-coated legume seeds remain viable in cold. They don’t sprout until warm weather arrives.

Legumes reinforce grass pastures by adding needed nutrients for livestock. Legume dilution helps especially in fescue. Adding new

forage dilutes toxicosis from Kentucky 31 tall fescue.

Legumes in a beef calf diet can add an extra quarter pound of gain per day. In addition, legumes help cow reproduction and lactation. Another benefit is that legumes fix nitrogen from the air to add to the soil.

Many legumes work in pastures, including white and red clover and lespedeza. All are popular in Missouri.

Overseeding works well in thinning stands but helps all grass stands. At planting, make sure seeds reach the soil surface. Too much thatch blocks contact. If not touching ground, seeds can’t sprout and put down roots.

Roberts recommends seeding rates of 1/4 pound per acre for ladino clover, 8 pounds for red clover and 10 pounds for annual lespedeza.

Adding legumes dilutes toxic fescue but doesn’t solve the problem altogether. Preventing fescue toxicosis takes replacing toxic plants with a novel-endophyte variety. Modern varieties contain a natural endophyte fungus that protects fescue grass but produces little or no toxic alkaloids.

Replacement requires

totally killing old stands of K-31 before reseeding. Novel-endophyte varieties eliminate many of the work-arounds needed to graze toxic fescue.

Ways to seed novel-endophyte fescue are taught in advanced fescue schools. Those are held by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal in seven states across the Fescue Belt from Missouri to the Atlantic Ocean. Other schools are in Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina.

The Missouri fescue school is March 25 at MU Southwest Research Center, Mount Vernon. Southwest Center is part of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Top authorities on fescue management will be at the schools. Details will come later.

Stay informed on the Alliance for Grassland Renewal website at GrasslandRenewal.org/education.htm.

Governor Parson Requests Federal Major Disaster Declaration for Missouri in Response to COVID-19

Governor Mike Parson has requested that President Donald J. Trump approve a major disaster declaration for the entire state of Missouri to provide federal assistance for state and local COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and emergency response efforts.

In the request filed Tuesday, Governor Parson said the pandemic is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the state and local governments.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has already had a devastating effect on the state of Missouri, straining hospitals, healthcare facilities and nursing homes, businesses large and small, schools, and tens of thousands of Missourians who have been forced out of their jobs,” Governor Parson said. “Although it is continuing to develop, it’s already clear the COVID-19 pandemic will have a more sweeping impact on the entire state of Missouri than any other previous disaster that has affected our citizens. There is an urgent need for federal assistance to help Missouri families meet today’s challenges and the many more that we will face.”

Governor Parson requested two programs statewide, Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Crisis Counseling, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Individual Assistance Program, which provides assistance to individuals and families. The Governor said the closure of multiple employment sectors will greatly im-

pact all Missourians and that the state and local capabilities to provide mental health services will also require federal assistance.

Governor Parson also requested FEMA’s Public Assistance Program to assist local governments and qualifying nonprofit agencies with emergency response expenses, including those of first responders, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also requested that FEMA assist with debris removal expenses if needed for the removal and disposal of bio-hazard and other contaminated materials as a result of the pandemic response.

On March 13, Governor Parson declared a state of emergency in Missouri and activated the State Emergency Operations Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 21, Governor Parson directed Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Dr. Randall Williams to order social distancing statewide. Dr. Williams limited social gatherings in Missouri to no more than 10 people; directed Missourians to avoid eating or drinking in restaurants, bars, or food courts; and ordered that schools remain closed.

Last week, Governor Parson’s request for low-interest federal disaster loans for Missouri small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19 was approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration.



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Exeter Fire Department talks to students about fire safety



Exeter Fire Department talking to students at Exeter Schools about fire safety Friday, March 6. Pictured above, left to right: Adam Gautney, Scott Crumm, Christina Newman, Alex Newman and David Newman.



Alex Newman from the Exeter Fire Department talking fire safety with Exeter students grades k-12.

Wildcat Stadium Track gets upgrades



Here's the new resurfacing and relining at the Wildcat Stadium track.

Caden Swearingen

While sports are currently suspended at Cassville R-IV, there are still plans to resurface the track for athletes, the first time since maintenance was performed in 2011.

Then, the track was stripped down to the asphalt and a new rubberized surface was placed on top of it. About one and a half inches of surfacing materials were installed at that point. This type of surface requires maintenance every few years depending on the use.

"The rubberized surface provides an appropriate running surface for our track athletes," Dr. Richard Asbill, superintendent at Cassville Public Schools, said. "And it provides a great walking surface for our community to exercise on."

Three companies bid on the resurfacing project, with Fisher Track, the same company who did the original installation in 2011, coming in with the lowest bid. The cost, repair and repainting of the track cost \$59,019.

"Cassville Schools want all of our programs to have outstanding facilities, resources, and equipment. When we host track meets or other athletic events, others schools notice. We are proud we can provide outstanding facilities that are economically planned and maintained," Asbill continued.

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IF YOU are homebound or unable to get out to meetings but need help for the effects of living with alcoholism, become an Al-Anon or Alateen Lone Member. Contact Al-Anon Family Groups, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 or e-mail wso@al-anon.org.

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Cassville Primary names
February Character Kids



Cassville Primary counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for cooperation.

Kindergarten and Kinder Academy award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Paityn Mildfeldt, Brianna Reynolds, Tianna Hunter, Olivya Campbell, Loni Mink, Ariella Cota, Zevaeh Kerns and Camile Smith. Back row: Chadd Phillips, Maddoc Clory, Connor Parks and Max Fields. Not pictured: Jayden Hall, Aaronaceigh Litchfield, Kaizen Haney and Avrey Hobbs.

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- 1) A 1976 Chevrolet Custom Deluxe K2500 4x4 with a 350 cubic inch motor and automatic transmission with manual lockout hubs. The vehicle has been used as a brush truck for 25 years.
- 2) An electric over hydraulic bale spike that was used on a 2001 Chevrolet 3500.

Sealed bids may be submitted to the Butterfield fire Protection District at 10600 E. 1st St., Butterfield, MO, no later than 5 p.m., April 10, 2020, or mail to P.O. Box 706, Cassville, MO, 65625, and must be postmarked by April 10, 2020. For more information, contact Donnie Privett at 417-846-3565 or email donaldw.privett@gmail.com. The fire district reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

USDA offers low-interest loans for agricultural producers impacted by natural disasters

Arkansas agricultural producers who lost property due to recent natural disasters may be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) physical loss loans. The Farm Service agency (FSA) offers these low-interest loans to agricultural producers in Benton, Carroll, Independence and Washington counties who incurred losses due to flooding, high winds and a tornado that occurred September 25 through October 20, 2019. Approval is limited to applicants who suffered severe physical losses only, including the loss of buildings and livestock. Applications are due September 21, 2020.

"Arkansas's hardworking ag producers feed our neighbors, the nation and the world," said State Executive Director David Curtis. "When they suffer losses because of extreme weather, helping them get back on their feet is important. We encourage those affected to reach out to their local USDA

Service Center to apply for those emergency loans.

Producers in the contiguous Arkansas counties of Boone, Cleburne, Crawford, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Newton, Sharp, Stone and White, along with Barry, McDonald, Stone, and Taney counties in Missouri; and Adair and Delaware counties in Oklahoma, are also eligible to apply for emergency loans.

Physical loss loans can help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed property essential to the success of the agricultural operation, including livestock losses. Examples of property commonly affected include essential farm buildings, fixtures to real estate, equipment, livestock, perennial crops, fruit and nut bearing trees, and harvested or stored crops and hay.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs or to find your local USDA Service Center, visit farmers.gov/recover.



Cassville Primary counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for cooperation.

Second grade award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Trystan Moore, Mickey Brown, Jolene Stone, Macy Taylor, Payton Laney and Braylin Levleit. Back row: Lane Cope, Ethan Hannam, Christopher Hernandez, Moses Thao, Austin Batsche and Abel West.



Cassville Primary counseling staff and teachers team up to present a different character trait every month. Classroom teachers then nominate students for awards in recognition of exemplifying that trait. Students were selected during the month of February for cooperation.

First grade award winners are pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Kayriah Cloud, Evelyn Hooker, Madisyn Phillips, Madison Norris, Arabella Elmore, Jozalynn Cook and Treasury Vang. Back row: Joey Hooker, Dexter Beyer, Gunnar Remenar and Tanner Ray.

CoxHealth Issues new visitor guidelines

CoxHealth issues new guidelines for visitors due to COVID-19 concerns

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, beginning on Monday, March 23, CoxHealth will only be allowing hospital patient visits in the following areas:

End-of-life care: The patient's clinical team can make exceptions at their discretion.

ICUs: No visitors except end-of-life care.

NICU: Only the parents/guardians of the neonate are allowed to visit one time per day. If the baby has only one guardian, one additional

support person older than 18 years may be authorized for visits. The designated persons will remain the assigned persons throughout the duration of admission.

Pediatrics: One parent or guardian per day.

Child Psych: One parent or guardian is allowed to visit during regular visiting hours as posted.

Labor and Deliver and Postpartum: One support person for labor and delivery patients.

Procedural Areas: One visitor who has been identified as the designated driver

for the patient may wait in the designated waiting area of the procedural department.

Emergency Departments and Urgent Cares: One visitor to be the designated driver.

Visitors in the areas of the hospitals not mentioned above will not be allowed.

Visitors meeting the above criteria may visit during normal visiting hours.

Visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms at entry.

No visitor will be allowed

into our facilities who shows symptoms of suspected COVID-19.

Visitors are asked to limit your movement within the hospital to only your patient's room and public restrooms.

Please use good hand hygiene during your visit.

Please do not enter the hospital if you are ill.

Please note: No one under the age of 18, with the exception of those seeking medical care, will be permitted into CoxHealth facilities.

Mercy Springfield is making similar changes.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WAIVERS OBTAINED FOR REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR

Missouri is cancelling state-wide-required assessments for the remainder of this school year.

Some graduating seniors eligible for the A+ Scholarship may still need to take an assessment. DESE will be working on these additional details. DESE applied for and received an expedited testing waiver from the U.S. Department of Education on March

20.

Schools will not be required to make up the days/hours lost due to COVID-19 this school year, and missed calendar hours will not affect the calculation of average daily attendance.

Districts and charters should make attendance decisions based on the safety and well-being of their students and staff without concern that

the low attendance numbers will negatively influence payment.

Missouri's foundation formula – DESE's school funding mechanism – is designed to absorb a one-year attendance irregularity for schools that are paid on the first or second preceding year's Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

Basic formula payments will

not be interrupted if student attendance is lower this school year. Next year's basic formula payments can be based on the highest of a district's first or second preceding year's ADA.

DESE has waived the requirements for any remaining student teaching and internship activities that would have taken place in schools.

Area teachers and mothers get creative



Children of Kara Briggs listen intently as teacher Amy Dierker of St. Lawrence Catholic School reads a story.

Sheila Harris

The closure of schools in Missouri has prompted many concerns. For parents who are able to work from home, keeping children occupied with educational activities takes center stage. For kids, social distancing is a difficult concept. Although leisure time is initially exciting, without a routine, education can easily be put on the back burner.

Area parents and teachers are working to address that possible deficit.

Some parents created a Facebook group called “Parents Sharing Educational Ideas,” made searchable by key-word for parents looking for a certain type of activity.

“My first-grader, Aari-lyn, is getting plenty of time for free-play, but needs a little structure to feel secure,” Jennifer Conner, of rural Monett, said. “The group was created for kids like her. It’s a central place for people to bring all their great teaching ideas together.”

Christi Eden, a long-time homeschooling mother from Butterfield, agrees that the internet is a great educational resource for kids.

“A lot of companies are now offering free online classes and tutorials for kids,”

Eden said. “Just google ‘free online classes for kids,’ and see what pops up.”

Amy Dierker, the pre-school teacher at St. Lawrence Catholic School in Monett, is not referring kids to someone else’s website, but is teaching her own class via FaceTime.

“We were told a week prior to school closing that we should prepare lesson plans for our kids,” Dierker said. “I did that, but I was worried about the children losing connection with me. Then, last Tuesday morning, I woke up with the bright idea to teach classes through FaceTime. It took some planning, but classes are underway.”

Through the Bloomz app, which connects teachers with parents, Dierker notifies parents the night before each class of what items will be needed for the next day’s project.

“If they don’t have the necessary things on hand, I give them ideas for substitutes. For example, if a parent doesn’t have play dough on hand to create a snake with, paper towels, rolled and taped, work just as well,” Dierker said. “For counting practice, just about any item will do, as long as there’s enough of them.”

Mandy Whannell, of Monett, mother of preschooler Carter Whannell, 3, and his older brother Cooper, 7, said her children are thrilled with Dierker’s Face-Time class.

“They missed their school friends,” she said. “When Amy announced that she would be teaching via Face-time, they were really excited. Now, we start each day with Miss Amy. They love seeing her familiar face, and doing the projects she has planned.”

Because Dierker teaches at the Catholic school, each day’s class begins and ends with prayer. Every class, too, includes a story she reads, plus some exercise. Her simple stretches and yoga moves offer fun for both kids and parents.

“Every day I try to hit core elements,” Dierker said. “They include fine and gross motor skills, science, math, and some dramatic play. One day I had them look for bugs, then draw pictures of what they found. Another time, they built blanket forts, then converted them to drive-through restaurants the next day,” Dierker said.

Mandy Whannell believes part of the attraction of Dierker’s classes for her boys is the semblance of consistency they offer.

“Although their routine has changed, they still get to see Miss Amy’s familiar face,” Whannell stated.

For students who don’t have access to internet in their homes, some locations are offering free internet access in their parking lots. The student wi-fi network for Cassville’s Crowder College campus may be found at CAS SNet.



Three-year-old Carter Whannell, of Monett, performs simple exercises during a virtual class led by St. Lawrence Preschool teacher, Amy Dierker.



Julian Velazquez and Alejandro Velazquez, students of Amy Dierker of St. Lawrence Catholic School in Monett, practice yoga.



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POWER OF PINK

DINNER & AUCTION

Friday, May 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Fairview Community Building

WALK, RUN & AUCTION

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Wheaton City Park

Check -in: 8:00 a.m. • Auction: 8:30 a.m. • Walk starts: 9:00 a.m.

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