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Dixon Elementary Students to take part in ReadQuest Celebration

Students at Dixon Elementary School are preparing to take part in ReadQuest, a reading event set for Friday, February 26th. Hundreds of students will participate in this annual reading celebration for K-5 students.

ReadQuest celebrates reading with a one-day event that encourages students to read and share their discoveries. Students will read books, nonfiction articles, and complete Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes on what they've read.

Students will be celebrating throughout the day as most classrooms will have an all-day reading celebration.

"Our students are thrilled to be participating in ReadQuest this year. We're expecting over 400 students to contribute to the shared reading effort."



Our students will gain valuable reading practice, build close reading skills, and grow as readers," said Mrs. Tasha Keeth, DES Librarian.

Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader 360 is a K-12 program

that engages students in personalized independent reading practice and close reading of nonfiction articles. The web-based program provides over 175,000 quizzes and 1,200 high-interest nonfiction articles.

Severe winter weather hits Missouri



Tuesday's sunshine revealed a bright and cold Second Street in Dixon. The daytime temperature was supposed to reach the mid-teens after falling below zero Monday night. Another winter weather system was forecast to reach the area Tuesday night into the day Wednesday. Photos by Brandi Allen

By Haley Blackburn

According to the MU Missouri Climate Center, Missouri had its coldest day around this time in 1905; on February 13, Warsaw reached -40 degrees. Fortunately this week's temperatures haven't reached those extremes, however, the combination of heavy snow fall and frigid wind chill have been harsher than we've seen in awhile.

Meteorologist Abby Dyer with KY3 reported that we are seeing numbers more than 20 below zero and a wind chill warning we haven't experienced in about seven years. The high temperatures are predicted to stay around 0 for some areas and snowfall may last on and off till Thursday.

As of Monday February 15, all school districts located throughout Pulaski County have cancelled school and extracurricular activities for Tuesday due to the weather conditions.

According to The Weather Channel, there is predicted to be some relief from the frigid temperatures we experienced early on in the week with a high of 29 degrees on Friday and a high of 40 degrees on Sunday. Next week should also bring some warmer temperatures with a high of 53 degrees next Tuesday.

Just a few friendly reminders; If you must venture out, be sure to dress warmly and be extra cautious on the roads. Monitor your water systems so that pipes don't freeze. Be cautious

when using alternative heat sources. Refrain from using a cooking stove for heat because it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep pets sheltered out of the freezing temperatures, and check on your neighbors.

Lastly, If you need a little comfort food, this week would be a great time to bust out momma's homemade chicken noodle soup recipe. Stay warm and be safe!

Phelps Health COVID-19 Vaccinations Moving to Rolla Church of Christ

ROLLA, MO – Beginning Monday, February 15, 2021, COVID-19 vaccination clinics at Phelps Health will temporarily move from the Phelps Health/Missouri S&T parking lot on 10th Street, across from the Emergency Department, to the Rolla Church of Christ, 1303 Highway E (Nagogami Road) in Rolla.

From February 15 through April 2,

individuals who have appointments to get the COVID-19 vaccine from Phelps Health will need to go to the Church of Christ to be vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be held by appointment only during the following days and times:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Wednesdays: Noon to 5:00 PM

counts in March. Missouri's legislators quickly realized that due to the state's tax code, the stimulus checks received from the federal government were considered a tax credit paid from a person's federal 2020 return, causing one's state income tax liability to increase.

"Missourians have already paid their share for these stimulus checks, and by fixing this into law, we can ensure individuals and families affected by the pandemic get the help they need with minimal state interference," Smith, R-Carthage, said.

For more questions, call Rep. Smith's office at 573-751-5458.

Winter Food Drive begins for Good Samaritan Food Bank

A Winter Food Drive for the Good Samaritan Food Bank in Waynesville began February 16 and runs through March 18, 2021. Items can be dropped off at the Pulaski County Courthouse at 301 Historic Route 66 E. in Waynesville. The Courthouse hours are Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Most needed items are:

- Flour
- Sugar
- Ramen Noodles
- Dry Cereal
- Pop Tarts
- Soups

For questions, call the University of Missouri Extension in Pulaski County at 573-774-4766. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All donated goods will be provided to the Good Samaritan of the

WINTER FOOD DRIVE



Ozarks Food Pantry in Waynesville. Good Samaritan provides many resources for their local communities including emergency services, thrift stores, and abuse shelter servers.

One person dies from Sunset Village fire

Assistance sought for families affected by apartment complex fire

One unidentified person died after a large structure fire Sunday damaged the Sunset Village apartment complex in St. Robert. The victim has not been identified by name, age or gender. Investigators have not released an exact cause of death.

According to the Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District, one other person was hospitalized with smoke inhalation injuries, and a firefighter was also treated for minor injuries at a hospital.

The fire was accidentally started while someone was cooking, investigators said following a preliminary investigation.

The Doolittle Rural Fire Protection District and the Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District responded to the apartment complex around 1:00 a.m. February 14, and found the structure engulfed in heavy flames. Every available fire department in Pulaski, Phelps and Laclede Counties assisted as the fire damaged the complex for several hours.

Firefighting efforts were hampered by the extreme cold, which caused some of the water supply to freeze. Crews began with fire suppression, then entered the building to perform search and rescue operations.

Pulaski County COAD, Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Good Samaritan Resource Center, and several area churches are combining efforts to meet some of the needs of 40 families who have been affected by Sunday morning's devastating fire at Sunset Village of the Ozarks in St. Robert. COAD officials are only accepting financial contributions to meet the unmet needs of the families. There are two ways to contribute:

Individuals can go to Security Bank in Saint Robert or Waynesville and make a donation to the Pulaski County COAD; or, mail payment to Pulaski County COAD, in care of:

Security Bank of Pulaski County, P. O. Box S, Waynesville, Missouri 65583.

Everyone Deserves a Healthy Smile. Especially Kids.

Imagine. Not being able to chew your food or drink anything without pain. Not being able to speak clearly. Not being able to concentrate when you try to learn. Or, even play.

That's what an untold number of kids face each day due to untreated tooth decay. Cavities remain one of



the most common chronic childhood diseases in the United States, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services reports that 29% of children have untreated tooth decay.

These are alarming facts, especially considering that cavities are preventable.

Unfortunately, many families struggle with access to dental care. In response, Delta Dental of Missouri offers a Dental Care Resource Guide with options for free and low-cost dental care statewide. To view the resource guide go to www.deltadentalmo.com/resourceguide.

In addition to ensuring regular dental visits, parents and caregivers can help maintain children's dental health by providing a balanced diet and teaching them the importance of brushing teeth gently at least twice a day and flossing daily.

As the state dental benefits leader and a non-profit with a mission to improve oral health, Delta Dental of Missouri is committed to helping meet the oral health needs of children and adults across the state.

"This National Children's Dental See Healthy Smile Page 3

Legislation filed to ensure Missourians Cannot be Taxed on Stimulus Checks

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Missouri State Representative Cody Smith is looking to ensure that Missourians are not taxed on the COVID 19 stimulus checks sent out to aid citizens in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The House Budget chair filed HB 991 in the 2021 legislative session with the intent of revising the statutes to make sure that the amount received from the federal economic impact payments cannot be used to determine how much a Missouri citizen is charged by the state's income tax.

This issue came to light in 2020 when the first stimulus checks arrived in Missourians' mailboxes and banking ac-