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## Three Tested for Coronavirus

By Monte Miller  
Missourian Staff Writer

### No Positive Test in Franklin County

Franklin County officials are urging business as usual for residents despite three people being tested for coronavirus in the last 10 days.

At a meeting Tuesday

morning, Presiding Commissioner Tim Brinker, Emergency Management Director Abe Cook, and Health Department Director Angie Hittson confirmed those tested were

very low risk and the county is prepared for any potential cases.

Due to patient privacy rules and the very low number of people who have been tested, limited details

could be released about the patients.

**“We are handling this just like any other communicable disease,” Hittson said. “Investigations were conducted on**

**all three people tested and based on those investigations, they were all classified as very low risk.”**

Hittson confirmed all three patients have been tested since the beginning of March and the negative • See Tested Page 2A



### Showing Their Creativity

Young readers were eager to help guest author Peter H. Reynolds illustrate the value of creativity to the audience at the 20th annual Family Reading Night, held Friday, March 6, at Washington Middle School. The *New York Times* bestselling author/illustrator and ambassador of creativity shared his newest book “Be You!” with families at the annual community event organized by *The Missourian* in partnership with the Washington School District and the Washington Optimist Club.

Missourian Photo.

## Plan Board Supports Annexation

### Of Meadowlake Farm

By Joe Barker  
Assistant Managing Editor

The Meadowlake Farm subdivision is one step closer to joining the city of Washington.

The city’s planning and zoning commission supported the subdivision’s voluntary annexation request at Monday’s meeting. The plan board voted unanimously to welcome the 61 lots located off Pottery Road and south of Highway 100 into the city limits.

The board’s recommendation will be presented to the city council at its March 16 meeting. Sal Maniaci, community and economic development director, said a formal vote on the project will take place at an April council meeting.

On Monday night, Maniaci said the city and the subdivision have talked for years about annexation, but nothing ever happened.

Most recently, in 2014, voters denied a request to have the subdivision annexed into the city.

Plan board member Carolyn Witt, a former member • See Annexation Page 7A

## Street Projects Progress

### Work to Start in Summer 2023

By Joe Barker  
Assistant Managing Editor

The city of Washington is targeting the summer of 2023 for two street projects.

The Washington City Council recently approved agreements between the city and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The agreements were needed to start the process and get the two projects moving forward.

Last year, the city applied for, and received, two Surface Transportation Program (STP) grants. The grants cover Jefferson Street and Westlink Drive improvements.

The grants are 80-20 cost-share funding mechanisms funneled through the East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWGW) utilizing state and federal dollars.

Under EWGW’s annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), municipalities are responsible for 20 percent of the funds to resurface, build sidewalks and other upgrades to roadways classified higher than a local

• See Progress Page 2A



### Sanitary Conditions

Franklin County Election Judge Kelly Schickler showed off the cleaning supplies available at the polls early Tuesday morning at Washington City Hall. The presidential preference primary was held throughout Missouri Tuesday, March 10. With fears of the coronavirus and other infectious diseases, hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes were available to voters and poll workers.

Missourian Photo.

## Schools Prepare For Virus

By Susan Miller  
Missourian Managing Editor

The Washington School District, St. Francis Borgia Regional High School and other parochial grade schools sent letters to parents Monday assuring them they are taking preventive measures to provide the safest learning environment possible for students.

The letter follows news reports over the weekend that a St. Louis County woman tested positive for COVID-19.

The symptoms of COVID-19 resemble those of influenza and can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

The school district told parents it will continue to work with the Franklin County Health Department as it monitors and manages the current situation with both the flu and coronavirus.

“Please be assured that our staff will continue to keep an eye on illness in our schools, as is our standard practice,” said Superintendent Dr. Lori VanLeer.

The district does not currently have any confirmed cases of the coronavirus, she said.

“We would be notified of any such confirmations by the Department of Health,” she said. “We are working within the confines of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) • See Schools Page 2A