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## GAME FACE

During Read, Build and Play at the Scenic Regional Library Warrenton, grade school-aged children use their imagination to create. Legos are available at every session. Other learning tools and toys are alternated. Here, Josie Evans, 6, said no to Legos and started creating with Strawbees.

Record photo/Kate Miller.

# No serious medical concerns, emergencies from Arctic blast

By Adam Rollins  
Record Staff Writer

Warren County emergency responders said a polar vortex that blasted the Midwest with subzero wind chills last week did not cause serious medical concerns in the local area.

Warren County Ambulance Chief Tim Flake said there were a total of 36 medical calls from Jan. 29 through Jan. 31, when temperatures were among the coldest in decades. None of the calls were specifically cold related, and were for reasons such as difficulty breathing, chest pains, falls or drug overdoses, Flake said.

However, the ambulance chief commented that the winter months in general

"This time of year, everyone should have a full tank of gas and extra gloves and hats and a few supplies in your vehicle just in case," Flake said. "When the temperature drops below freezing, there is always concern of frostbite and hypothermia due to exposure."

Medics also respond to more falls this time of year, Flake said. If someone falls outside, he explained that the cold ground can quickly drain that person's body heat.

"Simple things to remember are if you have a cell phone and are going outside, have (the phone) with you so you can call for help. If you live with someone, let them know you're going out to get the mail so if you don't return

Warrenton animal control officer Brenda Klingler said officers received numerous calls to check on pets outdoors in the city limits.

There were some potentially risky situations officers became aware of thanks to callers, and it's typical for there to be more calls during cold times, Klingler said.

"Thankfully we've been able to address issues and correct them," she commented. "There have not been any tragic situations."

The animal control officers recommend animals to be taken inside during extreme cold unless that isn't an option. Otherwise, Klingler said owners must provide minimum adequate shelter, including an enclosed area with bedding to stay warm.

## New judge Kavanagh Trial

By Adam Rollins  
Record Staff Writer

A new judge has been assigned to oversee criminal proceedings against Shawn M. Kavanagh, who is charged with killing three people and wounding a fourth in a 2014 knife attack at a home south of Jonesburg.

Ted C. House, circuit judge for Division 1 of the 11th Circuit Court in St. Charles County, was assigned the case last week after defense attorneys requested a change of judge.

Kavanagh, 28, of Bellflower, is slated to be put on trial in front of a jury beginning June 17. He is being represented by the Missouri State Public Defender's office. The defense attorneys requested a change of judge in early January.

He has pleaded not guilty to nine felony charges, including multiple counts of first-degree murder and armed criminal action, for the murders of Tara Lynn Fifer, 22, of Montgomery City, Lexy Vandiver, 29, and her son, Mason Vandiver, 7, both of Jonesburg. He also is charged with severely wounding Jessica N. Powell, who had been married to Kavanagh.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Kavanagh. Four previous trial dates have been canceled for various reasons. Most recently, the trial set to begin Sept. 17, 2018, was called off because Kavanagh's lead defense attorney had become seriously ill.

Under Missouri Supreme Court rules, any party in a