

Timely News

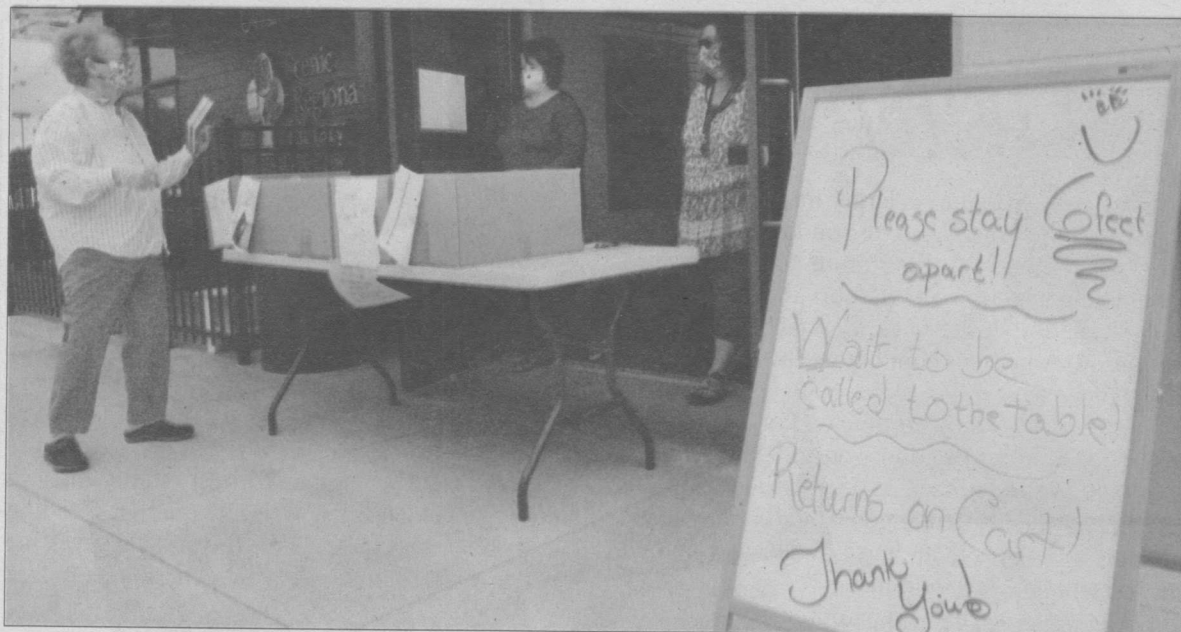


PHOTO BY DAVE MARNER

Library curbside service a 'breath of fresh air' for reader

Loretta Cox of Owensville picks up several books Monday she requested from Scenic Regional Library. The Owensville branch participated with other Scenic Regional branches to hold curbside pickup and drop off for the first time since closing due to COVID-19. "It's like a breath of fresh air getting books," said Cox. "I ordered these months ago. I haven't been anywhere for eight weeks." Library staffers Sherri White (left) and Robin Schaefferkoetter were handing out materials as other staffers worked indoors.

Gasconade R-2 superintendent details COVID-19 story by the numbers

BY ROXIE MURPHY
ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER
rmurphy@wardpub.com

The Gasconade County R-2 School District has finally reached the conclusion of what should have been the scheduled conclusion of the 2019-20 term, minus the May 17 graduation and May 20 dismissal.

With the official conclusion of the 2020 school year comes the numbers on how COVID-19 played out, according to Superintendent Dr. Chuck Garner at the May 18 board meeting.

"We completed our meal service today," Garner said. "During the course of the past nine weeks (since school let out on March 18), we have served 5,870 students 52,830 meals."

the restrictions that will be in place come Aug. 24 at the start of the year and how it will work. They are not sure how many students to expect and won't know until the dates are announced.

Officials were hoping the 2020 budget that has suffered slightly would come out ahead since electric and gas bills were lower with students being home. However, Garner said a message from DESE that informed districts they would not be paid out for the remainder of the year may equivocate a wash in finances if they are lucky, a slight setback if they are not. Garner said it also leaves the 2020-21 budget financially uncertain. He outlined the budget building blocks for next year.

"The state passed the student

"The school paid the salary of the resource officer during the nine weeks we were off," Garner said. "Next year we will work with them for a credit on the first nine weeks of the school year."

Looking ahead, officials discussed the immediate future and next school year, including what education and sports may look like. Elective testing during the summer months is already being affected.

- The SAT testing for June is in limbo as district officials determine whether they will still be allowed to host the testing. Should testing be canceled, 2021 seniors who signed up for the test may take it in the fall.

- Alternative Methods of Learning (AMI) requirements for distance learning may look different next year if the school is required to con-