



A stray cat wanders around downtown Washington on Thursday evening.

Missourian Photo/Eileen Wisniowicz.

Louis, which did work, but those were also taking like two to three weeks and sometimes even more, so that kind of halted some of my activity in Pacific.”

City officials made clear on Tuesday that Pacific will only reimburse Pacific TNR for animals within the city limits, although Breadon noted that her organization covers a wider area.

“In addition to that I did activity in Villa Ridge, St. Clair, Eureka, Union, Washington, House Springs and also a little bit in Catawissa, so with all of those totals

put together, we will have done about 279 cats,” she said. “Almost half of those are kittens and the other half are adults.”

Besides providing funding, Breadon said, there are other ways the city can support her TNR work.

“It’s really important for the City of Pacific to have some kind of a designated vet that we can go to if we’re in an emergency and need to have a cat euthanized quickly. If I have to wait for a rescue to give medical funds, they will send me to a vet in St. Charles or a vet way down in Sulli-

van, and we don’t have time for that,” she said.

“When we’re in an emergency situation like that, we really need to get that cat seen immediately, and for the most part, if I find a paralyzed cat and it’s feral, it needs to be put down, bottom line, we’re not going to try to save it.”

Pacific aldermen initially approved the \$1,500 monthly payments to Pacific TNR in February, but were waiting for the organization to finalize its nonprofit status before distributing funds.

## Narcan vending machines distribute nearly 4,500 doses

By Jonathan Riley  
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Vending machines that provide free naloxone, a medication used to counteract opioid overdoses, have proven popular in Franklin County, distributing more than 4,000 doses since they were installed last year.

Three of the machines were set up last October. They’re located at the Scenic Regional Library St. Clair branch, the Franklin County Family Resource Center in Union and the Mercy Medical Building in Washington.

“Since Oct. 5, we have distributed 2,222 boxes of naloxone, and each box has two doses, so almost 4,500 doses of Narcan through the machines alone,”

said Emily Wilkerson, community strategist with the nonprofit PreventEd, during a Wednesday meeting of the HOPE for Franklin County Coalition.

Julie Hook, HOPE Coalition program director, said free naloxone was previously available at PreventEd’s offices, but the vending machines have vastly increased access.

“We were handing out naloxone rescue kits, but not 4,500 in a year, there’s no way,” she said. “So the fact that that many people accessed it, even if they’re just like ‘I want to carry it in case I see somebody might need it,’ that’s an amazing thing.”

Danielle Louis, chief program director with the Franklin County Commu-

nity Resource Board, said the community response to the vending machines has largely been positive, although there has been at least one negative post on social media that got considerable traction.

“The more I think about it, I do appreciate the public discourse, even when it’s negative,” said Wilkerson.

“Because the way that the Coalition works to reduce stigma is by making this, like, in-the-dark topic brought to light. And so when a post gets 120 comments in Poddunk, Missouri, where we all live, right, that post gets put on more people’s feed, and so on,” she said.

“And somebody sees it and doesn’t comment anything — and it might save their life,” said Hook.

“So, I mean, it’s OK.”

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