The Scenic Regional Library Foundation will sponsor an NEA Big Read art contest for teens and adults between Monday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Oct. 12.

Participants will submit a piece of artwork using any form of media that is related to the theme of “Station Eleven,” by Emily St. John Mandel.

The Foundation is providing $500 in prize money for the event. The contest has two age categories, ages 13-17, and 18 and older. Participants must live in the Scenic Regional Library’s district and complete a contest entry form. Entrants for the ages 13-17 category must have a parent or guardian sign their contest entry form. There is a maximum of two entries per participant; a contest form for each entry is required.

Participants must deliver entries to a Scenic Regional Library branch by Saturday at 5 p.m. All entries will be exhibited at Scenic Regional Library’s Union branch from Oct. 15 through Nov. 4. Entries will also be displayed at East Central College Tuesday, Nov. 5, during a visit from Emily St. John Mandel. Awards will be given during a public reception Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 6-7 p.m.

A panel of judges from ECC will select Best of Show in both age categories, as well as six Awards of Excellence overall. A Best of Show prize will include a $100 gift card to an art and craft supply store. The Awards of Excellence will include a $50 gift card to an art and craft supply store.

For more information, including entry application and submission specifications, visit www.scenicregional.org/art.

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**St. Louis County forming crime commission amid violence**

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — A crime commission is being formed in St. Louis County after a violent summer.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that County Executive Sam Page made the announcement Tuesday. The nine-member crime commission will coordinate the county’s police, courts and jails in an effort to reduce crime.

Page says he walked around the scene where a 3-year-old boy fatally shot himself Friday with an unattended firearm and asked himself, “Why is this happening?” Nearly two dozen children have been killed in shootings in the St. Louis metropolitan area so far this year.

Page says he wants to look at “public safety as a whole.” He says it’s unclear what a comprehensive plan might look like. But he added that the county “cannot stand aside and hope it gets better.”