

1845 **NP** 2020
175
YEARS

St. Joseph News-Press

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Trump rebuffed

President Trump's suggestion of postponing the election draws criticism.

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File photo | Associated Press

Property taxes

For an extended look at the listing of delinquent property taxes from Buchanan County.

Details on Pages A6-A10



File photo | Associated Press

Record plunge

Virus pandemic sent the U.S. economy plunging by a record-shattering rate last quarter.

Details on Page A5



A truck drives through standing water during a flash flood in St. Joseph earlier in July.

File photo | News-Press NOW

ONE THREAT TO ANOTHER

COVID-19 City Council meeting turns into flood discussions



Brendan Welch | News-Press NOW

BlacksSnake Creek was high due to rainfall Thursday, but was not expected to flood at this time. On Thursday, city crews were seen clearing large logs and debris from this screen that leads the creek underground.

By **BRENDAN WELCH**
News-Press NOW

During the St. Joseph City Council's weekly pandemic meeting, it was announced that rainfall could cause flooding across the city, including the North Side from BlacksSnake Creek.

Toward the end of the meeting, Director of Public Works Andy Clements announced that he had just learned of a potential flood threat in the BlacksSnake Creek area due to heavy rains.

Ultimately, that turned out to be a false alarm, but city crews were still forced to react.

Just after the meeting, News-Press NOW spoke with Clements on the phone while he drove to the potential flood site.

"We're really getting close to overtopping and maybe having flooding, yes, it's getting really close," Clements said at that time. "We're looking at it really, really hard and making sure that everything is OK up here."

Please see **MEETING/Page A3**

'Pumped out again'

St. Joseph residents face continual rainfall, flooding



File photo | News-Press NOW

Constant rainfall over the last few days has led to dozens of flash floods across St. Joseph.

By **MATT HOFFMANN**
News-Press NOW

For the second time in two days, the St. Joseph Police Department sent out a city-wide alert that water was covering many of Buchanan County's roadways just after 3 p.m. Thursday.

A continual rainfall bombarded St. Joseph, leading to dozens of flash floods.

"They have already had calls this morning from houses that they've already been to and cleaned out,

saying their basements need to be pumped out again," Kyle Strough, the United Way of Greater St. Joseph president, said. "The immediate focus the last several days has been on making sure people have a place to stay right now."

The United Way has acted as a de facto dispatch center, connecting those who need relief with agencies providing it. One such agency, the Red Cross,

Please see **FLOODING/Page A3**



Marcus Clem | News-Press NOW

Amy Johnston's youngest of four children is about to begin his senior year at Central High School, but for complex reasons, he will be enrolled in the St. Joseph Schools Virtual Academy for the fall 2020 semester.

Deadline imminent on SJSD Virtual Academy

"I just feel like it's probably not going to happen ... If they are able to continue going to school, the in-person students, it's going to be a miracle."

— **AMY JOHNSTON**,
Parent of high school student

By **MARCUS CLEM**
News-Press NOW

The wake of Wednesday's news that the first day of school is being delayed for a week to Aug. 31 might obscure how Friday remains the deadline to enroll in the St. Joseph Schools Virtual Academy.

Families like the Johnstons of the Ashland neighborhood, who have sent more than one generation to Central High School, are by now accustomed to keeping track of changing developments. Another week of delay is just that, another week.

► Clinic at Carden Park Elementary to remain open. **See Page B1**

Amy Johnston has made up her mind about what's happening with her youngest son, who is about to begin his final term at Central High School. Though his memories of senior year will be had at least for now without day-to-day life in the classrooms and hallways, the Virtual Academy is the best call.

"I think what we're getting used to as a society is just kind of rolling with the punches," she said.

Please see **ACADEMY/Page A3**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC BY REGION

Numbers listed below reflect the latest data collected as of 9 p.m. Thursday

REGION	CASES	DEATHS
Buchanan Co.	1,049	10
Missouri	48,834	1,233
Kansas*	26,870	349
United States	4,494,252	152,055
Worldwide	17,237,642	671,909

SOURCES: John Hopkins University (Worldwide) — <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> (United States) — <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map> (Buchanan County) — Buchanan County (Missouri) — Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (*Kansas) — Kansas Department of Health and Environment. *The state has ended its daily reports and will release numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for its COVID-19 cases.



To view national and worldwide maps of confirmed COVID-19 cases, please visit www.newspressnow.com/multimedia

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST 9AM - 12PM
(660) 562-7546
2617 BURRIS ROAD MARYVILLE, MO 64468

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST 1PM - 4PM
(816) 364-1507
LIED RECREATION CENTER
1140 E MAIN STREET CLARINDA, IA 51632

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH 9AM - 12PM
(816) 364-1507 OR (660) 562-7546
HARRISON COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
2600 MILLER STREET BETHANY, MO 64424

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH 9AM - 12PM
(816) 364-1507
1419 VILLAGE DRIVE ST. JOSEPH, MO 64506

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 9AM - 12PM
(816) 364-1507
700 OREGON STREET, HIAWATHA, KS 66434

STORM TRACKER

MAIN NUMBER
816-271-8500

TODAY
HIGH: **81°**
LOW: **62°**

Morning fog and drizzle before 10 a.m., then gradual clearing for the rest of the day.
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