



# Advocate



LAWRENCE COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

Member

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TEN PAGES



Advocate Contributor Emily Weathers Kennedy has been keeping busy, clockwise from top left: visiting her mom, Mary Eleanor Weathers at The Summit; Granddaughter Aggie Methvin washes dishes in her new (dog bowl) sink; Emily's newly cleaned out garden sports Christmas fern, wild columbine, dwarf Iris, Little Brown Jug, and bloodroot; and daughter Annelise Kennedy tries on her Weasley sweater.

## Officials confirm first local cases of virus

Two cases confirmed as of press time Tuesday  
Statement from County Executive T.R. Williams  
Monday, March 30, 2020

We have been notified by the TDH that a resident of Lawrence County has tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The patient has been placed in quarantine.

This is not unexpected. Your local officials have been preparing for and expecting this for weeks. We are coordinating with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and the healthcare community to make sure all Lawrence County residents are protected.

The worst thing we can do during trying times like this is panic. It is important to remember that the vast majority of patients that contract this virus have a mild course of illness and recover quickly. If you are ill with respiratory symptoms, it is very important that you call your doctor first. Do not go to the Emergency Department or any doctor's office without calling first. We all have to work together to make sure our health care community is not overwhelmed with worried residents as well.

We will continue to closely monitor this evolving situation and will adapt our response as appropriate. Over the next several weeks we might all suffer some inconveniences. You will see things like, you have to continue using the drive through at the bank or a restaurant. There might also be some other temporary closures of businesses in the community, however this will end and we will be stronger as a community.

Here are some things you can do to help. As I mentioned, do not go to the doctor or the Emergency Department without calling first. Keep your hands clean and continue to practice social distancing. If you are feeling bad, stay at home. Keep an eye on our elders. They need to be staying at home as much as possible and we need to support them and keep them safe. People over the age of 65 and those with prior illness are at greatest risk so we need to come together and support them.

Again, I want to emphasize, this was not unexpected. We are prepared and are working closely with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) and all agencies of government at all levels to minimize the impact on the residents of Lawrence County. That has been and continues to be our primary concern. We will get through this together. Of this I am certain.

Individuals with specific questions can call the TDH information line at 877-857-2945 or the South Central information line at 931-490-8312.

## Governor issues order

Gov. Lee issued Executive Order 22 on Monday, implementing safer at home guidelines in every Tennessee county to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The order went into effect Tuesday, March 31 at 12:01 a.m. CDT and will extend to April 14, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. CDT. This is not a mandated shelter in place, but instead urges Tennesseans who are in non-essential roles to remain at home. The executive order restricts businesses that cannot safely operate during COVID-19 including businesses like barber shops, salons, recreational and entertainment outfits. According to the Tennessee Department of Health, as of Monday, 1,834 Tennesseans have tested positive for the virus with thirteen fatalities.

## Hospital seeks donations

In response to questions about how members of the community can assist in the region's novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response, Southern Tennessee Regional Health System Lawrenceburg (STRHS Lawrenceburg) announced that it is accepting donations of unused and handmade medical and protective supplies and equipment. This move is part of STRHS Lawrenceburg ongoing efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for increased needs of personal protective equipment (PPE), which healthcare providers across the nation are experiencing.

The hospital can accept the following unused medical and protective supplies and equipment: Disposable face masks including surgical masks and earloop masks; Respirator masks rated N95 or higher; Face shields and goggles designed to protect eyes; Disposable gowns such as medical/dental gowns as well as impervious or isolation gowns; Disposable non-latex gloves; Disposable surgical caps; Disposable foot covers; Antimicrobial wipes; Hand sanitizer.

At this time, STRHS Lawrenceburg cannot accept medical devices, medications or linens.

Those with supplies and equipment to donate may contact James Lomas at 931.766.3216 or 702.806.2811.

## State parks report changes

Tennessee State Parks, in an effort to flatten the curve of COVID-19 while continuing to serve Tennesseans, is joining the CDC and the Tennessee Department of Health by encouraging residents not to travel, but to visit only their nearby parks. Lucky for Lawrence Countians, we have David Crockett Park right in our back yards. The park system changes were effective March 26.

Tennessee State Parks will transition to day-use schedules for all 56 state parks, opening daily from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. The new schedule will be in place until at least April 10. During this period, all public gathering spaces such as visitor centers, shelters and playgrounds at state parks will be closed. Additionally, parks cabins, lodges and campgrounds close. Future reservations with arrival dates between now and April 9 will be canceled. The parks will waive cancellation fees during this time.

Camps catering to large groups will be closed during the same period. Golf courses and clubhouses in the parks will also be closed. Parks events of greater than 10 people will be canceled or postponed, in accordance with Gov. Bill Lee's Executive Order 17. All park-hosted events have been canceled through April 15. Restaurants, cafes and bars will remain closed until at least April 10.

Along with the new schedules and closures, Tennessee State Parks strongly encourage guests to practice social distancing and follow guidelines for hygiene while visiting the parks. Limited restrooms and bath houses remain open that will be cleaned based on established cleaning protocols in the parks.

Tennessee State Parks will continue to assess the implications of COVID-19 and will alert the public when dates are determined for the reopening of public facilities and overnight accommodations.

## While the world separates, we unite

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

Living in a rural area has its challenges sometimes. When recipes call for say, pine nuts, you have to drive to the 'Burg. You tell yourself that it's only 14 miles, and when you get on the road with no road construction or detours, you enjoy the peaceful route north. You breathe a sigh of relief that you have the great fortune to live in Lawrence County. At least I do, that is.

This new situation of physical distancing doesn't seem that different in many ways for country folks. My husband and I still live on our farm. Lawrenceburg is as close as ever. Nowadays, however, it feels like we are living in a slow-motion sci-fi movie, and indeed, when the film is made of COVID-19, we will tell our grandchildren that we lived through that!

Our first grandchild recently received the latest fruits of my

creative isolation. Not having painted furniture in 15 years, I had no idea how it would turn out. But with little to do one day other than scour Facebook Marketplace to help my daughter to find a play kitchen, lo and behold I found some pieces built by a fellow in Ethridge! With FaceTime and our cellphones, my daughter and I designed finishes using my grandmother Neidert's kitchen as inspiration. My youngest daughter requested a Weasley sweater. Since I'm no Harry Potter fan, she emailed me the free pattern and described the colors she wanted. While simple, this sweater forced me to learn the intarsia method for changing colors.

Usually by April I am already pulling weeds and thinking of strategic places to move plants. This April is no different. With perfect temperatures for outdoor work, I am working from garden

bed to garden bed, ridding my emerging plant beauties of pesky weeds. No COVID-19 in the fresh air!

Like you readers, we are hunkering down. Only one in our family has to go to work away from home, so we feel pretty lucky. With husband in the barn on his computer, staying connected to work with telecommuting technology, meals are quite enjoyable, even the lowly sandwich. "Lunch is ready!" means a short stroll down the sidewalk for him. Of course I am trying out new meals, but he is grateful for anything I pull out of the kitchen. We are also consciously making an effort to help our local restaurants by ordering and picking up food curbside.

As of late, I have been watching YouTube and Facebook videos of musicians as they try to

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Dr. Dan and Bessie Crews lost three little boys to the 1918 Spanish flu.

## Lawrence County and the Great Pandemic

Editor's Note: I researched and compiled this article while working at the Lawrence County Archives. It was first published in the Advocate in December 2014.

— LaShawn Baxter

As World War I was drawing to a close in the fall of 1918, another, more deadly enemy was about to surface, one that would extend its reach into homes across Lawrence County.

The pandemic called the Spanish flu (although the virus's origin is uncertain) occurred in

three waves in the U.S. from spring 1918 until spring 1919. More than 20 million people died from the virus worldwide, with some estimates as high as 50 million, including more than half a million Americans. Half of U.S. soldiers died of the virus rather than from battle. The Spanish flu, a strain of the H1N1 virus, has been called a "global disaster" and "the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history." More people died of the flu in one year than in the four-year

run of the Bubonic Plague. Even President Woodrow Wilson suffered from the flu in spring 1919 while negotiating the Treaty of Versailles during the Paris Peace Conference.

In 1918, in a mostly rural Tennessee, the population topped two million. The first cases of this highly potent and infectious strain of the influenza virus were reported in the bigger cities in September. By the time it ran its course the following spring, over

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