



**BARRY COUNTY'S CASES SPIKE IN PAST WEEK — PAGE 5A**

**WELCOME BACK FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**

Wildcats hit the road for Big 8 rumble. — **PAGE 1B**

# CASSVILLE Democrat

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## CASSVILLE SCHOOLS

**What:** Requiring masks for teachers  
**New:** Board action is step up from original Return to Learn plan  
**More:** Teachers may wear face shields in some instances, but they must be socially distanced

## Cassville tightens masking policy

4 employees, middle school volleyball team under quarantine

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**

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The Cassville school district has tightened its masking policy, as all staff in the buildings will now be required to wear masks, even when socially distanced.

The change from the original

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## AUGUST SALES TAX REVENUE

**Overall:** Up for everyone  
**Cassville:** Up 19 percent  
**County:** Up almost 29 percent from last year

## Sales tax income still rising in August

County sales tax totals up by more than \$125K for year

**BY MURRAY BISHOFF, SENIOR CONTRIBUTOR**

Cassville Democrat

The economic pattern of local shoppers traveling less and shopping locally more has

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## NEW FEEL, NEW EXPERIENCES ON FIRST DAY



Jaylynn Farris, preschooler at Cassville, puts her backpack in her new cubby as she enters the finished early childhood wing added on over the summer as part of Cassville's Vision 150 bond project. Kyle Troutman/editor@cassville-democrat.com



Kindergarten student Jemma Meltabarger awaits instruction on her first day of classes Tuesday in Megan Cox's class. Kyle Troutman/editor@cassville-democrat.com



Braxton Stephens puts some of his belongings in a cubby in Stephanie Marple's Pre-K class in the new early childhood wing at Cassville Primary School. Kyle Troutman/editor@cassville-democrat.com



Madison Stogdill, right, and EJ Patterson, third-grade students at Exeter, got acquainted with their new surroundings on the first day of school, which include. Kyle Troutman/editor@cassville-democrat.com

## Exeter corn maze brings fall-filled-fun, frights

New attractions, bigger spaces coming for 2020 season

**BY JORDAN PRIVETT**

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For 20 years, the Coles in Exeter have been offering their community fun, frights and fantastic times, which started as a haunted barn and has turned into an area fall destination.

Artie Cole and his wife Robyn Cole, owners of the Exeter Corn Maze and Haunted Attractions, said they came up with the idea for this year's maze around December of last year.

"It was before COVID-19, so we thought about changing it," Artie said. "It is so important, especially in these hard times."

The maze theme for 2020 is "Spread Love."

"This design was the one I kept coming back to and looking back now — I understand exactly why," Robyn said. "This world needs a lot more love, and hopefully, we

## CORN MAZE

**Where:** Exeter Corn Maze and haunted barn

**What:** Prepares to open for the season

**When:** Sept. 5 from 5 p.m. to midnight

are able to do just a small part of spreading it around."

This year, Artie said they have seen the biggest expansion yet.

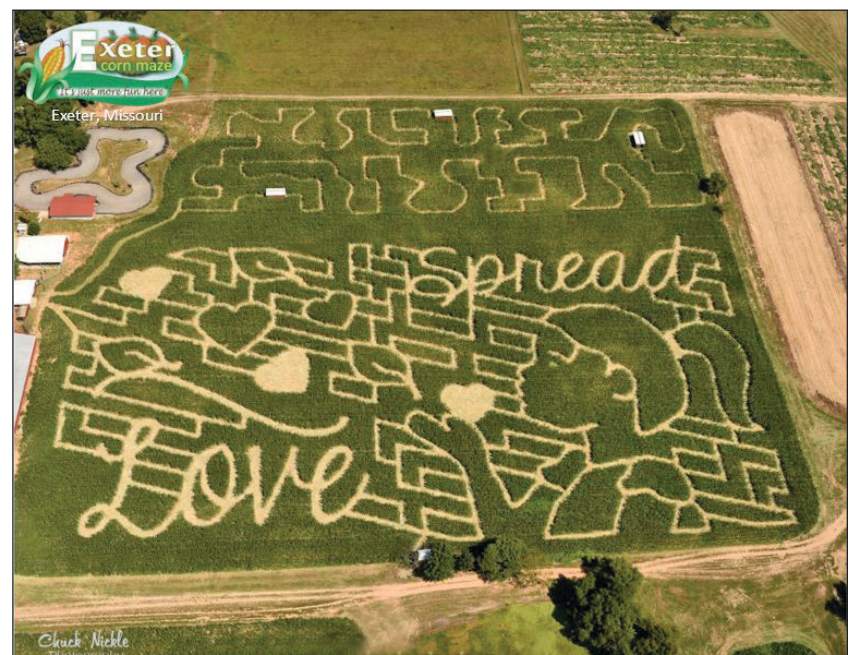
"We made the barnyard play area two times bigger," he said. "There is a new ticket entrance, a new adventure barn with rock climbing and axe throwing. Also, we have a second concession stand with treats from the Sugar Shack and Barnwood BBQ."

Artie Cole said one of the best additions is the pumpkin eating dragon and pig races, which will put on a show three times a day.

"We also built a second haunted barn called 'The Bunker,'" he said. "It is an abandoned military outpost."

As far as COVID-19 restrictions go, masks will not be required, but they will be available upon request.

"We have increased hand sanitizing and hand-washing stations, and with the added space, it will be



The design for the 2020 corn maze in Exeter is a young girl blowing a wish on a flower and spreading love to the world. Photo by Chuck Nickle

easier to social distance," he said. "Staff will be cleaning high traffic areas frequently."

"What we have here is such a unique experience," Cole said. "We

are different from most other fall attractions because we have so much to offer in one spot."

The Exeter Corn Maze and its

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