

ELI Weekly

Missouri Is Full of Natural Wonders

Last week, you read about **Crystal Cave**, a natural cave which is right outside of Springfield. Did you know, however, that you can find many other caves throughout the state of Missouri? Missouri is called the “**Cave State**” because it has at least 6,000 recorded caves—more than any other state in the U.S. New caves are discovered every year, and less than half are actually mapped. Any time of the year is a good time to visit a cave. Most caves have a temperature of around 60 degrees Fahrenheit (about 15 Celsius), which means that caves are cool in the summer and warm in the winter!



Fantastic Caverns

In the southern part of Missouri, you will find quite a few caves in the Springfield and Branson area. In addition to Crystal Cave in Springfield is **Fantastic Caverns**. You may have heard about this cave or seen signs advertising it. Fantastic Caverns was discovered in 1862 by a dog, believe it or not. 5 years later, the cave was first explored by 12 Springfield women. The special thing about touring this cave is you get to ride through it on a tram. It is an interesting experience! For more information, go to www.fantasticcaverns.com. An-

other cave in the area is **Marvel Cave**, which is located at Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson. Once you buy admission to Silver Dollar City, you can tour Marvel Cave. The park was actually built around the entrance to the cave, giving it a touch of natural wonder. In fact, once inside the cave, the first room you enter, the Cathedral Room, is the largest cave entrance room in the U.S. Pretty amazing! Not only will you see beautiful cave structures in Marvel Cave, but you will also get a workout. The 60-minute tour includes climbing up and down 600 stairs! One other cave in the Branson area is **Talking Rocks Cavern**. During a 50-minute tour, you will discover why it has been described as “the most amazing and uniquely decorated cave in America.” Sounds like a nice place! Visit

www.talkingrockscavern.com for more information.



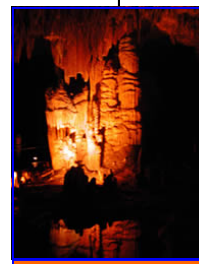
TALKING ROCKS CAVERN

If you have ever driven to St. Louis and back, you have probably seen signs along the way for **Meramec Caverns**, which is the largest commercial cave in Missouri and arguably the most famous. There, you can take a walking tour of about 1 1/4 mile. There are no tight spaces on this tour, so if you are claustrophobic, have no fear! You will see such cave formations at the “Stage Curtain,” and the “Wine Table.” This cave is a must see! Check out www.americascave.com. In the same park at Meramec Caverns is **Fisher Cave**. This cave is more naturalistic and offers many amazing cave scenes. Visit both caves in the same day!



Meramec Caverns

In the area between Columbia and Rolla, Missouri (about 2 hours from Springfield) you will find a couple of other notable caves. The first is **Onondaga Cave**, which is considered a National Natural Landmark. Inside you will see wonders such as “King’s Canopy” and the “Twins.” The tour lasts about an hour and 15 minutes. Near Onondaga Cave is **Cathedral Cave**. This tour lasts about 2 hours and is given by lantern light—a little different than the other cave tours! Visit www.mostateparks.com/onondaga/cave.



Onondaga Cave

There are so many other caves in Missouri besides those listed here. Check out this map listing many of them: www.missouricaves.com/mo-map. Visit a cave soon and have a real Missouri experience!

Activities This Week

Wednesday, Feb. 6 & Sunday, Feb. 10

Movie on Campus

“Across the Universe”

9:00 PM at the Plaster Student Union Theater; FREE with ZipCard

Saturday, Feb. 9

Men’s Basketball vs. University of Northern Iowa

7:35 PM at Hammons Student Center; FREE with ZipCard



For more events and activities, visit: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/>
Also, ALWAYS check the Student Activities Board across from the 2nd floor
Computer Lab

Announcements



- **Do you like to play sports? Do you want to meet new friends?** You can sign up to join an intramural team at MSU! If you have enough interested friends already, you can sign up as a team, otherwise you can sign up as a free agent, and you will be assigned to a team. You could play soccer, basketball, softball, sand volleyball, or one of many other sports. Sign up soon! For more information, check out: www.missouristate.edu/recreation and click on Intramural Sports.
- **Attention Students:**
If you have a new address, tell Alicia in the office!

Did You Know....



A few interesting facts about Ecuador:

The Galapagos Islands is a national park and World Heritage site. This group of islands off the coast of Ecuador, contain many volcanoes and are famous for their unique assortment of species not found anywhere else in the world.



Spanish is the official language in Ecuador, but many Amerindian Languages, especially Quechua, are spoken.



The inactive volcano, Chimborazo, is Ecuador's highest summit and is generally thought to be the spot on the surface farthest from the center of the Earth, due to it's location near the equator and the elevation of the Earth at its location.

What's Showing at The Moxie?

The Moxie is downtown's independent cinema located near the corner of Walnut and Campbell.

This week:

- I'm Not There
- The Orphanage
- The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

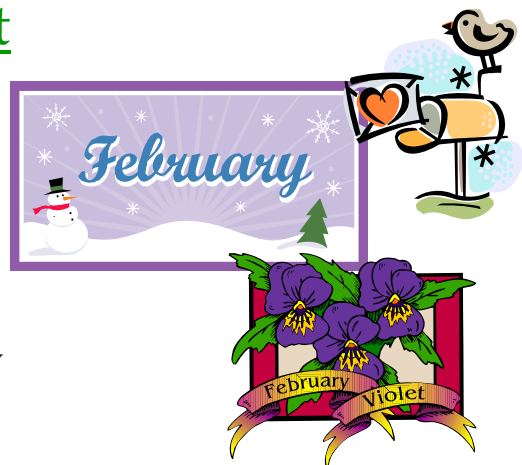


See Schedule on the Student Activities Board

Weather Forecast

Degrees: High/Low **Forecast for February 4-10**

	<u>Fahrenheit</u>	<u>Celsius</u>	
Monday:	73/47	23/08	—chance of rain
Tuesday:	46/22	08/-6	—chance of rain
Wednesday:	38/24	03/-4	—chance of snow
Thursday:	45/27	07/-3	
Friday:	50/30	10/-1	
Saturday:	53/34	12/01	
Sunday:	57/36	14/02	



Weather forecasts are *always* changing, so for the most up-to-date forecast, go to: www.weather.com, or watch the local news or weather channel.