



SOUTHWEST HOLIDAY TOURNEYS >>>

Boys, girls tournaments start on Friday with multiple local teams. — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

DECEMBER 24, 2025 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM



The Christmas Story

About 2,000 years ago there lived a young woman named Mary. She lived in the small town of Nazareth in what is now the country of Israel. At the time it was part of the Roman Empire.

She wasn't married, but she was engaged to a man named Joseph. They were planning on getting married!

One night, while Mary was sleeping, an angel visited her with a special message. At that time they didn't have a Bible like we do. God sent His messages through people and angels instead.

The angel that visited Mary was named Gabriel. God had a special message for Mary.

He said, "You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28 NLT)

Mary was frightened by the angel and didn't understand what was going on. So the angel told her more.

"Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will become pregnant, give birth to a son, and name him Jesus.

He will be a great man and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him

the throne of his ancestor David.

Your son will be king of Jacob's people forever, and his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:30-33 NLT)

Mary asked Gabriel how she could have a baby when she was a virgin and had never been married. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would make it happen.

He said that Mary's cousin Elizabeth was going to have a son too even though she was old and past the age that women had babies. It was a miracle from God!

An angel had also visited Elizabeth and Zechariah earlier. The angel told them that they would have a special son named John who would tell people about Jesus.

Mary trusted God and said that she would serve Him. Then she went on a trip to see her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth



and Zechariah for 3 months. They knew that Mary was going to have God's son, Jesus and they were very excited for her. The Bible even says that the baby inside Elizabeth jumped for joy!

After 3 months, Mary returned to Nazareth. At this time, Joseph was thinking about not marrying Mary since she was pregnant and he knew he was not the father of her baby.

However, an angel came to Joseph at night too! The angel of the Lord said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

So Joseph did as the angel told him. He married Mary.

But they had to soon go on a trip. The emperor of the Roman Empire, Caesar Augustus wanted a list of all the people in his empire because he wanted to make sure everyone paid taxes.

That is called a census.

So everyone had to go to the town that their family first came from. That meant Joseph and Mary had to travel 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

They didn't have cars or even bicycles back then! They had to walk or ride on donkeys. It took them a long time to get to Bethlehem.

Once they were in Bethlehem, they had a hard time finding a place to stay. The town was full of people who had come for the census.

All the guest rooms and inns were full. Mary and Joseph needed a place to stay because Mary was about to have her baby.

They finally stopped at one inn where the innkeeper said they could stay in the stable where the animals were kept.

That night Jesus was born right next to the animals!

The Bible says that Mary wrapped baby Jesus up in swaddling clothes. That meant she wrapped him up so that he wouldn't get cold and he was very cozy.

Then she laid him in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough for the animals. Jesus didn't have a crib, but he probably lay on hay.

That same night something else exciting happened! There were shepherds watching their flocks of sheep out on a hillside near Bethlehem and an angel appeared to them.

The Bible says that the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were scared.

But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Then all of a sudden a great host of angels appeared along side the first angel and they all said together, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14 NLT)

Then the angels left the shepherds and immediately the shepherds went into the town of Bethlehem to find Jesus.

They visited Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable and then they spread the news that Jesus was born! Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

After sharing the news of Jesus with others, they returned to watching their sheep and praised God for all the things that He had done.

When Jesus was still a little baby, they brought him to the temple where two special people met him. A man named Simeon

had been told by God that he wouldn't die until he had seen Jesus the Messiah.

When he saw Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, he blessed them and praised God.

Another special person at the temple was a woman named Anna. She had dedicated her life to God, and when she saw Jesus, she gave thanks to God.

Something else special had happened when Jesus was born. A bright star appeared in the sky that had never been there before.

There were men called Magi that came from far away in the East to see Jesus. When they saw the star in the sky, they followed it all the way to Jerusalem. This was a couple of years after Jesus was born.

When they got to Jerusalem, they asked King Herod, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

King Herod was not happy with this news. He was afraid that Jesus would take his place. So he told the Magi to go find the baby and then come back and tell him where Jesus was so he could worship him too.

But King Herod was lying. He didn't really want to worship Jesus.

The Magi followed the star to the exact home that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were living in.

The Magi were so happy to find Jesus! When they got to the home, they bowed down and worshiped Jesus.

Then they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. While they were there, they were warned by God through a dream not to go back to King Herod. Instead they went home a different way.

After they left, King Herod found out that the Magi weren't coming back to him and he was very mad. He wanted to kill Jesus!

But God warned Joseph in a dream that he needed to leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt so that Jesus would be safe.

They stayed in Egypt until King Herod died. Then when it was safe they returned to Nazareth.

Here comes Santa Claus!

Kris Kringle dishes on kids' wants, questions during Christmas season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com
Santa Claus is a busy man this time of year.

However, Kris Kringle himself made some time to stop by the Cassville Democrat office on Friday to divulge all about his experiences in Barry County this Christmas season, and some in past ones.

Claus said this year, he visited the Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center for its Christmas Open House, attended the Cassville Community Christmas at the Family Life Center (joined by the first time by his better half, Mrs. Claus), visited numerous preschools in the area and, of course, greeted children and



Santa Claus waves to Cassville Christmas Parade spectators during the annual event on Dec. 6. For about the past 30 years, Cassville resident Tommy Luney has assisted Father Christmas in his Barry County adventures in December. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

community members from his sleigh during the Cassville Christmas Parade. During those events, Claus

said he's learned a lot about what kinds of things local youth want for the big holiday.

"I've talked to close to 500 kids total in Barry County this year," he said. "A lot of kids want tablets. But, I also get lots of requests for Barbies, video games of all kinds, bike and puppies — lots of puppies. I always tell those kids, 'You bet you can have a puppy,' but their moms are usually behind them waving no at me."

Along with gift requests, Claus said children typically have lots of questions.

"Kids always ask me if they are on the naughty list," he said. "They are very worried about that. They also ask where my reindeer are, but I usually don't have them because there has to be snow for me to bring them along. They also ask where Mrs. Claus is, and at the parade, they'll ask if one of the presents in my sleigh is theirs — I always say, yes, the biggest one."

While so many kids brave

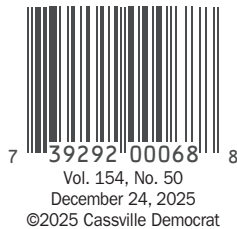
the big guy's lap, Claus said there are always some that need a little extra support.

"A lot of kids are afraid of ole Santa, but I had Mrs. Claus with me for the first time at the Cassville Community Christmas, and none of them were afraid of her," he said. "If they were scared of me, they would jump on her lap and not be scared at all. Those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Commentary.....	Page 4A
Through the Years.....	Page 5A
Obituaries.....	Page 6A
Sports Schedule.....	Page 2B
Kids' Columns.....	Page 3B
Church Page.....	Page 4B
Classifieds/Legals....	Pages 5-6B



NEWS BRIEFS

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

The Cassville Farmers Market is open weekly on Saturdays on the Barry County Courthouse Square, from 8 a.m. to noon. Vendors are offering eggs, vegetables, hand-made crafts, baked goods and more. Those interested in becoming a vendor may contact Chad Sprinkle at 417-846-3539.

Wheaton Depot Museum to reopen in April

The Wheaton Depot Museum is closed for the winter and plans to reopen in April. For more information, or special requests, people may call 417-846-3146.

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

The Seligman Chamber of Commerce country dances at the Seligman Chamber Event Center are every Saturday from 7-10 p.m. No alcohol is allowed. Admission is \$10 per person, and 18-and-under are free. There is a potluck, 50-50 drawing and door prizes. Free dance lessons will also be given from 5-6 p.m. For more information, people may call 479-903-3640.

OATS rides available in Barry County

OATS Transit offers regular transportation services for the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. People may call the local OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about services in the Barry County area. People may also visit the OATS website at oatstransit.org to view local schedules under "Bus Schedules," then click on the county of service. OATS Transit is hiring drivers statewide to continue serving riders. Openings are listed on the OATS website.

Visit us online at: cassville-democrat.com

Classify,
Classiflow,
Classiflown.
However you say it...
things fly in the
classifieds.



Call to
advertise in
The Cassville Democrat
• 847-2610 •

Warrant results in drug arrest

Wheaton man allegedly in possession of 77 grams of meth

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

A Wheaton man is facing three felony charges in two cases after being served a warrant and allegedly being in possession of meth, pills and cash.

Jeffrey Stout, 45, of Wheaton, is charged in one case with delivery of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and with delivery of a controlled substance in another.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Abby Parsons, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, authori-

ties were dispatched on Dec. 10 to a residence in Barry County for a male subject with a felony warrant.

According to a Sheriff's office press release, the house was in the Wheaton area, and Stout initially refused to exit the residence. After additional personnel arrived on scene, Stout willingly exited the home and was taken into custody on the warrant without incident.

According to Parsons' statement, during an ensuing search of the residence, deputies allegedly located two bags of a crystal-like substance, a digital scale, three smoking devices commonly used to smoke methamphetamine, two spoons with white residue, three clear baggies commonly used to distribute illegal substances, a baggie con-

taining 52 unknown white pills and currency totaling \$4,164.

Stout was booked into the jail with currency totaling \$1,008. During a search of a vehicle on the property, a baggie containing 38 unknown pills was allegedly located.

The crystal-like substance in the bags in the home tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine and a scale at the Sheriff's Office showed a weight of 77 grams.

The felony warrant authorities served stemmed from a traffic stop in Cassville on Sept. 29. Stout was a passenger in the vehicle, and after being informed the vehicle was to be towed for displaying an expired license plate, he left on foot.

Before the towing

occurred, an inventory of the vehicle was conducted, during which a bag containing a white crystal-like substance was allegedly located submerged in liquid in a tumbler cup in the center console cup holder. The substance allegedly tested positive for methamphetamine.

The driver was later arrested, but Stout was unable to be located. On Oct. 8, the driver agreed to an interview with a detective at the Sheriff's Office. The driver said she encountered Stout while he was walking in the Eagle Rock area and offered him a ride, which he accepted.

The driver said Stout mentioned needing to go to Cassville, but their first stop was a location in Eagle Rock, and she noted Stout did not have

the tumbler when he first entered the vehicle but she did notice it in the center console after the stop and claimed it belonged to Stout.

A scale at the Sheriff's Office showed a the substance in the tumbler weighed more than 90 grams.

Stout is being held in the Barry County jail on two cash-only bonds, \$100,000 in the new case following the search of the residence, and \$25,000 in the case for which the warrant was served.

Preliminary hearings are scheduled for both cases on Jan. 29, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the courtroom of Judge Johnnie Cox. Both cases received change of judge orders transferring them from Judge Robert Foulke to Judge Cox to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

A pep in their holiday step!



The Cassville Wildcat Pride drum line performs at the Cassville High School Christmas pep rally on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Brylee Gross smiles as she completes a round of limbo at the Cassville High School Christmas pep rally on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Neveah Johnson and other seniors dance during a band performance at the Cassville High School Christmas pep rally on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Ricky Norris may be tall, but he's also flexible, completing this round of limbo to the delight of Chance Freed, right, at the Cassville High School Christmas pep rally on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



UNWRAP
Seamless
STREAMING

From holiday movie nights
to last-minute online
shopping, don't let lag ruin
your merry moments.

GOBEC.NET • 417.847.2131



CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT

December 24, 2025
Volume One Hundred Fifty-Four
Number 50

(USPS092920)
600 Main Street - P.O. Box 486
417-847-2610
Troutman Media LLC

Annual
Subscription Rate
Local and non-local rate
\$52.00
Senior and military
discount rate
\$47.00
Periodicals Postage Paid At
Cassville, Missouri 65625
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Cassville Democrat
P.O. Box 486
Cassville, MO 65625
EMAIL:
cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com

CORRECTIONS

The *Cassville Democrat* corrects factual errors or clarifies information promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please email Publisher Kyle Troutman at kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com.

CASSVILLE Democrat

Troutman Media LLC
Troutman Media LLC is family owned and operated.

KYLE TROUTMAN, OWNER/PUBLISHER
JORDAN TROUTMAN, OWNER/GENERAL MANAGER

P.O. Box 486 • 600 Main Street • Cassville, MO 65625
Phone: 417-847-2610
Email address: cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com
Website: www.cassville-democrat.com

STAFF

Jordan Troutman..... Office Manager/Reporter
Kyle Troutman..... Editor/Sports Editor/Graphic Designer
Sheila HarrisSales Executive/Reporter

Volunteers pack Share Your Christmas presents for nearly 400 local children



Share Your Christmas has provided toys to children at Christmas time in Barry County for over 45 years. This year, the organization is providing gifts to nearly 400 children. The organization is fully funded by community support, including fundraising efforts by the CHS Merry Christmas candidates, local businesses, corporations and clubs adopting families as well as community support by purchasing gifts from the Share Your Christmas trees found around town. Contributed photo

CS Bank named Best Bank to Work For

Local bank wins recognition for 3rd consecutive year

The American Banker, the award-winning national monthly publication, named CS Bank as a 2025 Best Bank to Work for in America recipient. The \$615 million assets received accolades for their welcoming and uplifting approach, which fuels camaraderie and enhances productivity. "Creating an uncompromising culture of staff engagement, fulfillment and impactfulness is paramount here at our company and I couldn't be more honored to accept this award on behalf of our entire CS Bank family," said Charlie Cross, CEO of CS Bank. "Recognizing the significance each of our associates has on our bank's success is at the forefront of all we do. Banking can be a bit of a commodity and one of the ways to separate yourself from the pack is to surround yourself with outstanding human capital who have a servant's heart and commitment to

excellence. It is certainly rewarding to see our staff be recognized for their resolve to maintain a workplace that is not only welcoming, but enjoyable to come to each day." Determining the Best Banks to Work For involves a two-step process. The first consisted of evaluating each participating bank's workplace policies, practices, and demographics. This part of the process was worth approximately 25% of the total evaluation. The second consisted of employee surveys aimed at assessing the experiences and attitudes of individual employees with respect to their workplace. This part of the process was worth approximately 75% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined

the final ranking. "The Best Banks to Work For represent institutions helping employees achieve their goals," said Chana Schoenberger, editor-in-chief of American Banker. "These banks recognize how important it is for their staffers to be happy about the work they do and the environment in which they spend their days. We're proud to recognize CS Bank for powering its employees to fulfill their potential and wish them continued success." CS Bank is a \$615 million bank, Northwest Arkansas-based bank with seven locations throughout the area, including Cassville, and plans for continued expansion, including a second location in South Harrison.

PAYLESS Auto Salvage

Payless Auto Salvage and Rebel Recycling will be closed Dec. 24-26 for Christmas. The businesses will also close early on Dec. 31 and be closed all day on Jan. 1. Our inventory can be viewed at paylessautosalvage.com.

REBEL RECYCLING

EST. 1970

Santa: Parents should enjoy kids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

tears are gone, and it was really great to see how comfortable they were with her. "If a kid is scared but their parents want the picture regardless, we do it. But, a lot of parents will kneel down beside their kids and be in the picture. I never push because I don't want to scare kids and make them afraid." For the ones that are unbothered by Jolly Old Saint Nick, it's the look in their eyes that stays with him. "To see the looks on kids' faces — they just light up," he said. "Their little eyes are focused on you, and nothing else matters. I love that look in their eyes." Another source of joy is the Cassville Christmas Parade, where Santa sees all the children he's put on his lists, as well as their parents or grandparents. "The location has changed a lot over the years, from the American Legion to Able 2 to the high school and now down below the football stadium," Claus said. "It just keeps getting bigger and bigger, and we're running out of room to stage for it. The num-

ber of spectators also has been crazier and crazier each year, so much so that it's so hard to see everyone. I try to lock eyes with each child going down Main Street, but it's hard because there are so many now. "I like to wave and I'll call out some kids' names, but it's hard to remember them all. I also know a lot of the parents or grandparents from when they were kids, so I like to tell them if they are on the nice or naughty list. That's fun because their kids or grandkids always turn to them and ask, 'You know Santa?'" A fun part of the parade is getting to show off the sleigh, donated to Claus by the late John Starchman. "I have rebuilt that sleigh about four times now," he said. "But, now I keep it inside and out of the elements so it doesn't fall apart any more. It's a great sleigh." In years past, Claus has been caught in the county a few times. One memorable such occasion was many years ago in Shell Knob, when he was visiting a home with two teenage children whose father had served

in the military, stationed in Germany. "The daughter was about 16 and son about 14, and they had never seen Santa in person before," Claus said. "I went into their basement where their tree was and started unloading gifts, and my jingle bells must have been making too much noise because the dad told the kids to go see what as going on in the basement. Before I could get out, the daughter saw me and screamed, 'Santa Claus,' and ran down the stairs. Then, the whole family came in. I almost couldn't get away because they wanted so many pictures and had so many questions." As Father Christmas prepares for his magical ride around the world this week, he offered a small piece of advice to those awaiting his arrival. "Enjoy your kids while they are young," he said. "If they don't want to sit on my lap, don't make them. They will grow out of it and want to later." For the last approximately 30 years, Claus has been assisted in his Barry County adventures by Cassville resident Tommy Luney.

Hale GROVES

SAVE 37% includes shipping

REG. \$49.99
NOW \$34.99 +\$7.99 shipping

#483X | Hale Select Deluxe Gift Box

This gift box is the ideal gift for fruit and snack lovers alike. Perfect for sharing or gifting, this box brings a taste of sunshine and sweetness straight to your door.

SAVE 30%
BONUS DEAL! NOW \$29.99 +\$7.99 shipping

REG. \$39.99

#485X Hale Select Gift Box

Call 855-321-4402 or visit HaleGroves.com/H6YN12

Mention Code H6YN12 for your savings on Items #483X or #485X.

*\$7.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 19, 2025 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 12, 2025.

SINCE 1947 - HALE GROVES, VERO BEACH, FL 32966

IC: H6YN12

AREA BUSINESSES SERVING YOU!

BARRY COUNTY FARMERS COOP

Exeter, Missouri

PROPANE DIESEL FEED FERTILIZER

Exeter Stark City
417-835-3465 417-638-5513

TUCKER ELECTRIC

Electrical • Heating • Air conditioning
Sales & Service
RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL
"Carrier Dealer"
Call For Estimates

Bryon Tucker

Office 417-847-2699 • Home 417-847-3486
Fax 417-847-2699

If you're in Barry County, I'm for you.

Chad Yarnall - Agent
(417) 847-3399
chad.yarnall@mofb.com

MISSOURI FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
We've got Missouri covered.
AUTO HOME LIFE

BARRY COUNTY READY-MIX

3 Locations To Serve You

Cassville: 417-847-3200 • Eagle Rock: 417-271-3200
Shell Knob: 417-858-3200

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC

NOW OFFERING...

- Envelopes • Letterhead • Business Cards • Memo Pads • Calendars
- Greeting Cards • Signs • Posters
- Business Checks • Receipt Books

...AND MORE!

417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

Four State Stockyards

Serving the Four State-area since 2019
Exeter, MO

Feeder calf sale every Tuesday 10am, slaughter cows to follow
Bred cows/pairs every Tuesday 6pm
Special Cow Sale — April 18, 5 p.m.

Clay Hammen (417) 489-5732 Colby Hammen (417) 489-2684
Cale Hammen (417) 669-9593 Cade Hammen (417) 342-3407
Chris Keeling (417) 737-9148

INSURANCE DESIGNED WITH YOU AND YOUR DREAMS IN MIND.

CALL ME TODAY AT (417) 847-3128.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
American Family Mutual Insurance Company, 51 & 5th Operating Companies, 5100 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53703
©2015 006441 - Rev. 5/23 - 24080533

Burl Mitchell, Agent
58 Main St, Cassville
Alt: (417) 858-2561
bmitch2@amfam.com
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00

MFA AGRI SERVICES

Gerald Ritchie
Agri Services Manager
Hwy. 248 East, Cassville
417-847-3115

Sean Priest
Fertilizer Plant Manager
Hwy A Wheaton • 417-652-3526

- Feed
- Forage Seed
- Row Crop Seed
- Ag Chemical
- Bulk Fertilizer
- Precision Grid Soil Testing & Variable, Rate Fertilizer
- Custom Application
- Crop & Livestock Insurance

GRAFTED IN Cabinetry

Custom, stock, frameless cabinetry
Laminate, solid surface countertops
Custom CNC cutting
Purdy, MO

Robert Bergeron — 417-323-5250

COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Rising from the ashes

A segment of the Barry County Courthouse square in Cassville will soon receive new life.

The Hall Theatre, which was destroyed by a fire in 2022, was demolished in the spring of 2024 and has been sitting vacant ever since. Tied up in debts, the property was ultimately auctioned off in August to the city of Cassville for \$3,000 — and 66 times that amount (\$200,000) has been set aside in 2026 to create a pocket park at the location on the corner of Eighth and West streets.

A 10-person community committee was formed shortly after the city obtained the property, tasked with determining its future.

The list of ideas for the property included a variety of suggestions, including: a food truck court, parking, a new city hall, a pavilion, a splash park, a garden area, a pocket park, a parking garage or a new commercial building the city would erect and potentially sell.

Ultimately, the pocket park was the committee's fancy, complete with bathrooms, benches, a small play area, two murals a pavilion and some planter box shrubbery. A design released at the December City Council meeting looks sharp, and for the last three-and-a-half years, some kind of park in that location has been a frequent suggestion by local residents.

We ran the story on the plan last week, and if one thing is certain, opinions about the decision vary. While no one is outright saying a pocket park is the wrong plan, many have expressed wishes on social media they had hoped for something different.

One of the biggest requests has always been parking. Back in 2022, when Steve Walensky was city administrator and Bill Shiveley was the mayor, that was the no-brainer answer. Parking on the square is an enigma, after all. Some days, and some hours, parking on the square is not an issue at all.

Other times — like next week when property taxes are due, for example — there may not be a parking space to be had for hours.

While spots touching the courthouse lawn may be rare at times, side-street parking, the Family Life Center parking lot and even the First United Methodist Church parking lot are all within a two-block walk if absolutely necessary. Many have asked where the pocket park users would park. That answer is in this paragraph.

When Richard Asbill began his role city administrator in July 2024, it was only a few months later I finally queried him off the record what direction the city thought it would go. Parking, he said, would add 11 spots at best, and the general wisdom was that the city could do something more interactive than just adding parking.

As the owner of a business adjacent to the square and seeing the parking options literally daily, I agreed. There were definitely better options than just parking.

Over the last few years, whenever someone asked me what the city was going to do, I told them the current plan as I knew it, but I also always asked back, "What do you think should be there?"

Parking and pocket park were the top two responses. The third most popular response was to build a dog park. Having covered so many stray or loose dog-related issues in the city over the last decade — and seen how as far back as the 1970s the same issues have persisted — combined with the fact it would only serve people within walking distance or who would bring their dogs by vehicle, I'm not convinced a dog park would, one, be frequently used, and two, not result in frequent calls to Cassville police when strays or loose dogs happen by and want to join the party. Even the turf planned for the pocket park could be damaged by loose animals, which is something the committee might consider going forward.

Beyond the top three most-suggested ideas, another frequent fancy was a splash pad or water play area. On top of the expense to the city, such a feature would only be available in certain seasons, limiting the amount of time it would actually be used.

With the pocket park plan moving forward, one local resident suggested replacing one of the murals with a white wall to be able to project family friendly movies. I love that idea, and maybe the committee could consider finding a space on one of the walls, maybe near the pavilion if they don't want to replace a mural, to include an "all-weather screen" of white paint.

Ultimately, I think the pocket park plan is sound, and from the ashes of the theatre will rise a property people can frequently, and finally, use through all seasons.

One of the biggest items remaining is what it will be called. Two suggestions on social media stood out to me: Glen Hall Memorial Park, or Nadean Davis Memorial Park. The former would continue the Glen Hall legacy, but the latter would start a new legacy for a resident who truly loved the city of Cassville.

Maybe it could be combined as Davis-Hall Memorial Park?

Whatever the future is, I'm excited to see it come to fruition and there be a place on the square for any and all to enjoy.

Kyle Troutman has served as editor of the Cassville Democrat since 2014 and owner/publisher since 2023. He is a three-time ISWNE Golden Dozen award winner. He may be reached at 417-847-2610 or kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have an opinion, send a letter to Kyle Troutman, Cassville Democrat, P.O. Box 486, Cassville, MO 65625, by email to kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com or online at <https://forms.gle/RmdQfYe86PtKtKp8A>.

COMMUNITY VOICES

A Christmas Reading: Twas the best of songs, twas the worst of songs

(See how many Christmas song references you can find.)

Christmas can be a confusing time — especially for kids. We keep hearing that Santa Claus is coming to town. He/they seem to be duplicates everywhere and we wonder if mommy is kissing them all.

We encourage Rudolph the red nosed reindeer to run, run, Rudolph, and then grandma gets runover while walking down Santa Claus Lane. As a kid, all I really wanted was my two front teeth — well maybe a hippopotamus, but then I had to deck the halls and try to do it without fall la lalalala down the chimney with old St. Nick. Meanwhile, while I was letting it snow — because what else can you do — and Frosty the Snowman was going for a sleigh ride together with eight tiny bobtailed reindeer.

We may not be in a winter wonderland, but it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. And that of course means it is the most wonderful time of the year... unless it is blue.

There are at least a hundred ways that Christmas can be a disappointment. No one is piling packages around your tree. Feasting and festivities — or munching figgy pudding alone. Family gatherings — but dear



JEFF FUGITT

ones are gathering in heaven instead. There is no way to make that feel holly jolly wonderful.

But, all of those hard things can also serve as reminders of our need and our hunger for a Savior and the reasons we celebrate enduring gifts that never disappoint. Those hurts are big, bold road signs reminding us of the direction to the birthday party.

We may not rock around the Christmas tree, but we can celebrate the rock that provides a firm foundation for life. And that Rock is far better than any Jingly Bell.

It is anything but a silent night when herald angels sing joy to the world. And we have heard them up on high, singing o'er the plainness of the ordinary little town of Bethlehem — and of our lives.

It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came with-

out packages, boxes or bags. But so much more importantly — the Lord has come.

Whether we are talking of the first noel in a bleak midwinter or twelve days of your merry little Christmas by the Tannenbaum, whether kings come by threes on camel or by three sailing ships, or well-rested gentlemen by the dozen; it is a holy night when Immanuel comes. And O, come he does, more reliably than Santa, baby.

Ho, ho! After all, Who wouldn't rather go away to the manger than up on the housetop — even if there is the promise of some toys for good little girls and boys?

And O, when we do come, all faithfully, what child is this we find?

Actually it is no child at all, so let earth receive her ageless King who shall reign forever and ever. When He rules, there is truth and grace. So beat the drum and shout it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ was born, and that means that love with a capital L came and still comes down on Christmas. Joy to the world!

Jeff Fugitt is the pastor of Cassville United Methodist Church, located at 601 Gravel Street in Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-2328 or cassvilleumcpastor@gmail.com.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I like to wave and I’ll call out some kids’ names, but it’s hard to remember them all. I also know a lot of the parents or grandparents from when they were kids, so I like to tell them if they are on the nice or naughty list. That’s fun because their kids or grandkids always turn to them and ask, ‘You know Santa?’”

— SANTA CLAUS, ON HIS FAVORITE PARTS OF BEING IN THE CASSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

TROUTMAN

MEDIA LLC

Bulk business orders!

CALL OR EMAIL US TODAY FOR.....

Business Cards • Envelopes
Letterhead • Memo Pads
Calendars • Greeting Cards
Signs • Posters • Pens
Business Checks • Receipt Books
.....AND MUCH MORE!

Design assistance available — competitive pricing
Mailed to your door or pick-up in Cassville

Ask us about the wide variety of business promotional items we can get delivered to your door!

417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m, M-F

600 Main St., Cassville
kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Save big with local business!

50 years ago

Dec. 31, 1975
— 175 FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM HOLIDAY SHARE

More than 175 families enjoyed improved Christmas holidays through the Share Your Christmas program coordinated by the Cassville Chamber of Commerce with assistance from several community organizations. Clothing, food and toys were distributed throughout Barry County, with excess items later provided to regional relief organizations. Officials praised the community response.

— FIRE VOLUNTEERS SHARE \$1,426 YEAR-END PAY

Fifteen members of the Cassville and Barry County rural fire departments shared \$1,426 in payments for calls answered during the year. Payments covered 33 total calls, which officials said was above average.

— YEAR'S RAINFALL STANDS AT 42.09 INCHES HERE

Rainfall in the Cassville area totaled 42.09 inches in 1975, near the long-term average of just over 40 inches, according to U.S. Forest Service records. Monthly totals ranged from 1.94 inches in October to 5.34 inches in March, with previous yearly totals showing significant variation.

40 years ago

Jan. 1, 1985
— 58.14 INCHES RAINFALL RECORD IN CASSVILLE

If 1985 did nothing else, it produced a record total rainfall for the Cassville area. Measurements at the Cassville Ranger Station of Mark Twain National Forest stood at 58.14 inches as of Monday, according to Darlene Murphy, support services specialist at the office. With normal rainfall ranging from 42 to 44 inches, the total was about 16 inches above average, including 2.31 inches recorded in December. Heavy rainfall months included 7.33 inches in August and 8.26 inches in November. The excessive moisture caused Table Rock Lake to fluctuate dramatically throughout the year, standing well above the 915-foot top-of-power-pool elevation and reaching 923 feet several times.

— NICKOLS SUCCESSFUL BIDDER AT STATE PARK

Beginning March 1, the Roaring River State Park restaurant concession will be operated by Jack Nickols of Cassville, according to State Park Director Wayne Gross. Nickols, concessionaire at the lodge and store for two years, successfully bid the food service concession after it became available following the resignation of Carolyn Marrs. The new contract runs four years with an option to renew for an additional four years. Five other bidders were interviewed. All facilities except ice operations will be under Nickols' management when the concession opens.

— FIRST STATE LOTTERY LICENSES ISSUED TO COUNTY BUSINESSES

Twelve licenses have been issued in Barry County to sell Missouri lottery tickets, according to Jackie McIntyre of the Missouri Lottery Commission. A total of 32 applications were submitted locally. Licensed Cassville businesses include 4-Way Mini-Mart and Deli, Rameys Markets, Uncle Wheelies Package and Ozarks Sport Spot. Licenses were also issued in Seligman, Monett and Purdy. Remaining applications were still in processing or awaiting bond completion. Missouri's



50 YEARS AGO: Sewer problems during a blizzard did not stop city crews from performing their duties. Democrat file photo

lottery was approved by voters in November 1984, with the first instant games scheduled to begin no later than Jan. 31, 1986.

— NEW CHARGES IN 1982 DEATH NEAR SHELL KNOB

Capital murder charges were refiled Monday against Leslie Menchetti Talley, 29, in connection with the 1982 shooting death of Jeffery Claxton near Shell Knob. Charges had previously been dropped due to missing evidence, which was later recovered. Talley was also charged with armed criminal action. Claxton's body was found near Campbell Point at Table Rock Lake after being shot multiple times with a shotgun. Authorities were uncertain of Talley's current residence.

30 years ago

Dec. 27, 1995
— CASSVILLE'S OLDEST INDUSTRY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Cassville's oldest industry celebrated its golden anniversary last Friday with a gathering of family, friends and employees. Gerry and Clyde Hoover, owners of Forest Products, Inc., presided over the celebration, which marked the company's 50th birthday. In the years since Forest Products' creation in 1945, the company has experienced many changes but one thing has remained constant: the continued production of high quality hardwood. The company was formed in November 1945 by Fielding Sizer, Ruth Rogers and Hoover, who entered the business after 11 years with the U.S. Forest Service. He served for several years as Cassville's district ranger. The land where Forest Products now sits was not always the industrial complex it is today. The industry was the first to build in the West Eleventh Street area. Its neighbors now include Justin Boot, Arning Industries and R & W Manufacturing. Hoover said when they began building, the area surrounding them was farm land. The company's buildings arose among red clover and corn fields. The site was chosen for its proximity to the C and E railway, giving the company access to boxcar transportation. The railroad tracks are now overgrown, and the C and E railroad no longer exists. Trucks have taken over as the company's main means of hauling products to market. Forest Products' manufacturing

line has also changed. The company originally produced oak hardwood flooring during a time when virtually all homes were built with wood floors.

— BIDS COME IN HIGH FOR CASSVILLE'S GREENWAY PROJECT ALONG FLAT CREEK

Bids received for Cassville's greenway project came in at double the original estimated building cost of \$74,000. The city received three bids on the project, which were opened Friday by City Administrator Greg Beavers. Christian Construction appeared to be the low bidder with a total project cost of \$145,073, followed by Hutchens Construction Co. at \$146,628.90 and Seven Valleys Construction at \$195,479.75. Because the bids were so high, Beavers said he would contact the state to ask if additional funds could be allocated for the project. If not, Beavers and landscape architect Richard Yates of the Howard-Moore Group in Springfield will review the plans to look for cost reductions. Bids were submitted with item-by-item breakdowns so portions of the project could be deducted if needed. Beavers said the first cut would be a 700-foot stretch of boardwalk, with 275 feet remaining intact, while the rest of the trail would consist of crushed stone walking paths. He added the city could further reduce costs if public works crews handled some site clearing and base preparation. Yates said reductions could alter the apparent low bidder. "We'll deduct and then recompare the bids," Yates said. "We have to get it down to where we can do the project." Both Beavers and Yates expressed confidence the project could still move forward. Because the project is funded through a state grant, all bids must be submitted to the Highway Department, which is administering the grant, and the award must be approved by both the department and the city council. Beavers has been working on the project with the city's park development committee, which includes Rick Linebarger, Judy Schlichtman, Les Chapman and Dan Philbrick. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in August, but delays occurred when the state retained the plans for 90 days during review. The committee hopes construction will begin in February.



50 YEARS AGO: INTO THE REAL THING — A junior high art department snowman created for a Christmas parade later became an authentic snow figure on the courthouse lawn. Democrat file photo



50 YEARS AGO: HAZARDOUS TRAVEL — Christmas morning slick roads caused a two-car accident near Exeter injuring four people. The day after Christmas. Democrat file photo

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Meet the adorable Buster! He is a dachshund/terrier mix breed, and he is a low rider! His DOB is 12/20/2024 and he weighs 40 pounds. He gets along with other dogs and loves people. Our \$30 adoption special on all pets runs through the end of the year. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



OBITUARIES



DARIO PEREZ

Dario Perez, 76, of

Purdy, Missouri passed away in the comfort of his home on Monday, December 15, 2025. He was born January 2, 1949, in Villa Insurgentes, Zacatecas, Mexico - son of Camilo Perez and Alejandrina Arroyo. Survivors include his wife Maria Carolina Serrano Orozco; his sons, Chuy Perez and Jose Perez of Springfield, Mo., and his daughter, M. Guadalupe Perez and

her husband Diego Salas of Mt. Vernon, Mo. Dario, known as Yayo, moved to Purdy, Mo., shortly after he and Maria were married. He was a member of St. Edwards Catholic Church. He was a hardworking man with many jobs throughout his lifetime. A Funeral Mass was held December 19, 2025 at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Father Bill Hodgson conducted the services. Burial was at Purdy Cemetery in Purdy, Mo.



JAMES NICKLE
"Nick"
SLINKARD

James Nickle "Nick" Slinkard, age 81, of Cassville, Missouri passed away Friday, December 19, 2025 at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born February 5, 1944 in Cassville, Missouri the son of Vollmar James and Novita Mae (Nickle) Slinkard. On June 7, 1969 in Rocky Comfort, Missouri he was united in marriage to Colleen Long, who survives. Also surviving are his son, Chris Slinkard and husband John of St. Louis, Missouri; daughter,

Tonya Varner and husband Terrell of Cassville, Missouri; sisters, LaRue Lyall and husband Jerry of Cassville, Missouri and Sheila Robbins of Cassville, Missouri and grandchildren, Payton and girlfriend Tori Goostree and Grant. Preceding him in death were his parents and brother-in-law, Ken Robbins.

Nick grew up and attended school in Cassville, Missouri graduating from Cassville High School with the class of 1962. He was a lifelong resident of Cassville. Nick drove a truck for his dad for several years before becoming a driver for EFCO Corporation in Monett, Missouri. He then owned and operated Slinkard's Auto Salvage from 1990 until 2005, when he retired. Nick enjoyed hunting, traveling, restoring old cars and riding horses. He was a founding member of Barry County Search and Rescue, a member of Barry County Saddle Club and Cassville Cruisers. Nick

loved going to his grandchildren's ball games, and spending time with his family. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Nick was a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

Services were held at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears, Brother Dayton Brattin, and Pastor Jerry Nickle will conduct the services. Burial will be at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri.

The family received friends from 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Monday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Corinth Cemetery in memory of Nick.

Visit www.fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

Visit www.fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbooks and private condolences

WHITE FUNERAL HOME
AND CREMATORY

196 Sale Barn Rd., Cassville, MO • 417-847-8400

Crematory on site

To view obituaries, go to
www.whitefuneralhome.org

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

Visit www.fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbooks and private condolences

FOHN FUNERAL HOME

WHERE COMPASSION, DIGNITY &
RESPECT COME TOGETHER

Fohn Funeral Home | McQueen Funeral Home
Cassville, Missouri | 417.847.2141 | Wheaton, Missouri | 417.652.7268
www.fohnfuneralhome.com

PHOTO
ALERT!

Scan the QR code to the left to see our photo galleries! Photos are available for purchase for \$5 per digital download and prints starting at \$2 each.

Masterpieces
for Remembering.

Monett
201 West Broadway
(417) 235-3444
1-800-346-9879

Other Convenient Locations
Aurora 1-800-346-9877
Monett 1-800-346-9879
Springfield 1-800-346-9875
& selected representatives throughout the Ozarks

- * The #1 Choice of area families
- * Custom Design by our Artist
- * Serving the Ozarks since 1954
- * Ship Anywhere in the U.S.
- * Recommended by Cemetery Officials

- * Missouri's Largest
- * Quality granite and bronze
- * Complete written guarantee
- * Solid Permanent Foundations
- * Personalized design and lettering

Wommack

Monument Company

Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!

Funded by Medicaid,
choose FAMILY or FRIENDS
as your paid caregiver.

STEP 1
Get Assessed: As soon as you call and get qualified, a nurse will reach out to determine how many weekly hours of care you can get with CDPAP (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program).

STEP 2
Choose a Caregiver: You choose a caregiver you love: your daughter, son, relative, or friend. We schedule an orientation call to finalize your enrollment.

STEP 3
You Get Care - They Get Paid: You get care you can trust, your family member or friend gets paid instantly, and everyone gets peace of mind. Win-win!

Your caregiver gets paid same day!

- Over 5,000 5-star reviews
- 97% customer satisfaction
- 27,000+ patients getting care
- 9 states covered
- 350+ friendly care specialists to guide you

Find out if you are eligible today.
CALL 877.224.1811

Heroes help 50 hand-select Christmas goodies



Dominic Lyons, 7, of Cassville, peruses remote control toys with Cassville Police Cpt. James Smith at the annual Shop with a Hero event at Cassville Walmart on Thursday. A total of 50 children participated in the annual event
Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Gunner Brown, 6, of Cassville, smiles as he picks out a brand new Spider-Man bicycle while shopping with Cassville Police Sgt. Garrett Marshall at the annual Shop with a Hero event at Cassville Walmart on Thursday. Multiple law enforcement and first responder agencies participated in the event, helping local children have an enjoyable Christmas.
Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



PJ Boyle, 9, of Jenkins, looks at potential Christmas toys with Cassville Police Chief Donnie Privett during the annual Shop with a Hero event at Cassville Walmart on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Archer Elmore, 8, of Cassville, shows Cassville Police Officer Matt Hoover his toy selection at the annual Shop with a Hero event at Cassville Walmart on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Leana Carnell, 5, of Cassville, places her cache of toys and Christmas goodies on the check-out station during the annual Shop with a Hero event at Cassville Walmart on Thursday.
Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



The Thrifty Closet

Volunteer • Donate • Shop

Hours	Donations
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm	Monday Wednesday
Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm	Friday 9:00am-4:00pm



Find us on
facebook
The Thrifty Closet-Shell Knob

24971 State Hwy 39 Shell Knob MO 65747 (417) 858-2116



A and B Billboards

SIGN SIZES

Four 8-foot X 10-foot (Half Size)
\$1,300.00 per year

Two 8-foot X 20-foot (Full Size)
\$2,600.00 per year

Location:
Just south of Highway AA on the west side of Highway 112

Contact:
Brad at 417-846-7931



GET NOTICED
417.846.7931

CARSON CONSTRUCTION
417-342-0319

Custom Homes
Custom Remodels
Metal Buildings
Decks
Excavation

26 shop with cops courtesy of Seligman PD



Trooper Ty Williams, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, helps Alex Recio, 12, of Washburn, pick out toys during Seligman's Shop With A Cop event on Sunday at the Cassville Walmart. A total of 26 children participated in this year's event. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Finley Stensrud, 10, of Washburn, holds up a drone for Seligman Officer Terry Burgess to add to his Seligman Shop With A Cop total on Sunday while his father, Timothy Stensrud, looks on. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Emmitt Musick, Seligman police officer, helps a child pick out a brand new bike at Seligman's Shop With A Cop event on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Ashtyn Recio, 6, of Washburn, takes one last look at toy selections with Carrie Byron, park ranger at Roaring River State Park, during Seligman's Shop With A Cop event on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Matt Phillips, Seligman police chief, shows Julian Stensrud, 6, of Washburn, the types of pas that come in an elbow and knee pad set at Seligman's Shop With A Cop event on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

TRASHOUT EXPRESS

**Young's
Dirtworks, LLC**

**Mike's
AUTO CARE**

MICHAEL'S
FRIENDLY FOLKS. SERIOUS HARDWARE.

Cassville Democrat
BEST NEWS SOURCE

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
1303 N. Main Street, Cassville
417-847-2141

McQUEEN FUNERAL HOME
524 E. Hurlbut Street, Wheaton
417-652-7268
WWW.FOHNFUNERALHOME.COM

SELIGMAN SUPER STOP
By White Oak Station

SSS TRUCKING
WASHBURN, MO

SB SECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

BBQ STATION
CHICKEN RIBS BEEF PORK
Fill 'er up!

The Dispensary
CASSVILLE

SELIGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROTECT SERVE MO

Freedom Bank
of Southern Missouri

37 PAWN & GUN

Brice's TOWING

JSS TRUCKING
WASHBURN, MO

TREES OUT EXPRESS
treesout.com

Eagans Supply

HARPS
HOMETOWN FRESH
SELIGMAN, MO

Ken's Collision Center
The Area's Finest Collision Repair Facility!

GLASS CITY VAPOR + DELTA & SMOKES

WELCOME TO LUCKY T'S
BEER • CIGARETTES • TOBACCO

Jim & Marcia Townsend
Michael & Loni Avers
JD Hunter & Jarrod Hunter on
behalf of H&H Real Estate

SHOP WITH A COP

The Seligman Police Department would like to thank our sponsors for making the 2025 Shop with a cop event successful.

SOUTHWEST HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

Where: Southwest High School in Washburn
When: Games on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday
Teams: In seed order, Southwest, East Newton, Seneca, Forsyth, Wheaton, Purdy and SWMO Rush

Holiday hoops on tap!

3 Barry County schools in 7-team Southwest Holiday Tournament

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
Three Barry County teams will join four other Missouri schools at the 12th Annual Southwest Girls Holiday Tournament, which starts on Friday and wraps up on Monday.
Southwest was voted the No. 1 seed, and Wheaton and Purdy took the No. 5 and No. 6 seed, respectively. Also competing will be No. 2 East Newton, No. 3 Seneca, No. 4 Forsyth and No. 7 SWMO Rush.
With just seven teams instead of eight, the first two rounds of play will be different. Southwest, Wheaton and Forsyth will play a round robin, with the winner advancing to Tuesday's championship, and East Newton, Seneca, Purdy and SWMO Rush will play a four-team traditional bracket, with the winner advancing to the championship.
The Lady Trojans and Lady Bulldogs will kick off the action at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, East Newton and SWMO Rush follow at 4 p.m., and Seneca and Purdy square off at 6 p.m. Forsyth and Wheaton is the only Saturday contest, at 1 p.m., and on Monday, the East Newton-SWMO Rush loser and Seneca-Purdy loser play at 12:30 p.m., with the winners playing at 2 p.m. The championship is on Tuesday at 5 p.m. following the third-place game at 3:30 p.m. and fifth-place game at 2 p.m.
Shawn Johnson, Southwest girls basketball coach, said as the No. 1 seed, the Lady Trojans' immediate goal is to focus on the process and not the pressure.
"We want to play our style of basketball — defend, share the ball and compete for four quarters every game," he said. "We understand that every opponent will be motivated to play their best against us, so our emphasis is on preparation, effort and execution. We need to defend at a high level every possession, communicate, rebound, and take pride in getting stops. Tournament games are often decided by effort and toughness, and that has to be our foundation."
Johnson said the key to success for Southwest is taking care of the basketball and making good decisions under pressure.
"Limiting turnovers and getting quality shots will help us control tempo and momentum," he said. "Just as important is staying mentally tough and staying focused on the next play. If we play unselfishly, trust one another, and stay locked into our game plan, we'll give ourselves a chance to be successful in every game we play."
Jessica Dermott, Wheaton girls basketball coach, said defense will be key for the Lady Bulldogs.
"Our goals are competing every game, working hard defensively and getting stops," she said. "We're looking for the juniors to continue to get stronger on offense and taking control of the games."
Stephanie Heman, Purdy girls basketball coach, said the Lady Eagles are focused on competing.
"We hope to compete in every game and maybe come out with a win or two," she said. "We have to play well defensively, limit turnovers by taking better care of the ball and shoot with confidence."

CASSVILLE SQUADS CROSSING STATE LINE



Cassville's Audrey Kennedy passes a ball inside during Southwest Holiday Tournament action last year. The Lady Wildcats have made a switch this season and will head to Berryville, Ark., Monday through Wednesday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

'Cats, Lady 'Cats face unknowns in Berryville

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
The Cassville boys and girls basketball teams will be participating in the same holiday tournament this year, crossing the state line to take part in the CS Bank Holiday Hoops 2025 in Berryville, Ark.
For the Lady Wildcats, the Arkansas tournament marks a unique change. Cassville had been participating in the Southwest Holiday Tournament each year since 2019, but Coach Clayton Bagby said the opportunity for change arose.
"Scott Wenger, one of our assistant coaches, is friends with the Berryville girls coach, and we know they have a reputation for putting on a good tournament," Bagby said. "This will give us a chance to see some non-conference and non-district teams that are not on our schedule."

CASSVILLE HOOPS

What: Boys and girls teams playing holiday tournament
Where: CS Bank Holiday Hoops 2025 in Berryville, Ark.
More: First time in Arkansas tournament for both boys and girls teams

Crane and Cassville are the only two Missouri schools participating, and the other six in the eight-team event are from Arkansas. The Lady Wildcats open the tournament with a match-up against Green Forest at 10 a.m. on Monday. Valley Springs will play Crane at 11:20 a.m., Mountain View will face Alpena at 2 p.m., and Berryville will play against Mountain Pine at 6 p.m.
Cassville will face Berryville or Mountain Pine on Tuesday, at 12:40 p.m. with a loss to Green Forest or at

6 p.m. with a win. The championship game is on Wednesday at 6 p.m.
"It will be interesting, Bagby said. Our first game is against Green Forest, and we have film on them but haven't got to break it down yet. Outside of them, we've scouted Berryville and are familiar with Crane, but we don't know anything about the other teams. We're excited to see some different teams and how we can compete."
Bagby said execution will be key for the 6-2 Lady Wildcats, especially in the half-court offense.
"We are a good team on the defensive side and can cause turnovers, but against good teams that can take away the transition, we'll have to be able to execute in the half-court on the offensive side," he said.
The Cassville boys basketball team is also going through a tournament

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

Area schools to battle at Southwest Tournament

Wheaton, Purdy, Southwest participating in 43rd annual event

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
Three area schools will take part in the 43rd Annual Southwest Boys Holiday Tournament, which runs Saturday to Tuesday.
East Newton was determined to be the top seed and will kick off tournament action on Saturday against Wheaton at 2:30 p.m. No. 4 SWMO Rush will play Purdy at 4 p.m., followed by No. 2 McAuley Catholic and No. 7 Southwest at 5:30 p.m. and No. 3 Monett against No. 6 Seneca at 7 p.m.
Monday contests are at 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, the nightcap after the seventh-place game at 11 a.m., fifth-place game (consolation final) at 2 p.m. and third-place bout at 6:30 p.m.
Brad Stewart, Purdy boys

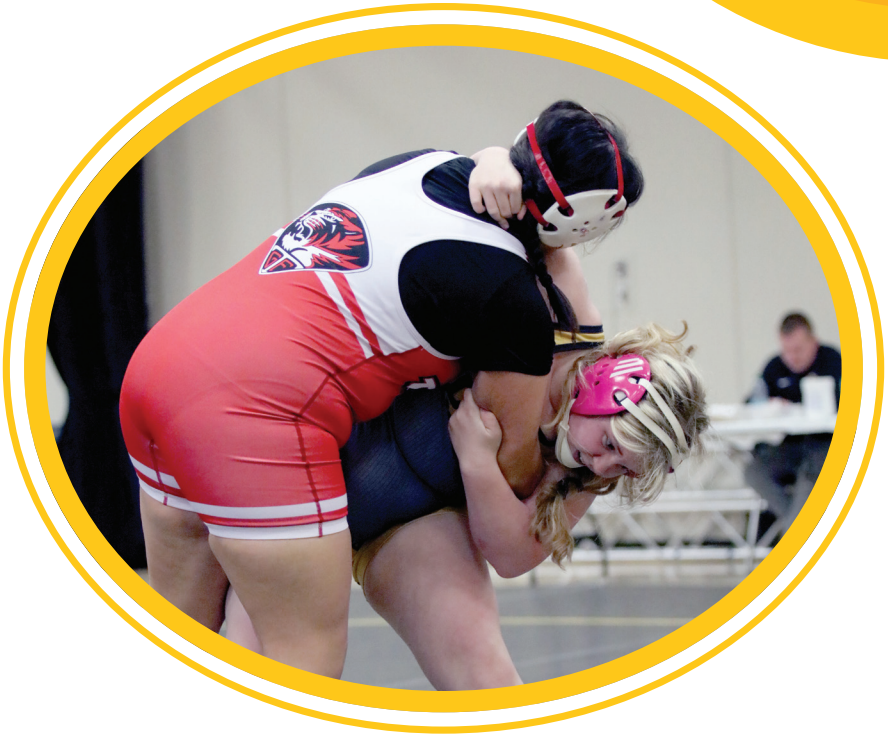
SOUTHWEST HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

Where: Southwest High School in Washburn
When: Games on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday
Teams: In seed order, East Newton, McAuley Catholic, Monett, SWMO Rush, Purdy, Seneca, Southwest and Wheaton

basketball coach, said rebounding and limiting turnovers are the main areas he hoped to see the Eagles improve.
"We hope to finish with two wins, and finally get and stay healthy," Stewart said. "We are an average varsity basketball team striving to become above average. We have had flashes of excellence both as a team and individually. We need more consistency in both."
Southwest coach Jeff Treat and Wheaton Coach Sean Crane did not respond to requests for comment as of presstime



Southwest's Lane Hendrix beats his man and goes for a layup in Southwest Holiday Tournament action last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Girls Wrestling

1/2-3	Diamond State Duals	Away
1/9	Monett Tournament	Away
1/13	Joplin	Away 1:30 pm
1/16	Branson Tournament	Away
1/20	Cassville/Reeds Spring/Hollister	Away 5:00 pm
1/21	Big 8 Girls Tournament	Home 5:00 pm
1/22	McDonald County	Away 6:00 pm
1/27	Seneca	Home 5:00 pm
1/29	Monett	Away 6:00 pm
2/5	Rogersville/Bolivar	Away 5:00 pm

Boys Basketball

12/29-31	Berryville Holiday Tournament	Away
1/6	Aurora	Away 7:15 pm
1/9	McDonald County	Away 7:15 pm
1/12-17	59th Annual Crane Invitational	Neutral
1/19	Hollister	Home 8:00 pm
1/23	Neosho	Away 7:15 pm
1/27	Lamar	Home 7:00 pm
1/30	Seneca	Home 7:15 pm
2/3	Monett	Away 7:15 pm
2/6	Skyline	Home 6:00 pm
2/10	East Newton	Home 7:15 pm

Girls Basketball

12/29-31	Berryville Holiday Tournament	Away
1/5	Aurora	Away 7:00 pm
1/9	McDonald County	Away 6:00 pm
1/15	Central	Home 7:15 pm
1/19	Forsyth	Away 7:30 pm
1/20	Springfield Catholic	Home 7:15 pm
1/22	Pleasant Hope	Away 6:00 pm
1/26	Lamar	Home 7:00 pm
1/29	Seneca	Home 7:00 pm
2/2	Monett	Away 7:00 pm
2/5	Ash Grove	Away 7:15 pm
2/9	East Newton	Home 7:00 pm
2/12	Mt. Vernon	Away 7:00 pm

Boys Wrestling

1/2-3	Diamond State Duals	Away
1/10	Monett Tournament	Neutral
1/13	Joplin	Away 1:30 pm
1/17	Branson Tournament	Neutral
1/20	Cassville/Reeds Spring/Hollister	Away 5:00 pm
1/22	McDonald County	Away 6:00 pm
1/23	Big 8 Conference Tournament	Away
1/27	Seneca	Home 6:00 pm
1/29	Monett	Away 6:00 pm
1/31	Peoples Bank of Seneca	Away
2/5	Rogersville/Bolivar	Away 5:00 pm

Sater Pharmacy

Medicare, Medicaid
& Most Insurance
Accepted

417-847-2315

705 Main St., Cassville, MO 65625

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

\$11.50 per week!

Call our office at
417-847-2610 to get
started!

SBSECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

417-847-4794

www.sbswmo.com

CASSVILLE
EXETER
WHEATON

T. Terry
Mowing

Serving the Cassville area

417-896-0261

Leaf mulching and more!
Affordable pricing!

Willis
Insurance, Inc.

Since 1887

100 West 7th St.
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-3300

Bridgeway Plaza
Shell Knob
417-858-3747

www.willisinsured.com
800-556-2393

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

\$11.50 per week!

Call our office at
417-847-2610 to get
started!

LAW OFFICE
OF
JOHN A. LEWRIGHT

903 Main St., Cassville
417-847-2177

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports.

BARRY COUNTY
READY-MIX
LLC

3 Locations to serve you
CASSVILLE: 417-847-3200
EAGLE ROCK: 417-271-3200
SHELL KNOB: 417-858-3200

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports.

AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE

Burl Mitchell, Agent
Cassville, MO 65625
(417) 847-3128

JOHNSON
DJC
CHIROPRACTIC

907 Main St., Cassville
417-847-0388

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports.

Have a story idea? Email it to
ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.
com, or call 417-847-2610!

BANK

95 State Hwy 37, Cassville
(417) 847-2000
WWW.CS.BANK

Law Office of
J. Michael Riehn

104 W. 7th Street
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-1339

Be a Lifelong Learner at
Crowder Cassville through a
Fiction Writing Class this
Spring 2026.

First Novel? Memoir? Local
History? Open Enrollment!
Call 417-847-1706 to speak
with an advisor about how
you can become a lifelong
learner at Crowder.

TerryHeld@Crowder.edu

BLAKE FIELDS
ATTORNEY AT LAW

605 Main St., Cassville, MO
(417) 847-9999
email@blakefieldslaw.com

SECURITY INSURANCE AGENCY
INSURANCE

AUTO • HOME
FARM • BUSINESS
417-847-8384

DOT TO DOT

KIDS' COLUMNS

A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

JUST kidding

Q:

Why did the mail carrier go to the tailor shop?

A:

She needed to get a change of a dress.

JUST kidding

Q:

Why did the steep trails make the climber burst out laughing?

A:

They were hill areas.

JUST kidding

Q:

Why couldn't the pair of crabs get along?

A:

They were two shellfish.

Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

ANSWER: 1 AND 9

For the up-and-coming artist

Sudoku 6 x 6

				◇	+
◇		□			
	×	+	△		
	□				×
+			×	△	
			◇		

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.

○	+	◇	×	▽	□
□	▽	×	○	◇	+
×	○	+	◇	□	▽
◇	□	▽	+	×	○
▽	×	○	□	+	◇
+	◇	□	▽	○	×

ANSWER

White Funeral Home and Crematory

We are your locally owned funeral home and crematory, striving to treat everyone like family.

WE HAVE THE ONLY PET CREMATORY IN THE AREA.

196 Sale Barn Road

Cassville, Missouri • 417-847-8400

Shell Knob residents call 417-858-8400

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

This devotional and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all to attend worship services.

In the fulness of time

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

Celebrating the time of Jesus’ birth, this and other passages about the time are significant. St. Luke dates Jesus’ birth this way.

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (and this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the



HODGSON

city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she

brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 1:1-7)

In chapter 3, Luke used similar descriptions to date the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist. This indicates what is meant by “the fulness of time.”

Up until the birth of Jesus, there was no universal way of measuring, “what year is this?” It was dependent upon who was the ruler of a particular area, and how long that reign had continued. As it is yet today, nations and even empires come and go. St. Luke’s writings indicate that the Roman empire was regulating the dating sys-

tem, based upon the reign of the emperors.

It wasn’t until 525AD that a monk named Dionysius Exiguus proposed counting years from the birth of Christ be used to replace the older Roman method of dating. It took until after the historical writings of Venerable Bede in the 9th century for Dionysius’ system to be popularly adopted, and as such it has been used to the present time. With more data emerging in later times, scholars generally estimate the time of Jesus birth to be between 4-6 BC. However, the numbering of years has been universally adopted, even though the initials have changed over time.

The fact that we use a refer-

ence point taken from the estimated birth of Jesus to divide all world history into “before” and “after” is its own testimony to the influence of the ministry of Jesus and of the apostles and their followers throughout these 2025 years.

As we enter the 2026th year of the fulness of time, let us resolve never to take for granted the blessings that have come to us through the discipleship of those who have gone before us. And let us be aware that Jesus is what His name says: Emmanuel, God always with us.

Pastor Fr. William Hodgson is the priest at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-4948 or stedwardcassville@gmail.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

“Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.”

— ACTS 13:38-39

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ANGLICAN ST. MARY MAGDALENE 205 Commercial St., Exeter 835-2102	858-3496 FIRST BAPTIST 117 W. Garber St., Fairview FIRST BAPTIST 602 West. St., Cassville 847-2965 FIRST BAPTIST Wheaton FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST Exeter, 835-5433 FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST 104 W. Hwy. J, Golden 271-3605 FIRST BAPTIST WASHBURN 2nd St. North 618, Washburn 826-5000 GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 14970 FR. 1150, Cassville, Mo. GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP R.O. Box 352, Shell Knob 858-6868 GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST 1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 & 1150, Cassville; 847-4691 HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield 847-9289 MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115 MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST RR 1, Washburn 826-5232 MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST F.R. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245 MT. ZION BAPTIST Hwy. 37 S., Washburn 826-5840 NEW HOPE BAPTIST 3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy, then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter 652-3885 OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST 16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville Pastor- 501-538-6261 Local- 417-847-4597 PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn 435-2319 PURDY FIRST BAPTIST 3rd & Washington St., Purdy 442-7435 SHILOH BAPTIST Hwy. 248, Jenkins 574-6466 PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH Rocky Comfort	PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn 826-5158 RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter 652-7884 ROARING RIVER BAPTIST HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-3142 ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770 SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592 VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH Business 37 N., Cassville 826-5295 VIOLA BAPTIST Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-2597 WAYMARK CHURCH 2581 State Hwy 37 235-7466 WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST Hwy. 86 & Hwy. A, Wheaton 652-3898 WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST 11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton PO Box 175, 652-3186	Hwy. 86, Golden 271-3134 SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP Hwy. 112, Cassville 846-6339 EPISCOPAL ST. THOMAS Á BECKET Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville 846-2155 LUTHERAN COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-4383 PEACE LUTHERAN N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-3900 METHODIST ALL FAITH UNITED METHODIST Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-3737 CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST 7th & Gravel, Cassville 847-2328 UNITED METHODIST Hwy. YY, Shell Knob 858-6707 WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST Washburn Corner of 1st and North, Washburn WHEATON UNITED METHODIST 101 Santee St., Wheaton 652-3858 LATTER-DAY SAINTS CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS N. Business Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-4873 NAZARENE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville 417-619-1498 PENTECOSTAL LIGHTHOUSE PENTECOSTAL Hwy. 86 & P St., Eagle Rock 271-4929 NEW LIFE TEMPLE	Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville 847-3106 GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP Washburn Community Building 479-366-2561 NEW LIFE TABERNACLE 30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman 662-0076 PRESBYTERIAN TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-3902 WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN 1 mi. S. of Monett 235-3337 OTHER BELIEVERS FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP 1st. & South St., Washburn 826-5875 BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER 1107 Farm Rd., Cassville 847-4061 CASSVILLE SDA Old Exeter Rd. & Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-3622 BODY OF CHRIST Wheaton, 417-652-3709 COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL 13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville 847-4643 GOD'S HEALING CENTER Seligman, 662-3118 EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 3420516 FIRST CHRISTIAN Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-8200 FIRST CHRISTIAN Old Exeter Rd. & Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-2460 GOD'S HEALING CENTER Seligman, 662-3118 LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob 278-6674 OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy 442-3361 REAL LIFE WORSHIP CENTER 709 W. 10th St., Cassville
--	---	---	---	--

Monett Plant
Monett, Mo.
417-236-3140
Supporting local churches and our Tyson chaplains.

Little Bears Lawn and Tree Care
MOWING • LANDSCAPING • LAND CLEARING • TREE REMOVAL • STUMP GRINDING
Patrick Hostettler
Call for a free quote (Fully Insured)
870-654-2343 • Littlebearslawncare@gmail.com

The Big New Yorker STARTING AT \$13.99
6 XL foldable slices
34 Main St., Cassville • www.pizzahut.com
417-847-5503

Ken's Collision Center
THE AREA'S FINEST COLLISION REPAIR FACILITY
712 W. 10th St.
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-1200
www.kenscollisioncenter.com

PLACE YOUR AD HERE
\$10.50 per week!
Call our office at 417-847-2610 to get started!

BARRY COUNTY FARMERS COOP
Exeter, Mo.
417-835-3465
Propane • Farm Diesel • Feed • Fertilizer

Able 2 Products Company
— Serving The Area Since 1972 —
Hwy. 248, Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-4791

Fohn Funeral Home
We are here to serve and help you in your time of need.
SERVING ALL FAITHS
Fohn, Cassville ~ McQueen, Wheaton
417-847-2141

PLACE YOUR AD HERE
\$10.50 per week!
Call our office at 417-847-2610 to get started!

TH ROGERS LUMBER COMPANY
417-847-2123
407 E. Hwy 248 • Cassville, MO
www.throgers.com

Everybody likes clean!
Two convenient locations to better serve you!
Across from Walmart Supercenter
Old Exeter Rd. & Hwy. 76/112
417-846-3711

THE EDISON COMPANY
808 Edison Rd., Cassville, MO 65625
417-846-0026

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

89 degrees 10 minutes 03 seconds

West 312.20 feet along said North line to the point of beginning and containing 5.0 acres, subject to any right of ways, easements or restrictions of record.

Petitioner's attorney is Harry D. Schwartz, whose business address is 702 West Street, P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on January 30, 2026, at 8:45 o'clock a.m. in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, at Cassville, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

The Cassville Democrat
First Publication:
December 3, 2025
Second Publication:
December 10, 2025
Third Publication:
December 17, 2025
Fourth Publication:
December 24, 2025
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Deputy Probate Clerk
1st insertion 12/03/25
47-50

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI PROBATE
DIVISION
AT CASSVILLE

In the Estate of:
SHARON PERRY,
deceased
Case No.
25BR-PR00175

NOTICE OF HEARING

To all persons who claim any interest in the property SHARON PERRY, deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Brian Perry,

for the determination of the heirs of Sharon Perry, deceased, and of their respective interest as such heirs in and with respect to the following described real property located in Barry County, Missouri, that the decedent owned at the time of his death:

Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 21 North, Range 25 West, Barry County, Missouri described as commencing at the Southwest Corner thereof; thence North 01°14'53" East, 632.03 feet along the West line of said Northwest Quarter to the Point of Beginning; thence South 89°10'03" East, 1802.12 feet to the West line of the private road along the West side of Block 2 of Spriggs Twin Coves No. 1 Subdivision; thence North 04°15'05" East, 518.02 feet along said West line to a point on the U.S. Government Fee Take Line for Table Rock Lake; thence North 43°28'08" West, 252.08 feet along said Take Line to the North line of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2; thence North 89°10'03" West, 1651.90 feet to the Northwest Corner thereof; thence South 01°14'53" West 697.52 feet along the West line of said Northwest Quarter to the Point of Beginning and containing 28.76 acres.

EXCEPT: Part of the South Half (S½) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section 2, Township 21 North, Range 25 West, Barry County, Missouri described as

commencing at the Northwest (NW) corner thereof; thence S89°10'03"E, 1197.42 feet along the North line of the South Half (S½) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing S89°10'30"E, 454.50 feet along said North line to the U.S. Government Fee Take Line for Table Rock Lake; thence S43°28'08"E, 252.08 feet along said Take Line; thence S04°15'05"W, 518.02 feet; thence N89°10'03"W, 604.73 feet; thence N01°14'53"E, 697.52 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 9.59 acres, subject to any right of ways, easements or restrictions of record.

ALSO EXCEPT:

Part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 21 North, Range 25 West, Barry County, Missouri, described as beginning at the Northwest corner thereof, thence South 01 degree 14 minutes 53 seconds West 697.52 feet along the West line of said Northwest Quarter, thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 03 seconds East 312.20 feet, thence North 01 degree 14 minutes 53 seconds East 697.52 feet to the North line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 03 seconds East 312.20 feet along said North line to the point of beginning and containing 5.0 acres, subject to any right of ways, easements or restrictions of record.

Petitioner's attorney is Harry D. Schwartz, whose business address is 702 West Street, P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on January 30, 2026, at 8:45 o'clock a.m. in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, at Cassville, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

The Cassville Democrat
First Publication:
December 3, 2025
Second Publication:
December 10, 2025
Third Publication:
December 17, 2025
Fourth Publication:
December 24, 2025
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Deputy Probate Clerk
1st insertion 12/3/25
47-50

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI PROBATE
DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF
RUTH ELLEN
EDWARDS, deceased
Case No.
25BR-PR00188

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(SMALL ESTATE)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of RUTH ELLEN EDWARDS, Decedent.

On December 9, 2025, a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

All creditors of the decedent, who died on OCTOBER 19, 2025, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of the decedent. A creditor may request that

this estate be opened for administration.

Receipt of this notice shall not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

Date of first publication is December 17, 2025.

Date of second publication is December 24, 1025

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Deputy Probate Clerk
1st insertion 12/07/25
49-50

TRUSTEE'S SALES

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:
Marvin A Fleming,
and
Cheryl L Ryan,
husband and wife
Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Marvin A Fleming, and Cheryl L Ryan, husband and wife dated October 29, 2019 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 19, Page 6010 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:50 AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:

A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: C O M M E N C I N G AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD AND THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 26, THENCE SOUTH 204 FEET, THENCE EAST 554 FEET, THENCE NORTH 204 FEET, THENCE, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD 554 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING SITUATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 26, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,
Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
File No:
226221.010626.464124 FC
NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON:
December 10, 2025
12/17/2025,
12/24/2025,
12/31/2025
1st insertion 12/10/25
48-51



Cassville's Audrey Kennedy passes a ball inside during Southwest Holiday Tournament action last year. The Lady Wildcats have made a switch this season and will head to Berryville, Ark., Monday through Wednesday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville: Boys finding stride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

change. The Wildcats played at Southwest from 2010-2020, then went to Neosho for two years, and in the last two years has participated in the Seymour Bank Winter Classic in January, making this year the first holiday tournament since 2022.

Mike Ray, Cassville boys basketball coach, said the tournament was scheduled before his hiring, and in his 28 years as a coach in the area, he has never been to Berryville.

"In a way, that makes it really exciting," he said. "Sometimes, it feels like you play the same teams over and over again. Like, we open up the Crane tournament [Jan. 12-17] against Monett. When you face a team two or three times a year, it's a grind because you know them and they know you. The fact that we will have a shot clock in Berryville will also be fun."

Cassville is the only Missouri team in the tournament; all other seven teams are from Arkansas. The Wildcats open play against host Berryville on Monday at 7:20 p.m. Mountain View and West Fork open the day's slate at 12:40 p.m. Bauxite and Green Forest battle at 3:20 p.m., and Monticello and Valley Springs play at 4:40 p.m. Cassville will play the Monticello or Valley Springs on Tuesday at 2 p.m. with a loss to Berryville or 7:20 p.m. with a win. The championship is at 7:20 p.m. on Wednesday.

"[Friday] was the first day I have started looking at Berryville," Ray said. "Ball security will be key for us. We've been better at it the last couple weeks, improving in the past 3-4 games, but we want to

keep that improvement going. When we do that, we get good shots, and it helps our defense get set."

Ray said the 3-4 Wildcats are finding their stride under new leadership and after a long football season.

"The guys have been doing a good job buying

in," he said. "It's a big change, but I am pleased with the effort and attitude. We are trying to get healthy and hope the holiday practice time will help with that. Also, with the football team's success, we are just now gaining traction and hitting our stride, so we'll see what we can do in Berryville."

TALON MEDIA GROUP

RADIO THAT COVERS AGRICULTURE AND YOUR HOME TOWN AS WELL AS PROVIDING YOU WITH LOCAL AREA AND BRANSON DISCOUNTS

TUNE IN TO OUR STATIONS & CHECK US OUT ON OUR WEBSITE
800-928-5253 235-6041 678-0416

www.radiotalon.com
KRMO AM 990 · KKBL 95.9 FM · KSWM AM 940 · KQMO 97.7 FM

SB SECURITY BANK OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

Cassville • Exeter • Wheaton

WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Analeigh Winchell	Cheney Kelley
Zach Myers	Taylor Kennedy

Bulk business orders!

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC

NOW OFFERING.....

Envelopes • Letterhead • Business Cards • Memo Pads • Calendars
Greeting Cards • Signs • Posters • Business Checks • Receipt Books
.....AND MUCH MORE!

Design assistance available — competitive pricing — Mailed to your door or pick-up in Cassville

417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m, M-F

600 Main St., Cassville
kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Save big with local business!