

CASSVILLE Democrat

DECEMBER 31, 2025 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

TOP 10 NEWS STORIES OF 2025

Future of Hall Theatre, Fire Distrist sales tax top news stories

1



Hall Theatre purchased, pocket park coming

The former Hall Theatre property at the corner of Eighth and West streets — destroyed by fire in 2022 and demolished in 2024 — was purchased by the city of Cassville for \$3,000. A community committee evaluated potential uses and settled on constructing a pocket park. The planned mini-park will include amenities like benches, bathrooms, a pavilion, murals and play elements, with \$200,000 earmarked for the 2026 budget to bring the design to life.

2



Fire District passes sales tax

Voters approved a half-cent sales tax for the Cassville Volunteer Fire Protection District in a Nov. 4 ballot measure aimed at bolstering funding. District Chief Derek Acheson explained the tax would help the department address rising costs, aging equipment and facility needs that property tax-based funding can't cover. The measure could ultimately allow the district to reduce and eventually eliminate its property tax and plan for building improvements and part-time staffing, improving emergency response capacity in the community.

3



Barry County jail to serve new purpose

The old Barry County Jail has been repurposed into the Andey Hunter Community Resource Center, spearheaded by The Generations Project nonprofit. The facility will host a food pantry, clothing room, community space and mail services for unhoused residents, reconnecting them with vital resources. Named to honor a local resident, the historic jail structure's unique layout provides opportunities for creative reuse. Volunteers are cleaning and renovating the space, with community support essential for continued progress.

4



Randolph takes murder plea

Cassville man Richard Randolph, 32, accepted a plea deal in Polk County Circuit Court in the 2023 stabbing death of Andey Hunter. Randolph pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, while the armed criminal action charge was dismissed. Under the agreement, he received a life sentence with the possibility of parole, and with time already served, amounts to at least 22 years in prison. The killing at Miller Storage was the first murder inside Cassville city limits since 2011.

5



7th Street bridge approved, pedestrian bridge bids high

The city of Cassville continued planning of multiple bridge projects in 2025. A plan for the new 7th Street Bridge — replacing the 2017 flood-destroyed structure — was prioritized alongside a proposed pedestrian bridge linking the Greenway Trail to the city's north bank. Ground was broken on the 7th Street vehicular bridge in December, but bids for the pedestrian bridge came in higher than expected, complicating immediate construction plans. The city now aims to look for a new location for a pedestrian bridge in the area.

6



Senior Tax Credit passes

Barry County voters overwhelmingly approved a senior citizen property tax credit in the April general election. The measure exempts citizens age 62 and older from increases in property tax liability on their primary residences, passing with 91% support. The credit is slated to be implemented in 2026, once software is obtained, and will be retroactive to 2024. Impact of the credit is still unknown, as seniors will have to opt in to the credit.

7



Wesley Roller charged, later takes own life

Washburn resident Wesley Roller was charged in 2025 in multiple child sex crime cases, including statutory sodomy, child molestation and related offenses, with several victims coming forward regarding incidents that allegedly occurred as many as 40 years ago. The case garnered significant interest throughout 2025, and in November, Roller was found deceased after taking his own life.

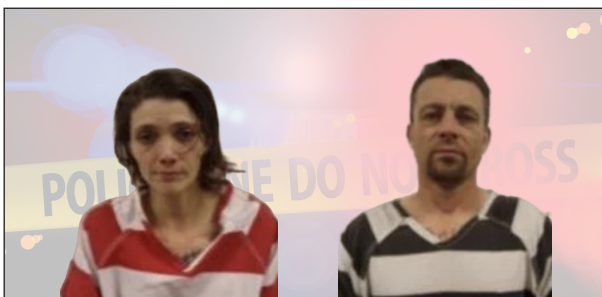
8



Dye tracing scientists present findings

Hydrologists and volunteers from the Cave Research Foundation presented the results of a five-year dye-tracing study mapping Roaring River Spring's recharge area. Their work showed the spring draws water from a 47.34-square-mile basin spanning across multiple local waterways. The research, funded with park and CRF support, involved injecting non-toxic dyes into karst features and tracking their emergence at Roaring River Spring. Findings will help landowners better understand groundwater flow and inform conservation efforts around the unique karst system.

9



Charges filed after body burned, dumped in March

Two Barry County residents — Brandy Coburn, of Verona, and Jimmy Taylor, of Exeter — were charged with first-degree murder, armed criminal action, abandonment of a corpse and tampering with evidence in connection with the death of Marvin Lance McCullough. McCullough's body was found in the trunk of a burned vehicle in Shell Knob, and witness statements allege the pair lured him, shot him and later burned and dumped the car.

10



Positive results from cell phone ban in schools

Three days into the 2025-2026 school year, Cassville High School Principal Tyler Willis reported to the Cassville School Board on the early effects of a new cell phone ban, noting more classroom engagement and fewer teacher complaints. Teachers said students made more eye contact, and some students even said they liked the change. Unexpected challenges included students not knowing the time without their phones, prompting plans for more clocks, and a noticeably louder cafeteria as students interacted more without devices.

MURDER CHARGE

Who: Alan Mellow, 33, of Monett
What: Is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of armed criminal action
More: Mellow being held in jail on no bond

Monett man charged with murder

Woman shot to death, infant suffers skull fracture

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A 33-year-old Monett man is being held in the Barry County jail on no bond after allegedly shooting a woman to death on Dec. 20 at an apartment complex in Monett.

Alan Mellow, 33, of Monett, is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of armed criminal action. According to a press release from Monett Police Chief George Daoud, the victim was identified as Hannah Lee Blizard, 30, of Monett.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Sgt. Scott Landreth, with the Monett Police Department, on Dec. 20, officers were dispatched to a shots fired call at the Fairway Apartments in Monett. While en route, they were advised a woman had been shot.

Cpl. Iannaccone arrived on the scene and observed a female on the ground near a Nissan passenger car, noting she appeared bloody and lifeless. Iannaccone spoke with a witness who said he saw a white male, whom he thought was named Alan, shoot the woman three times at close range, then went into an apartment with an infant.

Iannaccone, along with Barry County Sheriff's Office Deputies Calderon and Hightower, began evacuating the scene and clearing surrounding apartments, and while outside of the apartment identified by the witness, Iannaccone heard a male state, "My son will grow up without a dad."

Monett officers then summoned additional resources, including all its detectives and a Missouri State Highway Patrol special weapons and tactics team. Landreth said when he arrived on scene, Sgt. J. Givens, with the Patrol, was speaking to the suspect via telephone, ultimately convincing the suspect to surrender and turn the infant over to police.

The suspect, identified as Mellow, was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Barry County jail.

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NEWS BRIEFS

GoFundMe set up for Barry County deputy and his wife

A GoFundMe account has been set up on behalf of Barry County Deputy Ray Clevenger and his wife, Shawna, who is battling Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1, a rare and progressive neuromuscular disease. Between prolonged ICU care, long-term rehabilitation, constant travel and time away from work, the financial burden on the Clevengers has become immense. The GoFundMe has been created to help ease that burden so Ray can focus on being by Shawna's side and supporting their children during this difficult time. For more on Shawna's diagnosis and prognosis, and to donate to the Clevengers, people may visit <https://gofund.me/fa05fb16b>.

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, handmade 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 oat-transit.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.

Woman killed in Jeep rollover

Single-vehicle wreck on Saturday in Golden

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com
A woman was killed and a man seriously injured in a wreck at 12:57 p.m. Saturday

on Highway 86 in Golden. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 45-year-old male, of Eagle Rock, was driving a 2004 Jeep Wrangler westbound when his vehicle crossed over the center line, then overcorrected and went off the right side of the

roadway and overturned. A passenger in the vehicle, a 74-year-old female, of Shell Knob, was pronounced dead at the scene by Barry County Coroner Gary Swearingen at 2:40 p.m. The driver suffered serious injuries and was flown to

Mercy Hospital in Springfield. Neither of the occupants were wearing safety devices, and the vehicle was totaled. This is the 127th fatality of the year for Troop D of the patrol, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri, including Barry.

Ribbon cut at Flat Creek Mercantile



On Friday, Flat Creek Mercantile celebrated its membership to the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting. The business is located on the Cassville Square and open Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m., and Fridays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Front row, from left: Shannon Beemer, Chuck Miner, Tiffany Miner, Tad Miner co-owner, Joey Coffey co-owner, Kenzie Hancock and Kiley Stringer. Back row: James Beember, Amy Stephenson, Annette Hernderson, Shawn Scott, Gail LeCompte and Janet Mills. Contributed photo

Able 2 Products Company Recognizes Employee Service



Four employees of Able 2 Products Company in Cassville were recognized for milestone employment anniversaries at a company-wide meeting on December 16th. In business since 1972, Able 2 Products Company sells lights and accessories to police, emergency and utility markets under the SHO-ME trademark. Company vice-president Caleb Buntin awarded gifts and certificates of appreciation to the honorees. From left: Terri Henderson, 10 years; Amanda Mattingly, 20 years; Debbie Hess, 30 years; and Cindy Buntin, 40 years. Able 2 Products is located at 804 East Highway 248 in Cassville. Contributed photo



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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.

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Purdy City Council buys backhoe tires

Police chief warns of package delivery concerns

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the
Cassville Democrat

Routine business and crime reports were the order of the day for the Purdy City Council's Dec. 10 meeting.

Kevin Cook, public works foreman, received authorization to buy two 10-ply tires for the city's backhoe from Friendly Tire in Monett for \$460 each plus installation. Cook said if the backhoe worked in brush frequently, he'd prefer the more

expensive 12-ply tires, but his jobs are "almost always on pavement."

The city purchased new tires for the backhoe earlier in the year.

Water efficiency had risen to 77% in November.

Police Chief Jackie Lowe reported several incidents answered by the Barry County Sheriff's office in November, as well as mental health calls. Deputies took possession of a counterfeit \$100 bill that a customer tried to pass at the Dollar General store. Lowe said the owner claimed to have acquired it at a yard sale.

"There are no more reports [of counterfeit

bills] in the county," Lowe said. "It's that time of year. People are stealing packages around the area. I'm keeping an eye on all deliveries."

On Nov. 12, Lowe and a firefighter helped douse a car fire in the Country Corner mart, believed to have been started by an electrical arc. Lowe wrote a police report on a fraudulent check passed at the Purdy Farm Center, where a Carthage business purchased a large amount of feed with a check, only to close the bank account immediately thereafter. The case remains a civil matter, he said, but the Farm Center wanted a

police report.

Mayor Brian Bowers reported the Doty Trash Service reported plans to raise its rates by \$1.60 per month, up to \$14.10 per household, due to increased tipping fees. Doty has Purdy under contract for trash collection through July 2027.

Clerk Sasha Gomez reported the city office received two new tower computers from Dell that the council authorized in November after the old models no longer updated.

Bills were paid totaling \$32,654.02.

The next council meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. on Jan. 14.

Murder: Mellow allegedly admits to shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Monett Detectives Brown and Salazar processed the scene and released Blizard's body to Barry County Coroner Gary Swearingen, who pronounced her dead at the scene. The infant was transported to Cox Monett Hospital for evaluation, then due to suspicious injuries, transferred to Cox South Hospital in Springfield for further treatment, where it was determined the child had a skull fracture of as yet undetermined nature. The child was then transferred to a hospital in St. Louis.

A search of the apartment Mellow was in allegedly revealed a loaded Taurus PT809c semi-automatic handgun on the kitchen counter, along with a nylon type holster and spare 17-round magazine.

The weapon allegedly contained a partially expended 13-round magazine. That magazine had Winchester hollow point ammunition, and the 17-round magazine contained full metal jacketed rounds.

Landreth then went to the Barry County jail to interview Mellow, who after signing a written waiver of his Miranda rights, agreed to speak with Landreth, with Barry County Det. Abby Parsons also present.

According to Landreth's statement, Mellow said he and Blizard had recently had a child together and the Blizard "had a severe alcohol addiction he was trying to help her with."

"He said that [on Dec.

20] they were arguing about her alcohol use and the fact she had stolen coins from his coin collection, which he believed she used to purchase alcohol," Landreth's statement said. "He said [Blizard] decided to call her mother and leave with the child. Mellow said he would not allow that and decided to leave himself with the child.

"Mellow said he took [the infant] outside to his vehicle and was pursued by [Blizard]. He said he put [the infant] in the backseat of the vehicle and he got into the driver's side. [Blizard] went to the passenger side and got in to prevent him from leaving with [the infant]. Mellow said his handgun

was in the vehicle, and when [Blizard] got in, he shot her 'a couple of times' in the head."


Landreth said Mellow then disclosed he went to the passenger side of the vehicle and opened the door, intending to remove [Blizard] and leave her at the scene, but instead took [the infant] out of the vehicle and went back inside the apartment, where he was later contacted by Givens.

Landreth included in his statement that Mellow allegedly made several statements that he knew best what to do with [Blizard] and displayed deep distrust of law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Additionally, Mellow has

a past history of violent behavior, Landreth said.

Mellow's criminal history online shows multiple traffic and vehicular registration infractions, as well as charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, all in Cassville, Monett and surrounding areas.

Barry County
Health Corner



WIC services available at Barry County Health Department

The Barry County Health Department offers WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) services to clients that qualify. The WIC program is a supplemental nutritional program for women, children, and infants. Eligibility includes pregnant women, women breastfeeding their infant up to the infant's first birthday, and postpartum women up to 6 months. It also covers infants up to their 1st birthday and children through the age of 5 years. You must live in Missouri and the household income can be no more than 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines.

WIC offers a variety of foods including: milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, peanut butter, whole grains, fresh and frozen fruits/vegetables. It offers supplemental infant formula, infant cereals, and infant fruits/vegetables. WIC can offer an average monthly savings of \$60.00 per child.

A very vital part of WIC is offering nutritional education and support to our clients. We encourage our clients to participate in goal setting and discuss topics related to nutrition and activity. WIC believes that breastfeeding is best for the baby if possible and offers education and support through our program. Our nutritionists and Breastfeeding Coordinator can offer one-on-one counseling with new moms in order to promote a successful breastfeeding journey.

Please call The Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 to see if you qualify and make an appointment for certification.

Publisher's note: This article is courtesy of Barry County Health Department, located at 90 Barry County Drive in Cassville. The Department may be reached at 417-847-2114.




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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

It's a wrap

As 2025 comes to a close, we always take a look back at the top stories of the year in news and sports with our annual top 10s, but in this column, I'm divulging what caught the most attention from you — our readers.

The Top 10 selections on our news and sports fronts this week are determined solely by yours truly, with about a 75% focus on impact and a 25% focus on newsworthiness. Through that process, one of the first things I do is bring up our Google analytics, set the time period to Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 and have it show the top 100 most viewed stories on our website.

Through Monday, we've had 483,847 total page views, an average of more than 1,300 reads per day — pretty solid numbers considering we're based in a town of just over 3,000 and have a competing paper, as well.

Our home page always has the most views, more than 75,000 this year, but there is a peculiar No. 2 story this year. Our shortest story of the year — only 90 words long — was the second-most viewed page on our website. Unsurprisingly, it was the story on the death of Wesley Roller, changed with multiple sex crimes and ultimately taking his own life.

We generally don't report suicides, but in this instance, there was so much interest in Roller's case that reporting his death was unavoidable. We received a few requests for more information, such as the nature of the suicide and the location, but a rule of news writing is to say what needs to be said — nothing less and nothing more — and I believe that's what we did.

The No. 3 most viewed page was the news category, and No. 4 was obituaries, both on par with the norm. No. 5 was the original story on Roller's charges, and Nos. 6 and 7 were both obituaries, Noah Mills and Donavon Mitchell, respectively. The latter hit home for us personally, as Donavon is the uncle of our eldest daughter. I've learned over the years here that in small community newspapers, we are affected personally more often than our readers might think. That was a tough one.

Rounding out the top 10 most read stories was the Cassville police converging on a home on Oakhill Drive following a police chase (No. 8), a follow-up on additional charges on Roller (No. 9) and our sports category page (No. 10).

Beyond those, the story on Marvin Lance McCullough's identification following his alleged murder, a story on a local non-profit board member's alleged theft from the organization, the Amazon facility being built in Monett, a story on a Cassville woman being struck by a vehicle and a story on a former police officer being charged with child porn possession made up the next five most read.

In the top 100, crime stories dominate the analytics — almost always the case year by year.

Once analyzing the website analytics, I then go to Facebook and pull a report for the year, which is usually a bit more upbeat.

The No. 1 most-viewed post this year set a record for most views and most reach in my history at this publication. The video of Wesley Lowry's Homecoming proposal to Nevaeh Hall had a wide reach before we were able to post it, but when we were able to obtain the original video (many thanks to Nevaeh's aide that provided it), it absolutely went viral. That video has more than 2,200,000 views and is still garnering comments and views daily, months after it was posted.

We've been intentionally delving more into video this year, and the results show, as the next three top viewed posts were all reels. At No. 2 was the video of anglers casting their lines at the gun on Opening Day, garnering more than 738,000 views and hundreds of frankly hateful comments from west coast salmon fishermen who clearly do not understand the allure and magic of March 1 at Roaring River State Park.

No. 3 was also a Roaring River fishing reel, one I shot a week after Opening Day while fishing myself. That one got more than 150,000 views. No. 4 was a reel of Rodeo Queen Jayden Robbins, coming in at 130,000 views.

At No. 5 was a throwback story, my wife Jordan's series on the murder of Justin Hocutt, which we reposted by request and raked in nearly 120,000 views.

The first current news story to make the list came in at No. 6, the original post about McCullough's body being found. Nos. 7-10 included a video of Cassville Valedictorian Elizabeth Butler's speech, the post of Noah Mills' obituary and the story on the train-versus-semi wreck in Butterfield.

Sports-wise, the top Facebook story came in at No. 18, the reel of Ethan Sizemore celebrating his Barry County Brawl win by posing for a photo when I was taking video — an instant classic garnering almost 50,000 views. The Cassville softball team's state quarterfinal win over Southern Boone was the next sports story on the Facebook list, coming in at No. 20 with almost 40,000 views.

The website is a different beast. The first sports story to show up in the views ranking comes in at No. 69, the live update post for the Cassville-Reeds Spring district quarterfinal.

Looking back at what hit and what didn't is always a learning experience, and I'm taking lessons from this year's analytics into 2026 to hopefully deliver the kind of content you all enjoy.

Here's to 2025 and an even greater 2026!

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 ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com.

AMERICAN INSIGHTS

The greatness of Jimmy Carter

The train carrying the president-elect sped into Union Station at 3:45 p.m. To Woodrow Wilson's surprise, few people had gathered to welcome him to the nation's capital. The Washington Post reported, "It was a strange greeting for the man who is to rule the destinies of the nation for the next four years."

A crowd of only 500 awaited the former governor of New Jersey, a pitiful number for a man who had won the presidency just months before in one of the largest electoral landslides in history. Still, a "small but vociferous" crowd "made up in noise what they lacked in numbers."

The date was Monday, March 3, 1913, and it radiated with significance. Not only had the next president arrived in the capital, but the first organized political march in the nation's 137-year-old history was taking place on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Wilson's motorcade hastened to the Shoreham Hotel through a deserted city. Taking a backway, the entourage hoped to avoid "the more alluring spectacle" taking place just blocks away. Peering out the window, Wilson noticed that something important was missing. "Where are all the people?" he asked. "On the Avenue, watching the suffrage parade," came the reply.

Meanwhile, on the cold, marble steps of the Treasury Building, women stood barefoot and impatient, awaiting the product of months of tireless labor.

The plan had been simple enough. Clad in national colors and classical costumes, dozens of women would follow the trumpet's lead and emerge from the shadows of the towering columns. Descending on the plaza, the women would dance in tableaux meant to illustrate "those ideals toward which men and women have been struggling through the ages and toward which, in cooperation and equality, they will continue to strive."

Ten blocks up Pennsylvania Avenue, Alice Paul couldn't believe what she was seeing. The procession, five thousand marchers strong, was besieged by an unruly horde composed mostly of men and boys—many prejudiced, many just plain drunk, others just interested in the commotion.

Newspaper accounts would later grossly idealize the marching conditions. "Like modern Amazons marching on to battle," the Evening Star wrote of the spectacle, "the suffragists looked neither



DAKODA PETTIGRES

to the right nor left."

But the truth was much less stoic. "Women were spit upon, slapped in the face, tripped up, pelted with burning cigar stuns, and insulted by jeers and obscene language too vile to print or repeat," the Woman's Journal reported. One woman was trampled, a young girl struck in the face, and many more abused in myriad other ways.

Riding in a car near the front of the parade, Paul jumped out. Just twenty-eight and donning an academic robe adorned with medals from suffrage campaigns, she tried to carve a human furrow through which the women could safely continue. But her efforts were fruitless.

The police, many of whom looked on in amusement, were unable—even unwilling—to stop the madness that overtook the procession. Asked by a marcher why he was not protecting the women and dispersing the crowd, a policeman replied, "There would be nothing like this happening if you would stay at home."

Two horses struggled to pull a cart through the sea of spectators. The bannered float, the first of more than twenty, bore in large font the central message (and hope) of the parade. Referred to as the "Great Demand," it was simple yet provocative: "WE DEMAND AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ENFRANCHISING THE WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY." Toward the rear, the National Men's League for Women Suffrage marched under a banner that bore the timely words of Abraham Lincoln: "No country can exist half slave and half free."

"We march today to give evidence to the world of our determination that this simple act of justice be done," the official program declared. The women hoped to illustrate that Wilson, save in six states, had been elected by just half the taxed population. "We march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization

of society, from which women are excluded," excluded from, above all, the founding principle that just government is derived only from "the consent of the governed."

By holding the parade the day before the inauguration, the suffragists resolved, "What politicians had not been able to get through their minds, we would give them through their eyes—often a powerful substitute."

Just two thousand marchers out of the estimated five thousand completed the route and made the final hike to Memorial Continental Hall, the location of the official celebration. "We learned that what had happened was not a catastrophe but an unlooked-for blessing," Mary Foster, a marcher, recalled. "It would promote the cause of suffrage far more than any beautiful parade could do."

"I never was so proud in my life," Anna Howard Shaw said. "We have been living in unfreedom and in the shadow of fear," declared the novelist Mary Johnston. "But now, in our valley of shadow, the dawn begins to break."

Six years passed before the marchers' dream of a constitutional amendment securing equal suffrage was realized. Yet, in the face of setbacks and governmental recalcitrance, faith in the American ideals sustained them.

Giving his inaugural address on Tuesday, March 4, 1913, Wilson "sounded a high moral note," declaring that "the firm basis of government is justice."

Wilson did not mention equal suffrage, reflecting too well the tendency of the American struggle to see moral advances, however modest, lost by a failure to reinforce and amplify the best of the national soul when it matters most. Wilson eventually chose better, but one wonders what if he had chosen better then.

Regardless, Monday, March 3, 1913, was one of Robert Kennedy's "numberless diverse acts of courage" that shaped history—and ultimately for the best. It sent forth a tiny ripple of daring and hope and, as the currents swelled, generated the power to overcome the mighty obstacles holding America back from realizing her highest ideals.

Dakoda Pettigrew is a summa cum laude graduate of Liberty University with a Bachelor's of science in political science and history. Pettigrew's father went to school in Cassville, and he lives in Tennessee. He can be reached at pettigrewdakoda6@gmail.com.

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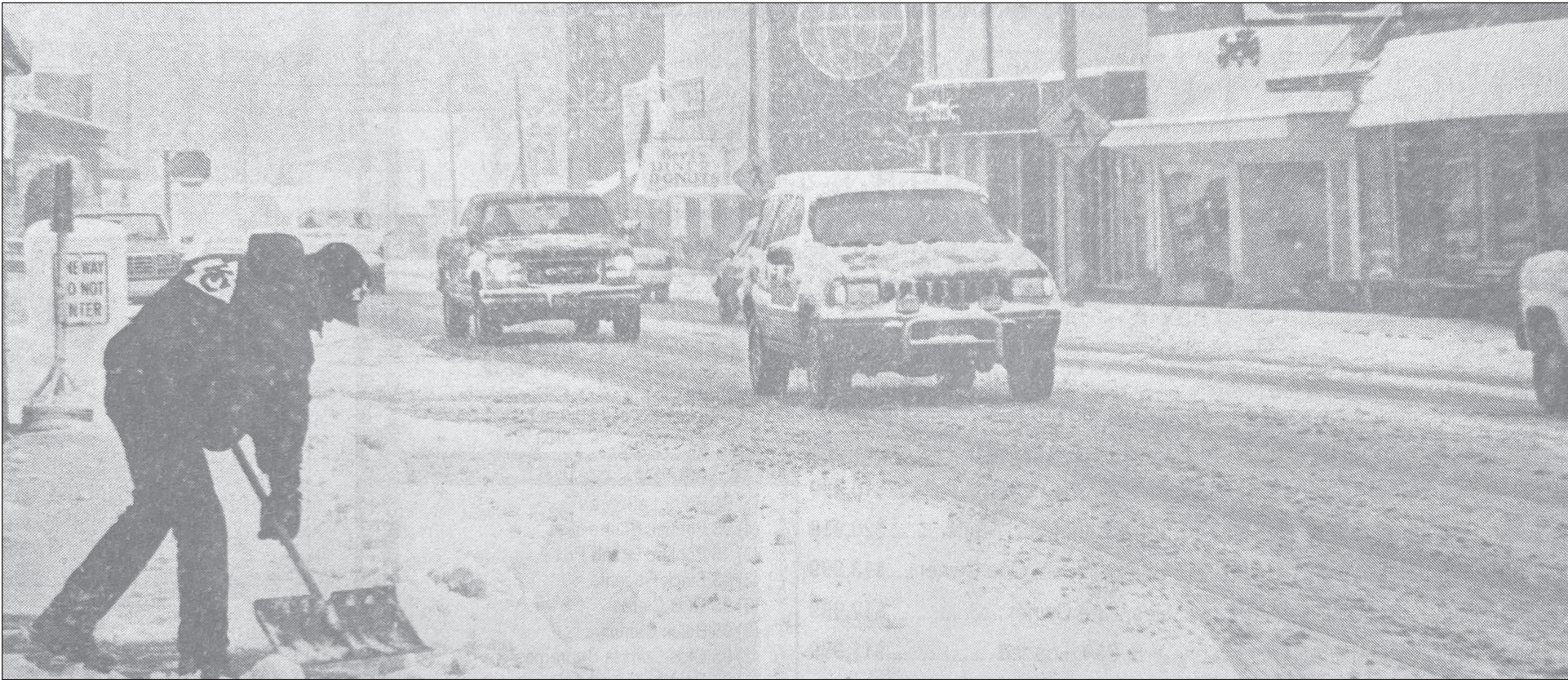
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30 YEARS AGO: SNOW BLANKETS DOWNTOWN CASSVILLE TUESDAY MORNING — Six to eight inches of snow fell in parts of Barry County following continuous snowfall from late Monday night through Tuesday afternoon. In the photo above, an area youth shovels a Main Street sidewalk as vehicles pass through downtown Cassville. After the holiday vacation, local school districts canceled classes Tuesday and Wednesday. As of Wednesday morning, no serious accidents had been reported. Forecasters warned southwest Missouri could receive freezing rain Thursday evening through Friday. Democrat file photo

50 years ago

Jan. 7, 1976
– **EAGLE ROCK AND GOLDEN COMBINE PROMOTION EFFORT**
The Eagle Rock Booster’s Association and Golden Circle Shores Association voted to merge into the Eagle Rock-Golden Association to coordinate promotion and tourism efforts around Table Rock Lake. Officers from the Eagle Rock group will serve during the first year. The association plans to continue established community events while expanding joint promotional activities, including an auto-van show scheduled for April.
– **STATE WOULD CONDEMN LOTS AT ROARING RIVER**
The State of Missouri filed action in Barry County Circuit Court seeking to condemn two privately owned lots inside Roaring River State Park. The land, owned by Roy and Maxine Edmondson, is currently leased for a tackle and supply business. If approved, commissioners would set the land’s value, which the state could accept or reject.

– **TEACHING AWARD**
Mrs. Mabel Hilburn of Jenkins received the Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America award and was listed in Who’s Who in Missouri Education for 1975. A second-grade teacher at Wheaton R-3 School, Hilburn was recognized for her dedication to education.
– **SECOND GRADERS HEARD FROM WHITE HOUSE**
Cassville second graders in Miss Sheryl Fraley’s class received a reply from President Gerald Ford after sending a Bicentennial greeting card. The president praised their patriotism and civic pride, concluding the letter with a

reproduction of his signature.

40 years ago

Jan. 8, 1986
– **CASSVILLE CASE BEFORE STATE SUPREME COURT JANUARY 17**
A legal battle over whether residents of a Cassville subdivision can restrict land use is scheduled for Missouri Supreme Court arguments Jan. 17. The dispute involves Wildwood Estates residents and the Barry-Lawrence Association for Retarded Citizens, which purchased a home for use as a group residence. Residents sought to block the use based on subdivision covenants limiting property to single-family residences. After multiple court actions and appeals, the Southern District Court of Appeals transferred the case to the Supreme Court due to its broader implications and a new law allowing group homes of eight or fewer residents in single-family zones. The key issue is whether the law applies retroactively to existing covenants, a decision that could affect similar cases statewide.
– **SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS 1985 HELPED 200 FAMILIES THROUGHOUT AREA**
More than 200 families received assistance through the Share Your Christmas program in Barry County, according to Volunteer Coordinator Dottie Davis. The effort provided food, clothing, toys and quilts, with 52 children in special families receiving full Christmas gift lists and new clothing. Cash donations totaled \$2,289.30, the highest since the program began, supplemented by profits from The Second Act. Food baskets went to 156 families, clothing and toys were distribut-

ed to 129 families, and volunteers produced 37 quilts. Community participation from churches, businesses and individuals was described as outstanding.
– **LADY WILDCATS UPSET MONETT, RECORD AT 5-3**
Cassville’s Lady Wildcats pulled off a 42-41 upset over Monett as Debbie King hit two late free throws and her sister Shannon King scored 24 points. Coach Martha Faucett said the comeback win lifted Cassville to a 5-3 record, with the team hitting 20 of 21 free throws. Monett, the defending state champions, fell to 8-2. Cassville’s junior varsity lost 51-19. The Lady Wildcats’ next home game is Feb. 6 against Lamar.

– **COUNTY BIRD COUNT CONDUCTED OVER HOLIDAYS**
Ten participants recorded 2,990 individual birds of 58 species during the 1985 Barry County Christmas Bird Count, according to coordinator Merle Rogers. New species included hooded mergansers, ring-billed gulls and a prairie falcon. Bald eagles increased significantly, while some species declined or were absent. The count was conducted by volunteers from Cassville, Monett and surrounding communities.

30 years ago
Jan. 3, 1996
– **WINTER SNOWSTORM STRIKES COUNTY HARD**
Area students received two extra days of vacation this week thanks to a winter storm that covered Barry County with over seven inches of snow on Tuesday. Both Barry and Lawrence counties seemed to be the hardest hit areas in southwest Missouri. More than 100 Carroll Electric Co-op customers lost

power Tuesday after snow-weighted branches dipped down onto power lines. Scattered power outages in southern portions of the county were still being reported late Tuesday. Despite slippery roads, no major accidents have occurred in southwest Missouri’s Troop D region over the past two days, according to Sgt. Terry Moore with the Missouri Highway Patrol. He said officers did respond to calls from about 50 motorists who slid off the road and worked about 20 minor accidents. Winds combined with continual snowfall caused drifting of a foot or more, keeping area road crews busy around the clock since around midnight Tuesday. Ray Mayfield with the Missouri Highway Department said 10 trucks and two motor graders were clearing roads throughout the county, using salt, sand and chemicals to de-ice roads. Cassville City Administrator Greg Beavers said the city’s one snow plow had been used constantly on city-maintained roads and a backhoe was used to clear snow around the square and on-street parking in the downtown business district. Beavers said the city’s spreader broke down, leaving crews unable to apply a salt or cinders until a replacement part arrives Friday. The National Weather Service warned another system could bring freezing rain late Thursday night or early Friday, with temperatures dropping into the teens over the weekend. The storm also resulted in numerous basketball game cancellations, with schools to reschedule games once classes resume.

– **PLANS FOR PARK’S NEW LODGE NEED TO BE “WHITTLED DOWN”**

The Division of State Parks has begun looking at ways to reduce the scope of the proposed lodge complex at Roaring River State Park, according to Division Director Doug Eiken. Based on construction bids, project costs must be reduced by \$1 million. Seven bids opened Nov. 30 all exceeded the state’s estimated cost of \$3,515,000 by at least \$1 million, and the 30-day deadline to award a bid passed, rejecting all bids by default. Eiken said the state hopes to re-bid the project by late spring so construction could begin in summer, adding that alternative funding sources are being discussed but cost reductions are preferred. Possible savings include reducing the number of rooms, raising the building elevation to reduce site preparation costs or using less expensive exterior materials. No specific changes have been finalized, and modifications will be made upon advice of architects and engineers. Funds were reappropriated this year, giving the department another year and a half to complete the project. The lodge concept was first presented in February 1992 and called for a 47,000-square-foot complex on a 3.5-acre site with a store, restaurant and 26 guest rooms, at a projected cost of \$3.2 million to \$3.6 million. The site will remain on the hill above the current motel, with the superintendent’s residence demolished to make room. The old motel and restaurant will be removed after construction is complete.

– **BLUNT KICKS OFF CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN WITH VISIT TO BARRY COUNTY**

Roy Blunt visited Cassville Thursday to announce his candidacy for Congress during a 15-county campaign swing, drawing about 20 people to the Barry County Courthouse. The former Missouri secretary of state is seeking to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Mel Hancock in the 7th District. The Southwest Baptist University president was joined by his wife, Roseann, daughter Amy and son Andy. Blunt, a Republican, spoke about focusing on fiscal responsibility and the difficult choices facing Congress, citing his experience in private business and county and state government. He is expected to face Gary Nodler in the Republican primary. Blunt served eight years as secretary of state and 12 years as Greene County clerk and lost the GOP primary for governor in 1992. He plans to remain president of SBU during the campaign.

– **PIPE BOMB EXPLODES; DESTROYS RURAL MAILBOX**

Three juveniles were arrested last week for allegedly setting off a pipe bomb in a rural mailbox about two and a half miles from Seligman. Barry County Sheriff Ralph Hendrix said two 16-year-olds and a 13-year-old were turned over to juvenile officers and later confessed. The juveniles were also questioned about recent bomb threats at Southwest School. The mailbox was destroyed, and deputies found a magazine on bomb-making during searches of the juveniles’ homes. Hendrix said the juveniles were also responsible for tearing down 15 to 18 stop signs in the Seligman area.

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Tinsel is an adorable mixed breed pup. Her date of birth is Nov. 1, 2025. Her sister has already found a home, and she would love to have her own home soon. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheoazarks.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



SHARON KAY LOMBARD

Sharon Kay Lombard, age 86, of Wheaton, Missouri passed away on Wednesday December 24, 2025 in Monett, Missouri. Kay Stewart, better known as Nanan by family and friends, was born on August 18, 1939, in Stella, Missouri to Tom and Ava Stewart. On December 21, 1957, she was united in marriage to Bob Lombard and had a beautiful marriage of 59 years. Surviving are one son, Lindy Lombard and his wife Debbie of Wheaton; two grandsons, Stuart Lombard and Brittany Pinnell of Wheaton and Taylor Lombard and his wife Kerstin of Republic.

She is also survived by her great grandchildren, Maliah Lombard, Brix Lombard, Louise Maddox, Ava Lombard, Carter Lombard, and Bentley Pinnell. Preceding her in death were her parents and husband, Bob. Kay graduated from Wheaton High School in 1957. She worked at the Wheaton Journal for several years and worked with her husband Bob at Shelter Insurance in Wheaton for 42 years until their retirement in 2002. Kay was alongside Bob in his 62 years with the Wheaton Volunteer Fire Department and was one of the department's biggest and most loyal supporters until her passing. She always called the guys on the department "her boys" and always made sure Lindy kept her updated on new volunteers and their radio badge numbers so she could know who was on the scanner. Kay volunteered throughout the years in many organizations including the Wheaton Senior Citizens, Wheaton Housing Authority, Wheaton School Booster

Club, Barry County Meals on Wheels, Newtonia Battlefield Quilters Guild, and Canasta Sisterhood. She was a loyal and active member of the Wheaton United Methodist Church for over 70 years. Services were held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Reverend Bob Howard and Reverend Roger McKee conducted the services. Burial will be at Muncie Chapel Cemetery in Wheaton, Missouri. The family received friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Monday at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Contributions may be made to Wheaton United Methodist Church Memorial Fund in memory of Kay.

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EDITH "ALENE" SWADLEY

Edith "Alene" Swadley, 85, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Thursday, December 25, 2025 at Mercy Hospital in Aurora, Mo. She was born January 17, 1940, in Cassville, Mo., the daughter of Fred and Hazel (Williams) Sanders, who preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death was her grandson, Brandon Drake; brothers, Leon, Dick, Virgil, Donnie and Eldon and two sisters

Joreen and Karolyn. Survivors include her husband, Gene Swadley; her sons, Robert Wolf and wife Sheila of Eagle Rock, Jerry Swadley and wife Casey of Monett and Dwight Swadley of Republic; daughters, Jeanie Shearer and husband Joe of Fairview and Carla Lowe and husband Nathan of Neosho; 12 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; four great-great-grandsons and two great-great-granddaughters. She grew up and attended school in Cassville, graduating from Cassville High School in 1957. She was employed by U.S. Shoe, Jumping Jacks and Justin Boot for several years later taking on the responsibilities of bookkeeper and president of A-G Construction, Incorporated, from where she retired. She had lived here her entire life. She was a founding member and was very active in Cassville Cruisers. Services are currently pending. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of Alene.

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JERRY FRANCIS OLSON

Jerry Francis Olson, passed away at home near Golden, Mo., on December 23, 2025. He was born May 8, 1939, in Crofton, Neb., to Sally (Ramold) and Clarence Olson who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death was his beloved wife, Mary Lou (Cuba) five months prior, and his infant sister, Judy. Survivors include his sons: Steven (Angie) of Omaha, Neb.; Thomas (Charlotte) of Boerne, Texas; David (Suzanne) of Conway, Ark.; and Edward (Sara) of Ozark,

Mo; siblings, Joan Roche (Richard, dec.) of Butte, Mont., and James (Nancy) of Mishawaka, Ind.; sisters-in-law, Celeste of Chesterfield, Mo., Elaine (Chuck) of Marietta, Ga., Patrice of Athens, Ga., and Julie (Nick) of Humble, Texas; 11 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Sister-in-law, Janet Brooks and Robert Cuba preceded him in death. His early years were spent in Sioux City, where he attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and Bishop Heelan Catholic High School. He was active in scouting, the high school yearbook. He began his college studies at Creighton University before joining the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in England. He and Mary Lou were active members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and was recognized as a distinguished volunteer with being bestowed with the Silver Beaver award. He worked for USAA and continued his involvement in Scouts and the Knights of Columbus. Upon retirement, Jerry and Mary Lou moved to Southwest Missouri, building a home on Table Rock Lake near Golden. A funeral mass of Christian burial will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Arrangements are currently pending. Jerry and Mary Lou will be interred together at Resurrection Cemetery in Omaha. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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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 EFSCO 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 was 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 conducted the services. Burial was 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.

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Mary Viscioni • Pea Ridge, Ark. • Nov. 21, 1961–Dec. 19, 2025
Steven Quade Sr. • Shell Knob • July 12, 1942–Dec. 22, 2025
Cody Archibald • Exeter • April 9, 1976–Dec. 24, 2025
Leonard Fowler • Holiday Island, Ark. • Oct. 29, 1930–Dec. 18, 2025
Leslie Gryder • Golden • Nov. 18, 1953–Dec. 18, 2025
Violet "Muti" Shaw • Eagle Rock • March 4, 1932–Dec. 25, 2025
Delores Flathers • Shell Knob • Oct. 28, 1936–Dec. 26, 2025

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Gracie Gray, left, and Sterling Zucca perform during Thursday's concert at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/
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Jarrett Paul plays bass in the Wildcat Jazz Band during Thursday's concert at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Aubrey Conrad plays the tubular bells during a Wildcat Pride Concert Band performance at the Performing Arts Center on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Jacie Hudson plays piano in the Wildcat Jazz Band during a Christmas-themed performance at the Performing Arts Center at Cassville High School on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Caiden Edie smiles as he plays bells during Thursday's Wildcat Jazz Band concert at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cooper Phillips brought the soul on bass trombone during a solo performance at Thursday's Wildcat Jazz Band concert at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/
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Timothy Cash performs “What’s Up?” by the 4 Non Blondes during a talent show at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Caira Boise sings “Let it Snow” during a talent show at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Elizabeth Whiteley sings “Here Comes a Thought” by Steven Universe during a talent show at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Samantha Baugus performs “Losing Streak” during a talent show at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CS Bank announces Shumaker appointment to Advisory Board of Directors for Missouri

Charlie Cross, CEO of CS Bank, has announced the appointment of Mark Shumaker to the bank’s Advisory Board of Directors. Shumaker, a lifelong resident of Barry County, owned and operated Shumaker Tire in Golden from 1982 until his retirement in 2024. He and his wife, Jennifer, together have four daughters and six grandchildren.



SCHUMAKER

“We are thrilled to add someone of Mark’s caliber to our Southwest Missouri Advisory Board of Directors,” Cross said. “His extensive business experience and knowledge of the local area will serve our company well

for the foreseeable future. We feel blessed to garner his affiliation and welcome him into the CS Bank family.” CS Bank is a \$620 million financial institution with more than 100 employees and seven full-service locations throughout Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri, with additional expansion in Missouri in the works.

Purdy man injured in semi crash

Vehicles collide at intersection of Hwys. 37, C

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com
A Purdy man was injured on Dec. 22 in a wreck at 5:08 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 37 and Highway C in

Purdy. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 69-year-old male, of Purdy, was driving a 1998 Ford Expedition west-bound when his vehicle failed to yield to a 2003 Kenworth, being driven by a 27-year-old male, of Monett.

The Purdy man suffered serious injuries and was transported to Cox South Hospital in Springfield. The Monett man was not injured. It is unknown if either driver was wearing a safety device. The Ford was totaled, and the Kenworth sustained moderate damage.

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The family of Nick Slinkard would like to thank all those who brought food, sent cards, prayers and love. A special thank you to Pastor Jerry Nickle, Brother Dayton Brattin, and Pastor Donnie Spears.

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WILDCATS WRESTLING

What: Competed in Harrisonville Christmas Tournament
Results: One champion, two runners-up, one third place; team took third
More: Myers takes first place at 190 with pin in championship

Wildcats reach new heights at Harrisonville

Myers wins 190-pound bracket, pair of Wildcats take second

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com
The Cassville boys wrestling team put on a program-best third-place performance at the Harrisonville Christmas Tournament on Dec. 19 and 20, with multiple Wildcats bringing home medals.

Leading the way in the results was Zachary Myers at 190 pounds, who finished in first place with a pin of Pacific's Jordan Krumrey 1:45 into in the title bout. Myers wrestled six total matches at the tournament, getting four pins, a technical fall and one decision.

Two Wildcats finished as runners up in their respective brackets, Tristan Thompson at 165 pounds and Colton Roark at 175 pounds. Thompson lost a 9-7 decision in the title bout against Marlow's Clint Ladon, and Roark was pinned by Helias Catholic's Eli Homan in 1:29. It was the first loss of the season in more than 20 matches for each of the wrestlers.

At 150 pounds, Bradyn

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

LADY WILDCATS WRESTLING

What: Participated in 2025 Lady Mustangs Christmas Clash
Results: One runner up, one third-place finish
Next up: Team finished 14th out of 20

2 medal at Christmas Clash

Lady Wildcats compete in McDonald County tourney

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com
Two Lady Wildcats brought home pre-Christmas gifts in the form of medals at the 2025 Lady Mustangs Christmas Clash.

Allison Deaver, at 110 pounds, earned the best placement of the day for Cassville, taking second place after falling to Warrensburg's Kendra Oswald in 1:12. It was the second loss to Oswald on the day, as she pinned Deaver in round two in 2:31. In Deaver's other four matches, she pinned each of her opponents in less than 2 minutes.

Also medaling was Analeigh Winchell at 155 pounds, taking third place. Winchell pinned each of her first three opponents before being pinned by Southeast Polk's Skylar Slade in 39 seconds. However, Winchell bounced back in the bronze medal bout with a pin of Ste. Genevieve's Aniston Cremer in 1:37.

Anna Vanderhoef rounded out the top-six finishers for Cassville, taking fourth place at 145 pounds. As a team, the Lady Wildcats finished 14th out of 20 total teams.

Full results include:

105: Isabella Bauman (11-3) placed 8th and scored 6.0 team points.

• Round 1 - Isabella Bauman 11-3 won by fall over Natalie Hernandez (Kickapoo) 8-8 (Fall 2:47)

• Round 2 - Isabella Bauman 11-3 won by fall over Valentina Valasquez (Hickman) 3-5 (Fall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

TOP 10 SPORTS STORIES OF 2025

Softball Final Four, state wrestling results top sports stories of year

1



Cassville softball reaches first Final Four

For the first time in school history, the Cassville Lady Wildcats advanced to the Class 3 Final Four, defeating Southern Boone 2-0 in the quarterfinals behind a dominant outing from pitcher Aubrey Stoufer. The historic run energized Wildcat Nation and marked a major milestone for the program under Coach Jordan Savage. Cassville ultimately finished fourth after falling to Doniphan in the semifinals and Macon in the third-place game, but the experience signaled new heights for the Lady Wildcats' softball legacy.

2



Roark wins state wrestling title, 6 wrestlers medal

Cassville's Colton Roark captured the Class 2 165-pound state wrestling championship, pinning his final opponent with a spladle to earn top honors at the MSHSAA State Tournament. Roark led a strong showing as six of nine Cassville wrestlers brought home medals, including Tristan Thompson in third and other Wildcats placing across various weight classes. The team's depth and determination were clear at Missouri Arena, showcasing a program on the rise.

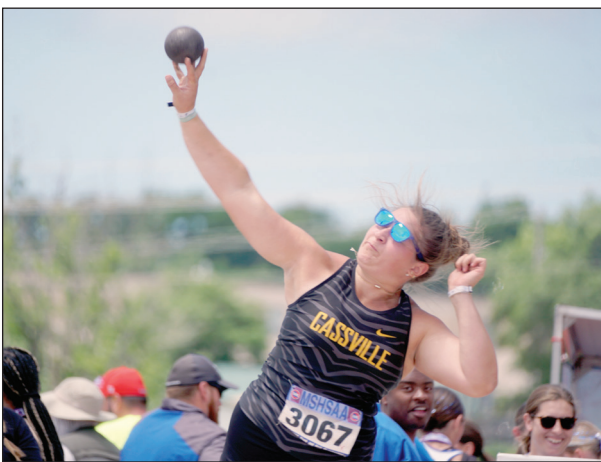
3



Wildcats reach district title football game

The Cassville football team battled their way into the Class 3, District 6 championship game — their first title appearance since 2020 — highlighted by a hard-fought semifinal win over Mt. Vernon. The Wildcats fell to eventual Class 3 state champion Seneca in the title bout, finishing their season at 8-4, again the most wins since the 2020 season. For their efforts, multiple Wildcats earned All-State honors.

4



Franklin double medals at track state

Cassville track standout Franklin notched double medals at the state meet, delivering impressive performances in both shot put and discus to secure fifth- and eighth-place finishes, respectively. The senior said she was most proud of the discus finish and breaking the school record in that event earlier in the year. The last medal for the Cassville girls track team was the 4x800 relay team in 2023.

5



Purdy wins district softball title, SWCL titles

Purdy Softball enjoyed a banner 2025 season, claiming the SouthWest Central League regular-season crown, tournament championship, and a district title — its first district title since the program's 2021 state run. Coach Lori Videmschek lauded her youthful squad's resilience and growth, noting how they matured and executed in key situations. The Lady Eagles capped their campaign with an impressive 10-game win streak and multiple big wins during postseason play.

6



Cassville girls win Southwest Holiday tournament

Cassville's girls basketball team captured the Southwest Holiday Tournament crown, navigating a competitive field of area teams over the holiday break. The Lady Wildcats displayed balanced scoring, tenacious defense, and effective team play throughout the event, thrilling fans and setting a strong tone for the rest of the season. Their success at the tournament underscored Cassville's depth and commitment to excellence on the hardwood.

7



Cassville hires Mike Ray as boys basketball coach

Cassville High School named Mike Ray as the new head boys basketball coach for the 2025-2026 season. Bringing 26 years in education and 16 years of head coaching experience, Ray joined the Wildcats eager to build on Cassville's tradition of competitive basketball. He emphasized his commitment to developing players' skills, grit, and discipline both on and off the court, while also teaching at the district's Success Academy.

8



Southwest, Purdy play baseball at Arvest Ballpark

In a unique spring outing, Purdy and Southwest high school baseball teams took the field at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale, Ark. Playing at the Double-A stadium — a rare opportunity for both programs — players from both schools enjoyed the experience of a bigger venue and quality playing surface. Purdy emerged with a 7-2 victory, and athletes from both squads soaked in the special atmosphere of the minor-league park.

9



Mighty Mites reorganizes board

The Mighty Mites youth football program completed a reorganization of its board for the upcoming season, ensuring local volunteers and leaders were in place to guide operations. The group focused on strengthening organizational structure, improving communication, and enhancing the experience for youth players and families alike. The move set the stage for continued growth and stability in one of the area's popular youth sports organizations.

10



Wildcats win in Nevada for first time since 2020

Cassville football snapped a drought with a big road victory at Nevada, prevailing 27-20 in a hard-fought Class 3 matchup. The win, highlighted by key offensive drives and clutch plays, marked Cassville's first victory in Nevada since 2020. Senior standouts and strategic execution helped the Wildcats secure the hard-earned road triumph, boosting morale and fortifying their playoff positioning late in the season.



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

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
2/13	Mt. Vernon	Away	7:15 pm

Girls Basketball

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
2/20	Nevada	Home	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

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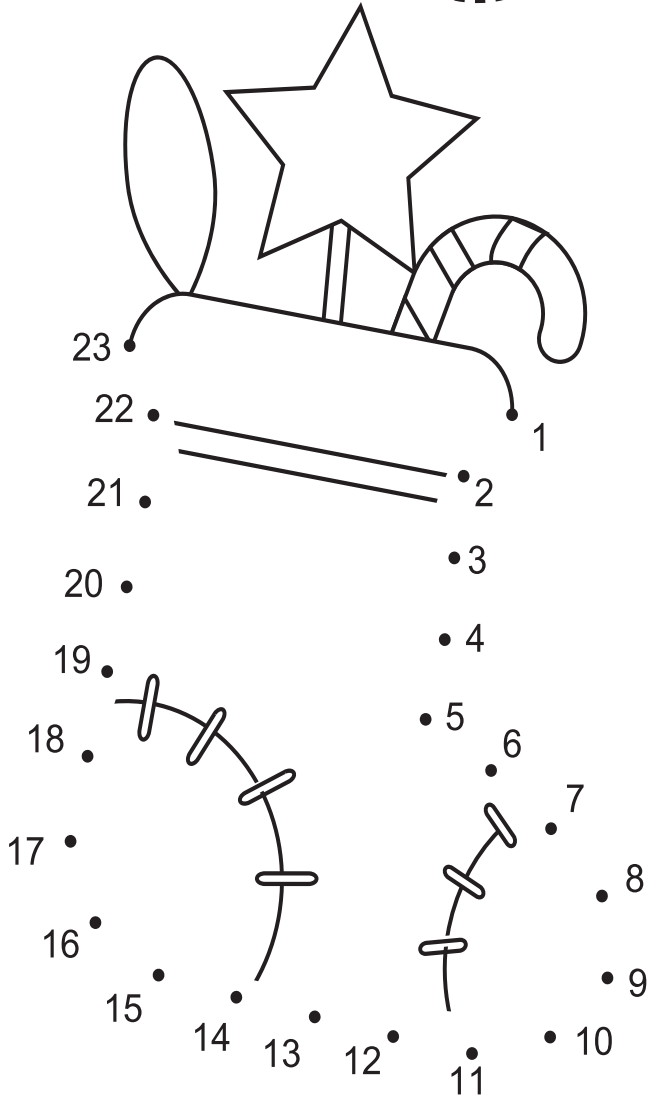
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A: Don't worry, I've got you covered.

JUST kidding

Q: What goes up when the rain comes down?

A: An umbrella.

JUST kidding

Q: Why should you take a pencil to bed?

A: To draw the curtains.



For the up-and-coming artist



Amazing maze

Which route will take the cat to his Christmas present?



Sudoku 6 x 6

1				3	
				5	
	2	3	6		
	5		2	4	
	3				1
		6			4

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- a number can only appear once per column

- a number can only appear once in each box of 6 squares

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1	9	5	7	8	2
3	7	2	1	5	9
5	1	9	3	2	4
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2	3	4	5	9	1

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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The effects of Jesus’ birth

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14.
“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6.
I believe we all need to pause for a moment and take a hard look at how the birth of Jesus has and is affecting us. Have we become numb to the joy and excitement of Jesus’ birth? Sunday night, the 21st, we talked about the effects of Jesus’ birth on us. While we were doing our Bible study, my granddaugh-



DONNIE SPEARS

ter, who had just turned 1 was walking up and down the center aisle looking at and smiling at everyone. There was a friend of mine in the crowd who texted me this Christmas evening.
“I’ve been thinking about the statement the other night at church. How has the birth affected us? I watched that sweet little baby walking

around and everywhere she went people would smile. Hearts filled with joy. She lit up the sanctuary like a Christmas tree. I’m not sure we fully possess the ability to comprehend how the birth of Christ should affect us. I have no doubt she warmed hearts everywhere she went. I do know if the birth of Christ doesn’t affect us we are in deep trouble.”
As I thought about the words he told me, I began to think about Joseph and Mary.
Luke 1:26-38 tells us how Mary’s whole life was turned upside down, yet she chose to trust God and follow God’s leading regardless of the outcome.
Matthew 1:18-25 tells us how Joseph was led by God to change his mind and accept

the plans God had for him, even though he was going to catch a lot of slack from others.
Luke 2:8-20 tells how some common shepherds’ lives were changed at the birth of Jesus; they left their flocks and went and saw the baby Jesus, then told everyone what they were told and had seen.
Matthew 2:1-12 tells how three wise men from a different country left everything to go and look for the baby Jesus, and when they found Him, they fell to their knees and worshiped the baby Jesus, then gave Him gifts of great value.
How has the birth of Jesus affected you, or should I ask, does the birth still affect you? Does the birth of Jesus

cause you to trust and follow, change your plans for the plans of God, make you want to go and tell about all Jesus has done for you, or how about to leave everything behind to look for and worship Jesus and to give Him your very best?
So the question is, how is the birth of Jesus changing you? As my friend texted me, “If the birth of Christ doesn’t affect us we are in deep trouble.”
I want to say thank God for the greatest gift of all your Son Jesus Christ the Lord.

Donnie Spears is the pastor at Corinth Baptist Church near Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-4165.

BIBLE VERSE:

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”
— JOHN 1:11

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the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 20, towns p 25-range 25, Barry county, Missouri, except any part taken or used for roads As yet forth in the Deed Of Trust recorded in Barry County Recorder of Deeds, Book 24, Page 4015, Instrument No. G24-152227, and fully incorporated herein by reference.
Said property is claimed under homestead rights and is hereby withdrawn from all presumptions of abandonment. This claim is for the protection and preservation of said property for the benefit of my family, heirs, and assigns.
This notice is published in accordance with homestead/land patent requirements.
Dated this 26 day of November, 2025.
Jeffrey Buchanan
1st insertion 12/17/25
49-52

ANNUAL MEETING FOR FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEWTON COUNTY

The Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Newton County will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, January 31 at 2:00 pm at the office of the secretary.
The business of the meeting will include the election of directors and such other business that may properly come before the meeting.
Lisa Scott, Secretary
1st Insertion 12/24/25
50-51

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI
At Cassville

TRAVIS K. MCCLURE, Petitioner,
vs.
MAGALI E. MCCLURE, Respondent.
Case No.
25BR-DR00193

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to Magali E. McClure, Respondent:
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of the County of Barry, State of Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage for which affects the division of personal property and custody of children.
The names of all parties to the said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for petitioner is Fares H. Masri, 405 Broadway, P.O. Box 151, Monett, MO 65708.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within forty-five (45) days after the 24th day of December 2025, judgment by default will be rendered against you.
It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in The *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the

County of Barry, State of Missouri.
Witness my hand and seal of the Circuit Court, State of Missouri, the 17th day of December 2025.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
By Katie CORREIA/DC
First Publication:
DECEMBER 24, 2025
Second Publication:
DECEMBER 31, 2025

Third Publication:
JANUARY 07, 2026
Fourth Publication:
JANUARY 14, 2026
1st insertion 12/24/25
50-1

NOTICE

Notice of Offices for Which Candidates are to be Nominated
at the August 4, 2026 Primary Election
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to persons wishing to file a declaration of candidacy to appear as a candidate for nomination at the primary election that filing will open on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and will continue until Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Filing for the following offices will take place in the office of the Honorable Denny Hoskins, CPA, Missouri Secretary of State, in the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center at 600 West Main Street in Jefferson City, Missouri:
State Auditor
Representatives in Congress for each Congressional District (8)
Members of the House of Representatives in each Legislative District (163)
FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that filing for the following offices will take place in the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, in Cassville, Missouri, at the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street Suite 2, Cassville, Missouri.
Random drawing (first day only): For the first day only, a random number will be selected to determine placement on the primary ballot, per 115.395.2, RSMo Supp. 1997. After the first day, order of filing determines placement on the primary ballot, per 115.395.2, RSMo Supp. 1997. On the first day of

filing, candidates will draw a number after they have provided the documents required for filing. The number drawn will appear on the declaration of candidacy.
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Township Committeeman
Township Committeewoman
Ash, Butterfield, Capps Creek, Crane Creek, Exeter, Flat Creek City, Flat Creek Rural, Jenkins, Kings Prairie, Liberty, McDonald, McDowell, Mineral, Monett #1, Monett #2, Monett #4, Ozark, Purdy, Pleasant Ridge, Roaring River, Shell Knob, Sugar Creek, Washburn, Wheaton, White River #1, White River #2.

In addition, such offices as become vacant by expiration of term, by death or resignation of incumbent, or vacant for any cause, and which under the law, should be filled at the General Election to be held November 3, 2026.
CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS

Notice of Voter Registration Accessibility
FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that at least one-half of the sites provided for voter registration shall be accessible to handicapped persons (RSMo 115.140). In addition, a disabled or elderly citizen may register to vote by alternative means including registration by mail, and curbside registration.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND VOTING:
Persons may contact their local election authority by telephone at 417-847-2561 or by mail at Barry County Clerk 700 Main, Ste 2 Cassville MO 65625
The Missouri Secretary of State's office provides a toll-free number for persons with hearing impairments who have access to a

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD users may call 800-669-8683 to obtain information on voter registration, polling place location and accessibility, absentee balloting, and other election-related services available in their local jurisdictions and from the State of Missouri.
CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS
Given under my hand and official seal at the Capitol in the City of Jefferson, State of Missouri, this 15th day of December, A.D., 2025.
Denny Hoskins, CPA Secretary of State
I, Joyce Ennis, County Clerk (Directors of Election) with-in and for the county (city) of Barry do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct list as certified to me by
DENNY HOSKINS, CPA, Secretary of State, State of Missouri, of the offices for which candidates are to be nominated or elected at the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held August 4, 2026.
Only insertion 12/31/25
51

PUBLIC NOTICE

Barry County will hold the 2026 budget hearing January 15, 2026 at 9 a.m. in the commission room-clerk's office at the Barry County courthouse, located at 700 Main St. in Cassville.
Only insertion 12/31/25
51

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

Lady Wildcats: Bauman takes eighth place at Christmas Clash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B
0:23)
• Round 3 - Isabella Bauman 11-3 won by fall over Natalie Mata (Parkview) 4-5 (Fall 3:37)
• Quarterfinal - Lillian Moore (Branson) 8-4 won by fall over Isabella Bauman 11-3 (Fall 0:30)
• Cons. Round 2 - Kylee Cunningham (Holt) 15-9 won by tech fall over Isabella Bauman 11-3 (TF-1.5 3:29 (18-2))
• 7th Place Match - Natalie Hernandez (Kickapoo) 8-8 won by fall over Isabella Bauman 11-3 (Fall 2:24)
110: Allison Deaver (15-5) placed 2nd and scored 28.0 team points.
• Round 1 - Allison Deaver 15-5 won by fall over Emily Childress (Parkview) 4-5 (Fall 1:43)
• Round 2 - Kendra Oswald (Warrensburg) 8-4 won by fall over Allison Deaver 15-5 (Fall 2:31)
• Round 3 - Allison Deaver 15-5 won by fall over Isabella James (Waynesville) 4-12 (Fall 1:45)
• Quarterfinal - Allison Deaver 15-5 won by fall over Abby Vogt (Ste. Genevieve) 8-6 (Fall 1:59)
• Semifinal - Allison Deaver 15-5 won by fall over Gianna Garcia (Kickapoo) 3-2 (Fall 1:30)
• 1st Place Match - Kendra Oswald (Warrensburg) 8-4 won by fall over Allison Deaver 15-5 (Fall 1:12)
125: Gracey Farsungchin (2-9) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
• Round 1 - Reagynn Childs (Battle) 9-3 won by fall over Gracey Farsungchin 2-9 (Fall 0:18)
• Round 2 - Victoria Rosales (Branson) 8-3






won by fall over Gracey Farsungchin 2-9 (Fall 1:29)
• Round 3 - Xylee Isaacson (Rolla) 1-5 won by fall over Gracey Farsungchin 2-9 (Fall 1:20)
130: Emma Roney (1-10) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
• Round 2 - Marena Lauth (Rolla) 8-3 won by fall over Emma Roney 1-10 (Fall 3:11)
• Round 3 - Makayla Altic (Buffalo) 14-4 won by fall over Emma Roney 1-10 (Fall 0:44)
135: Molly Pickett (3-10) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
• Round 2 - Scarlett Brewer (Branson) 4-7 won by fall over Molly Pickett 3-10 (Fall 0:23)
• Round 3 - Addison Brown (Waynesville) 15-0 won by fall over Molly Pickett 3-10 (Fall 1:01)
140: Estrella Garcia (1-9) placed 14th and scored 0.0 team points.
• Round 1 - Jordyn Seely-Manuel (Waynesville) 7-3 won by fall over Estrella Garcia 1-9 (Fall 1:00)
• Round 2 - Kaylee Holt (Battle) 14-4 won by fall over Estrella Garcia 1-9 (Fall 1:24)
• Round 3 - Bethany Sharp (Harrisonville) 6-8 won by fall over Estrella Garcia 1-9 (Fall 1:43)
• Cons. Round 1 - Lilianna Lockhart (Waynesville) 13-4 won by fall over Estrella Garcia 1-9 (Fall 2:10)
• 13th Place Match - Olivia Kingsley (Reeds Spring) 2-4 won by fall over Estrella Garcia 1-9 (Fall 3:38)
145: Anna Vanderhoef (12-6) placed 4th and


scored 16.5 team points.
• Round 1 - Resel Rehobson (Carl Junction) 10-7 won by tech fall over Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 (TF-1.5 4:25 (17-2))
• Round 3 - Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 won by fall over Trinity Harrison (Truman) 8-3 (Fall 1:05)
• Champ. Round 1 - Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 won by fall over Liliana Zubia (Benton) 8-9 (Fall 0:41)
• Quarterfinal - Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 won by tech fall over Aja Watson (Buffalo) 16-4 (TF-1.5 2:00 (15-0))
• Semifinal - Keely Fallert (Ste. Genevieve)

16-0 won by fall over Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 (Fall 1:34)
• 3rd Place Match - Alexis Steele (Southeast Polk) 23-5 won by fall over Anna Vanderhoef 12-6 (Fall 1:56)
155: Analeigh Winchell (16-2) placed 3rd and scored 19.0 team points.
• Round 1 - Analeigh Winchell 16-2 won by fall over Izabel Lemka (Harrisonville) 1-9 (Fall 1:18)
• Round 3 - Analeigh Winchell 16-2 won by fall over Eve Smith (Waynesville) 9-7 (Fall 3:09)
• Quarterfinal -

Analeigh Winchell 16-2 won by fall over Teighan Carson (Osage) 19-2 (Fall 4:51)
• Semifinal - Skylar Slade (Southeast Polk) 25-0 won by fall over Analeigh Winchell 16-2 (Fall 0:39)
• 3rd Place Match - Analeigh Winchell 16-2 won by fall over Aniston Cremer (Ste. Genevieve) 12-6 (Fall 1:37)
170: Alexis Lands (7-10) placed 23rd and scored 4.0 team points.
• Round 1 - Alexis Lands 7-10 won by fall over Crystal Kollock (Battle) 1-14 (Fall 0:00)
• Round 2 - Adrienne

Keller (Warrensburg) 10-6 won by fall over Alexis Lands 7-10 (Fall 3:32)
• Round 3 - Anel Torres-Alaniz (Waynesville) 9-11 won by fall over Alexis Lands 7-10 (Fall 0:51)
• Cons. Round 1 - Natalie Dunn (Eldon) 5-7 won by fall over Alexis Lands 7-10 (Fall 1:12)
• Cons. Round 2 - Crystal Little (Smith-Cotton) 6-6 won by fall over Alexis Lands 7-10 (Fall 1:38)
• 23rd Place Match - Alexis Lands 7-10 won by fall over Aubrey Bayliff (Reeds Spring) 0-5 (Fall 2:21)





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SPORTS



Cassville's Bradyn Sizemore tries to bring his opponent to the ground at the Cassville Tournament earlier this season. Sizemore took third place at the Harrisonville Christmas Tournament recently. Kyle Troutman/ ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Logan Parsons puts weight on his opponent during action at the Cassville Tournament earlier this season. Parsons took sixth place at the Harrisonville Christmas Tournament recently. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wildcats: Lopez, Sizemore, Uria, Parsons all medal in Harrisonville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Sizemore finished in third place. After losing a major decision to Marlow's Brennen Harris, Sizemore rebounded with a third-place pin of Southern Boone's Aften Dowler in 4:55.

Other top-six finishes included Boni Lopez and Ethan Sizemore taking fifth place in 113 and 285 pounds, respectively, and Noah Uria and Logan Parsons taking sixth place at 120 and 144 pounds, respectively.

As a team, Cassville finished in third place out of 21 varsity squads and 10 junior varsity teams. Helias Catholic won the event.

Nathan Fortner, Cassville boys wrestling coach, said he was elated with the performance, the best ever for Cassville at the tournament.

"I'm really proud of them as a team because we have been going to that tournament for the past three years and this is the best we have ever done at it, bringing home a third-place team trophy," he said. "We had eight medalists, three finalists, and one champ. Zach had a really good tournament. He's getting a lot better in the practice room wrestling with Tristan and Colt every day. Tristan won't see his [finals opponent] again because he's from Oklahoma, and the kid that beat Colt is the class above us. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

Full results include:

113: Boni Lopez (16-3) placed 5th and scored 64.0 team points.

- Round 1 - Boni Lopez 16-3 won by fall over Cynch Blewer (Carthage) 6-5 (Fall 0:26)
- Round 3 - Boni Lopez 16-3 won by fall over Cade Wedgewood (Warrensburg) 4-10 (Fall 2:51)
- Quarterfinal - Rocket Rodriguez (Marlow) 5-3 won by decision over Boni Lopez 16-3 (Dec 8-7)
- Cons. Round 1 - Boni Lopez 16-3 won by fall over William Noriega (Smith-Cotton) 10-7 (Fall 4:44)
- Cons. Semi - Greg Cizin (Helias) 14-1 won by fall over Boni Lopez 16-3 (Fall 2:14)
- 5th Place Match - Boni Lopez 16-3 won by decision over Evan Neely (Pleasant Hill) 10-8 (Dec 13-7)
- 120: Noah Uria (5-6) placed 6th and scored 55.0 team points.
- Round 1 - Noah Uria 5-6 won by fall over Braxton Warren (Harrisonville) 7-5 (Fall 2:37)
- Round 2 - Mason Link (Pacific) 11-6 won by fall over Noah Uria 5-6 (Fall 2:26)
- Quarterfinal - Colton Tinker (Warrenton) 14-4 won by tech fall over Noah Uria 5-6 (TF-1.5 2:54 (18-0))
- Cons. Round 1 - Noah Uria 5-6 won by fall over Jackson Reed (Smith-

Cotton) 5-12 (Fall 0:54)

- Cons. Semi - Mason Link (Pacific) 11-6 won by fall over Noah Uria 5-6 (Fall 3:35)
- 5th Place Match - Gerald Wright (Camdenton) 9-9 won by tech fall over Noah Uria 5-6 (TF-1.5 4:12 (15-0))
- 126: Michael Winchell (10-10) placed 14th and scored 37.0 team points.
- Round 1 - Adarein Hawkins (Smith-Cotton) 19-2 won by fall over Michael Winchell 10-10 (Fall 1:27)
- Round 2 - Michael Winchell 10-10 won by fall over Braeden Choate (Marlow JV) 5-3 (Fall 2:48)
- Round 4 - Klyde Webb (Harrisonville) 10-7 won by fall over Michael Winchell 10-10 (Fall 0:40)
- Round 5 - Michael Winchell 10-10 won by fall over Sage Jimenez (Van Horn) 11-8 (Fall 0:49)
- Cons. Quarter - Chase Brooks (Webb City) 3-5 won by fall over Michael Winchell 10-10 (Fall 2:45)
- Cons. Semi - Michael Winchell 10-10 won by fall over Cameron Alexander (Warrenton) 11-10 (Fall 0:44)
- 13th Place Match - Kellen Ellis (Helias JV) 13-4 won by fall over Michael Winchell 10-10 (Fall 3:42)
- 132: Kole Fry (12-8) placed 13th and scored 41.5 team points.
- Round 1 - Kole Fry 12-8 won by fall over Tristen Deimund (Festus JV) 5-12 (Fall 2:59)
- Round 2 - Kole Fry 12-8 won by fall over Xavier Heilman (RockWood Summit JV) 4-8 (Fall 1:46)
- Round 3 - Ethan Snyder (Smith-Cotton) 11-6 won by fall over Kole Fry 12-8 (Fall 2:33)
- Round 5 - Tommy Miller (Marlow) 9-0 won by tech fall over Kole Fry 12-8 (TF-1.5 1:31 (16-0))
- Cons. Quarter - Jonathan Perez (Benton) 11-8 won by fall over Kole Fry 12-8 (Fall 0:19)
- Cons. Semi - Kole Fry 12-8 won by tech fall over Cooper Loehr (Pleasant Hill) 6-12 (TF-1.5 3:00 (17-0))
- 13th Place Match - Kole Fry 12-8 won by fall over Jaxon Sleyster (Harrisonville) 6-11 (Fall 1:32)
- 138: Kellen Weldy (14-7) placed 10th and scored 47.5 team points.
- Round 1 - James Lauf (Helias) 12-4 won by fall over Kellen Weldy 14-7 (Fall 0:30)
- Round 2 - Jaylen Civil (Warrensburg) 17-0 won by tech fall over Kellen Weldy 14-7 (TF-1.5 1:49 (21-6))
- Round 4 - Kellen Weldy 14-7 won by medical forfeit over Conner Besore (Festus) 11-6 (M. For.)
- Round 5 - Kellen Weldy 14-7 won by fall over Antonio Bonomo (Van Horn) 11-10 (Fall 2:25)

- Cons. Quarter - Kellen Weldy 14-7 won by fall over Grant Kossuth (Pacific JV) 5-12 (Fall 3:27)
- Cons. Semi - Kellen Weldy 14-7 won by tech fall over Tanner Swinford (Monette JV) 6-3 (TF-1.5 2:37 (16-0))
- 9th Place Match - Hunter Langdon (Smith-Cotton) 13-6 won by fall over Kellen Weldy 14-7 (Fall 3:54)
- 144: Logan Parsons (15-7) placed 6th and scored 61.0 team points.
- Round 3 - Logan Parsons 15-7 won by fall over Gauge Heilburn (Webb City) 7-6 (Fall 5:01)
- Round 4 - Logan Parsons 15-7 won by decision over Deakin Hollis (Benton) 8-7 (Dec 9-3)
- Round 5 - Griffin Shelby (Marlow) 8-1 won by fall over Logan Parsons 15-7 (Fall 1:52)
- Quarterfinal - Christopher Hawkins (Smith-Cotton) 16-3 won by fall over Logan Parsons 15-7 (Fall 4:37)
- Cons. Semi - Logan Parsons 15-7 won by fall over Ryan Peter (Festus) 7-7 (Fall 4:03)
- 5th Place Match - Cooper Youngblood (Pleasant Hill) 15-5 won by tech fall over Logan Parsons 15-7 (TF-1.5 4:38 (17-0))
- 150: Braydyn Sizemore (18-5) placed 3rd and scored 78.0 team points.
- Round 3 - Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 won by fall over Aj Tibbs (Rockwood Summit) 7-7 (Fall 2:23)
- Round 4 - Carson Rooks (Webb City) 13-3 won by decision over Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 (Dec 7-6)
- Round 5 - Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 won by fall over Colton Jackson (Pacific JV) 4-9 (Fall 1:58)
- Quarterfinal - Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 won by fall over Konnor Brown (Smith-Cotton) 11-5 (Fall 2:33)
- Semifinal - Brennen Harris (Marlow) 9-0 won by major decision over Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 (MD 11-0)
- 3rd Place Match - Braydyn Sizemore 18-5 won by fall over Aften Dowler (Southern Boone) 13-6 (Fall 4:55)
- 157: Tyler Hodge (6-4) placed 17th and scored 24.5 team points.
- Round 1 - Caleb Davis (Marlow) 4-5 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 6-4 (Fall 5:49)
- Round 2 - Tyler Hodge 6-4 won by fall over Dylan Cox (Van Horn) 9-13 (Fall 1:25)
- Round 3 - Blaine Curtis (Helias) 9-6 won by tech fall over Tyler Hodge 6-4 (TF-1.5 2:31 (19-0))
- Round 4 - Cayden Bohnert (Harrisonville JV) 5-3 won by tech fall over Tyler Hodge 6-4 (TF-1.5 2:21 (16-0))
- Round 5 - Donovan Brown (Rockwood Summit) 14-1 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 6-4 (Fall

1:58)

- Cons. Quarter - Tyler Hodge 6-4 won by fall over Elias Kroesen (William Chrisman) 4-8 (Fall 2:38)
- Cons. Semi - Tyler Hodge 6-4 won by major decision over Wyatt Reed (Monett) 5-9 (MD 14-1)
- 17th Place Match - Tyler Hodge 6-4 won by tech fall over Teagan Wilcut (Camdenton) 8-10 (TF-1.5 5:00 (25-9))
- 165: Tristan Thompson (21-1) placed 2nd and scored 85.5 team points.
- Round 1 - Tristan Thompson 21-1 won by decision over Ben Holee (Helias) 8-4 (Dec 12-5)
- Round 4 - Tristan Thompson 21-1 won by fall over Brett White (Pacific) 6-7 (Fall 2:55)
- Round 5 - Tristan Thompson 21-1 won by fall over Tobin Klemme (Southern Boone) 6-10 (Fall 1:21)
- Quarterfinal - Tristan Thompson 21-1 won by tech fall over Zaden Russavage (Camdenton) 11-9 (TF-1.5 3:03 (17-1))
- Semifinal - Tristan Thompson 21-1 won by fall over Mason Hance (Webb City) 10-6 (Fall 1:08)
- 1st Place Match - Clint Ladon (Marlow) 9-0 won by decision over Tristan Thompson 21-1 (Dec 9-7)
- 175: Colton Roark (22-1) placed 2nd and scored 87.5 team points.
- Round 1 - Colton Roark 22-1 won by fall over David Rucker (Smith-Cotton) 7-10 (Fall 0:54)
- Round 2 - Colton Roark 22-1 won by tech fall over Christian Terrill (St. Charles) 5-10 (TF-1.5 1:57 (18-1))
- Round 3 - Colton Roark 22-1 won by fall over Raiden Haggard (Webb City) 11-4 (Fall 1:27)
- Round 4 - Colton Roark 22-1 won by fall over Eden Reed (William Chrisman) 6-5 (Fall 1:40)
- Quarterfinal - Colton Roark 22-1 won by fall over Hayden Igo (Marshall) 7-4 (Fall 1:53)
- Semifinal - Colton Roark 22-1 won by fall over Lucas Tennyson (Pacific) 16-3 (Fall 0:58)
- 1st Place Match - Eli Homan (Helias) 16-0 won by fall over Colton Roark 22-1 (Fall 1:29)
- 190: Zachary Myers (19-2) placed 1st and scored 92.5 team points.
- Round 1 - Zachary Myers 19-2 won by fall over Luke Hardee (Rockwood Summit) 9-5 (Fall 1:34)
- Round 3 - Zachary Myers 19-2 won by fall over Yale Foster (Smith-Cotton) 6-12 (Fall 1:01)
- Round 4 - Zachary Myers 19-2 won by tech fall over Jacob Bott (Warrensburg) 11-6 (TF-1.5 3:55 (15-0))
- Quarterfinal - Zachary Myers 19-2 won by decision over Korben Johnson (Warrenton) 16-6 (Dec 7-3)
- Semifinal - Zachary Myers 19-2 won by fall over Tyler Brooks (Marshall) 7-2 (Fall 1:16)
- 1st Place Match

- Zachary Myers 19-2 won by fall over Jordan Krumrey (Pacific) 17-3 (Fall 1:45)
- 215: Brylar Berank (12-9) placed 11th and scored 41.0 team points.
- Round 1 - Joaquin Escoto (Webb City) 5-7 won by fall over Brylar Berank 12-9 (Fall 4:49)
- Round 2 - Steve Serious (Carthage) 5-1 won by fall over Brylar Berank 12-9 (Fall 1:12)
- Round 3 - Brylar Berank 12-9 won by medical forfeit over Jayden Hodge (Camdenton) 9-4 (M. For.)
- Quarterfinal - Brylar Berank 12-9 won by fall over Devon Bellis (Van Horn) 4-6 (Fall 0:58)
- Semifinal - Avery Zarembo (Smith-Cotton) 9-9 won by fall over Brylar Berank 12-9 (Fall 1:20)
- Cons. Semi - Brylar Berank 12-9 won by fall over Karsen Madrid (Monett) 2-6 (Fall 1:58)
- 11th Place Match - Brylar Berank 12-9 won by fall over Eli Wagner

- (Marlow) 3-4 (Fall 2:21)
- 285: Ethan Sizemore (19-3) placed 5th and scored 69.0 team points.
- Round 1 - Ethan Sizemore 19-3 won by fall over Grayson Davis (Benton) 12-6 (Fall 1:56)
- Round 2 - Kayle Chrismon (Webb City JV) 7-1 won by decision over Ethan Sizemore 19-3 (Dec 8-2)
- Round 4 - Ethan Sizemore 19-3 won by fall over Jaylen Mitchell (Van Horn) 17-5 (Fall 2:35)
- Round 5 - Ethan Sizemore 19-3 won by major decision over Jeremy Engle (RockWood Summit JV) 2-4 (MD 13-3)
- Quarterfinal - Loudon Bolinger (Webb City) 10-1 won by fall over Ethan Sizemore 19-3 (Fall 2:26)
- Cons. Semi - Ethan Sizemore 19-3 won by fall over Danny Read (Smith-Cotton) 13-6 (Fall 1:58)
- 5th Place Match - Ethan Sizemore 19-3 won by fall over Bryson Cecil (Harrisonville) 16-3 (Fall 2:20)

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WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Allison Deaver 	Carlos Barrientos
Tristan Thompson 	Brylee Gross

Local teams compete in Southwest Holiday Tournament

Full coverage in next week's issue!





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The logo for Arvest Bank, featuring the year "2026" in a colorful, stylized font above the word "ARVEST" in blue, with "BANK" below it.

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Common Resolutions

As the new year approaches, many people take time to consider changes they would like to make in 2026. New Year's resolutions often focus on practical goals tied to daily routines, finances and personal development.

Common health-related resolutions include exercising several times a week, preparing more meals at home, scheduling regular medical checkups or establishing a consistent sleep schedule. Others choose specific targets, such as walking a set number of steps each day or reducing sugary drinks.

Financial resolutions remain a frequent choice. Examples include creating a monthly budget, setting aside money from each paycheck into savings, paying down credit card balances or reviewing insurance and utility costs to reduce expenses.

Work and education goals may include enrolling in a class, completing a professional certification, updating a résumé or learning new technology related to one's job. Some people also set goals around time management, such as limiting overtime or organizing workspaces.

Personal and family-oriented resolutions can include spending more time with relatives, planning regular family meals, limiting screen time at home or setting aside time each week for hobbies.

Community and civic goals are another option for 2026. These may include volunteering a certain number of hours, attending local meetings, supporting local organizations or participating in community clean-up efforts.

Rather than broad promises, many advisers recommend setting clear, measurable goals and reviewing progress throughout the year. Breaking larger goals into smaller steps can make them easier to maintain.

New Year's resolutions for 2026 vary widely, but they often center on manageable changes intended to improve routines, finances and community involvement over the coming year.

Happy New Year

2026

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Joy D. Chappell
Broker

John R. Chappell
Agent

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A close-up image of a lit sparkler, creating a bright, starburst effect.

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Wishing You A
Wonderful 2026

The logo for MFA Agri Services, featuring a shield with stars and the letters "MFA" inside, followed by "AGRI SERVICES".

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

2026

Four lit candles in different colors (purple, pink, yellow, orange) arranged to form the numbers "2026".

The logo for Sunshine Coffee House, featuring a sun icon and the text "Sunshine Coffee HOUSE".

1313 Main Street, Cassville
417-772-3114
HOURS: 6am-2pm Mon-Fri, 7am-2pm Sat
Paninis: 11am-2pm Mon-Sat



Happy New Year



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



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HAPPY New Year

As we welcome a new year, we are grateful for the people, partnerships and pride that make Cassville such a special place to call home. May the year ahead bring health, opportunity and continued growth for our community.

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2026

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Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year!

We value and appreciate each and every one of you!

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2026

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SECURITYINSURANCE@SBSWMO.COM
8:30-4:30 • MONDAY – FRIDAY



NEW YEAR, NEW POSSIBILITIES
Let's start the new year off with a bang! Give me a call to talk about how my agency can help support your dream pursuits in the year ahead.



Burl Mitchell, Agent
Cassville, MO 65625
(417) 847-3128
bmitche2@amfam.com
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00



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