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'GHOST STUDENT' SCAM AFFECTING CASSVILLE SENIORS — PAGE 3A



<< 'CATS TAKE THIRD AS TEAM IN MONETT
Roark, James bring home first-place medals at tournament. — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

JANUARY 14, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

No injuries in 2 house fires

Faulty power strip, chimney flue causes of fires

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville Fire Protection district responded to two house fires over the weekend, both of which were quickly extinguished and with no injuries to occupants of the homes.

Christ Reibert, assistant

HOUSE FIRES

When: Friday night and early Saturday morning

Where: A home east of Cassville on Farm Road 2175 and a home north of Cassville, both outside city limits

Causes: Faulty power strip, chimney flue from wood-burning stove

fire chief, said the first fire was at a home on Farm Road 2175, outside city limits, at 9:19 p.m. on Friday. Units responded by 9:35 p.m., with auto aid from

Butterfield and Jenkins, and found a small fire in the chimney flue of a wood-burning fire place.

"The fire was in the flue in the attic, in the space between the ceiling and roof," he said. "We got it put out with minimal damage to the living room."

Two people were in the home at the time of the fire, and neither sustained any injuries, nor were they displaced.

Reibert said keeping chim-

neys and flues maintained, especially during use in winter, is imperative.

"Get them inspected yearly for cleanliness and to make sure they are free of cracks or holes," he said.

Cassville crews left the scene at 11:03 p.m., and a few hours later, at 1:30 a.m., they were dispatched to a home north of Cassville, also outside city limits, for another fire.

Cassville arrived at 1:47 a.m., and Butterfield, on auto

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

FELONY ARREST

Who: Stephen Lucariello, 21, of Neosho

What: Lucariello charged with first-degree tampering with a motor vehicle, armed criminal action, resisting arrest, misdemeanor careless and imprudent driving and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia

Bond: Set at \$50,000, cash only

Stolen vehicle flees, wrecks

3 adults arrested at the scene

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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Two Neosho residents and a Granby resident were arrested on Thursday after allegedly fleeing from a Missouri State Trooper in a stolen vehicle and wrecking in Barry County.

According to Missouri State Highway Patrol arrest reports, Stephen Lucariello, 21, of Neosho; Haley Nivens, 18, of Neosho; and Johnathan Chrisco, 19, of Granby, were all arrested at 11:13 p.m. in Barry County.

Lucariello has been charged in Barry County Associate Circuit Court with first-degree tampering with a motor vehicle, armed criminal action, resisting arrest, misdemeanor careless and imprudent driving, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and no seat belt.

Nivens was arrested for first-degree tampering with a motor vehicle, and Chrisco was arrested for second-degree tampering with a motor vehicle.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Cpl. T. Morris, on Thursday, he received information regarding a 2022 Nissan Maxima reportedly stolen out of Newton County, and shortly thereafter, he observed a vehicle matching the description traveling west on Highway 60 near the intersection with Highway 97.

Morris said he observed the vehicle turn south onto Highway 97, and he began following it. As he closed on the vehicle, Morris said he confirmed the registration as the stolen vehicle, then followed the vehicle down a private driveway and initiated a traffic stop.

Morris said the driver of the Nissan, later identified as Lucariello, allegedly failed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

Progress continues at Generations Project



Jessica O'Conner, of Cassville, folds a long sleeved shirt to be given away in the clothing room at the Generations Project facility. The Generations Project is preparing for setting up a store room, called The Store; a community room; a jobs center; a laundry room; and the Rec Yard Community Garden. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Fire destroys home near Wheaton

Resident suffers burn injuries, smoke inhalation

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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A home near Wheaton was a total loss following a fire on Jan. 5, with one resident of the home suffering injuries.

Lindy Lombard, Wheaton fire chief, said the call came in at 7:51 p.m. for a fire at a home on Highway W, three miles east

of Wheaton.

Crews arrived on scene at about 8:01 p.m. and began battling the fully engulfed one-story home. The resident of the home had escaped the structure before first responders arrived. She was later airlifted to a hospital in Springfield, suffering from burns and smoke inhalation.

Crews battled the fire until about 1:30 a.m., when the all-clear was given. Mutual aid came from Butterfield, Exeter and Purdy, with approximately 25 firefight-

ers and 12 apparatus contributing to the effort.

"The mutual aid was tremendous," Lombard said. "We had tankers shuttling back and forth from the home to the fire station in Wheaton refilling. If we didn't have that help, we would have struggled to keep it knocked down."

"It was also windy that morning, and with the mutual aid, we were able to save a hay barn next to the home."

The cause of the fire is undetermined.

Jail inmate allegedly uses Bible to damage door

Cost to repair cell door damage estimated at 10,000

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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An Anderson man is facing a felony charge after allegedly attempting to damage the hinges on a door in the Barry County jail.

Jeremy Helmer, 36, of Anderson, is charged with damage to jail/jail property.

According to a proba-

FELONY CHARGE

Who: Jeremy Helmer, 36, of Anderson

What: Is charged with damage to jail/jail property

More: Man allegedly used Bible to attempt to bend door hinges

ble cause statement filed by Deputy Cedric Calderon, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, at about 3:47 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2025, Helmer was allegedly seen in side the day room on video at the jail, going into his cell and coming out with a Bible in his hand.

Calderon allegedly placed the Bible between the door and the frame and repeatedly closed it with force. Calderon said Helmer walked back and forth to the cell door approximately six times and closed the door on the Bible in an attempt to bend the hinges so the door would not work properly.

Calderon said he also spoke to a witness who stated he witnessed Helmer allegedly use the Bible to damage the cell door.

The estimated cost for

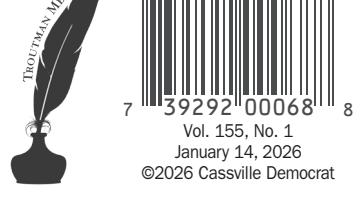
repair of the door is \$10,000.

The probable cause statement and charge was filed in Barry County Associate Circuit Court on Nov. 26, 2025, and a warrant for Helmer's arrest was issued at that time. The warrant was served on Jan. 5, and Helmer is being held in the Barry County jail now on a cash-only bond of \$15,000.

A bond appearance hearing was held on Jan. 8, and a preliminary hearing is scheduled for Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Library events
upcoming

The following events will be held at the Cassville Branch Library: Thursday, Move 'N' Groove Low Impact Exercise, 11 a.m., signup requested, STEAM Club (ages 6-12), 3:30 p.m.; Friday, Canvas Tote Bag Class, 5:30 p.m., signups required and small supply fee; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m. to noon, Cassville Card Craze (Card Games), 10 a.m.; Monday, Library closed for MLK Day; Tuesday, Tot Time *ages 0-3), 9:30 a.m., Story Time (ages 3-6), 10 a.m.

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 oatstransit.org to view local schedules under "Bus Schedules," then click on the county of service. OATS Transit is hiring drivers statewide to continue serving riders. Openings are listed on the OATS website.

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Homeschool youth SHINE in cooperative

Local group offers unique learning experiences by semester

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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A homeschool cooperative formed by local parents has grown steadily in recent years, providing educational classes, social opportunities and community support for families across Barry County and neighboring areas.

SHINE Ozarks homeschool cooperative began about four years ago when a small group of homeschooling mothers recognized a lack of organized options in the area.

"We started about three-and-a-half to four years ago with some local moms, just about a handful of them actually," said Lacey Elmer, one of the cooperative's leaders. "They homeschooled, and there was nothing here at the time, so they just kind of started one."

The cooperative now serves a wide range of families, primarily from Barry County, with some participants traveling from Arkansas.

"We go by semester, so every semester is different — but we average right around 90 kids," Elmer said. "And, it's all ages. We serve from infant up to 18."

Elmer estimated the cooperative includes between 25-30 families each semester, and classes are held at Washburn First Baptist Church.

"They allow us to use their facilities, and we are Christian-based, but our purpose is not to push any theology or anything — it's just a safe place of like-minded people coming to help educate our kids," Elmer said.

Classes are held every other Thursday throughout each fall and spring semester, with additional activities scheduled during off weeks. When classes are not in session, families often participate in group outings and enrichment opportunities.

"On our off weeks, we're almost always doing something — a field trip or play date or learning experience," Elmer said.

Courses offered through SHINE Ozarks are parent-led and vary depending on the skills and interests of participating families. Classes are organized by age group and typically focus on one subject for the duration of the semester.

"Whatever the parents want to offer is what our kids have to choose from," Elmer said. "We've had everything from automotive care for our teens to career and leadership classes, cooking, sewing, woodworking, art — you name it."

Elmer said the cooperative's structure allows students to dive deeper into subjects than might be possible in a traditional classroom setting.

"Getting to focus on something kind of specific for eight meetings as opposed to a broad look at things — we can be more focused," Elmer said. "We have a class coming that's 3D design with 3D printing, getting into real-life skills they might use."

Participation in SHINE Ozarks requires a semes-



SHINE Ozarks homeschool coop offers many activities and classes for homeschool students in the area.

Photos include trips to Jolly Mill, the Walmart Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum and Turpentine Creek. Activities pictured include the 2025 Spring Expo, students learning to use sewing machines and learning about Flamenco guitar. Contributed photos

ter-based fee, depending on the level of involvement families choose.

"If you want to be in the classes that we offer, it's \$75 a semester per family regardless of size," Elmer said. "If you just want to do field trips and events like science and geography fairs, it's \$25 a semester per family."

Elmer homeschooled her own three children and said her background in public education influenced that decision.

"I would've said you were crazy if you told me I was going to homeschool," Elmer said. "I used to teach public school, and so did my husband."

Both Elmer and her husband remain supportive of public education, she said, but homeschooling allows their family greater flexibility and control over learning environments.

"The biggest benefit for us is

that we can control the influenc-

es on our children," Elmer said. "I personally know every single one of my kids' friends and their families, and I wouldn't be able to do that in public school."

She said the cooperative has been especially helpful for families new to homeschooling.

"That community is invaluable," Elmer said. "It can be very challenging, and to have support and encouragement — people who've been through it — that's been huge for us."

While participation requires a commitment from parents, who are required to teach a class if their children are in the cooperative, Elmer said feedback has largely been positive.

"It's been very positive overall," Elmer said. "It's not for everybody, and teaching isn't for everyone, but it's been really good."

One of the ongoing challenges, Elmer said, is simply making families aware that the cooperative

exists.

"I'm still finding people who say they didn't know this was here," she said.

Looking ahead, Elmer said SHINE Ozarks plans to continue growing as space and leadership allow.

"I would love to reach new parents," Elmer said. "I'm always on the lookout for new faces and people who have different skills or trades they could share."

Registration for the upcoming spring semester is currently open but closing soon.

"Our deadline for the spring semester is actually Thursday, Jan. 15" Elmer said.

Families interested in learning more are encouraged to reach out with questions, before or after the deadline. Elmer may be reached at 405-338-8605, or people can find more information at the Shine Ozarks Co-op Information Facebook group.

CORRECTIONS

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

CASSVILLE Democrat

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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.

Fires: Smoke detectors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

aid, had already arrived and put out the blaze.

"Butterfield arrived first because they had people at the station," Reibert said. "They extinguished a small fire in a bedroom. Exeter also came on auto aid."

Reibert said there were no injuries to any of the home's five occupants, and there was minor damage to the one bedroom.

"The cause was improper use of a power strip and its placement," Reibert said. "Please

avoid putting power strips on mattresses. This strip failed and sparked, which caught the mattress on fire. We also recommend only using UL-tested power strips."

After venting the room, crews left the scene at 2:48 a.m. Reibert added in this situation, smoke detectors were invaluable.

"Having working smoke detectors is a big deal," he said. "In this case, that's what woke the family up."

THINK INFORMATION
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'Ghost Student' scam affecting Cassville seniors

9 in class of 2026 have had identities stolen

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
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A nationwide financial aid scam has affected numerous Cassville seniors, who have had to confirm their identities to the federal government after their Social Security numbers had already been used to set up student aid accounts.

Jennifer McCrackin, high school counselor, said nine students have been affected this year, and one was affected last year.

"What happens is when they create an account to complete

the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), they put in their Social Security number and it says an account has already been set up using that number," she said. "When it first happened, it caught us off-guard because we'd never seen it before. We'd heard of it, but hadn't seen it."

"We had one, then we had two, and we are up to nine now. We don't have totals on kids who have completed it this year, but we've heard other districts have had the same issue."

McCrackin said when the situation arises, the student must provide specified documentation and take a photo with

their ID to send to the FAFSA administrators. The process to recover their account takes about 14 days.

"We recommend to kids to run a credit report, because that would show if a scammer has created a fraudulent online banking account, which is where they transfer the student aid money to," she said. "We also recommend getting the FAFSA completed sooner rather than later, should this issue occur and February deadlines are approaching. We've sent messages to senior parents because we've seen issues like this."

McCrackin said other than running a credit report, there are no real preventative measures to be taken. Instead, the remedy is reactive, and has the 14-day timeline.

"We're already telling junior parents to run credit reports to try to stay ahead of it," she said.

Jamie Porter, administrative assistant in the counselor's office, has been facilitating the account recovery process.

"Because of privacy laws, we can't talk to anyone with FAFSA and get it fixed, but we can help with the process," McCrackin said. "Everyone who has come in for assistance so far is up to date except for one we are still helping them work on."

Man dies in wreck south of Aurora

Vehicle goes off Hwy. 39, strikes tree

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
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A Miller resident died

in a single-vehicle wreck at about 2:50 p.m. on Jan. 4 on Highway 39, approximately 10 miles south of Aurora.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol wreck report, a 62-year-old male, of Miller, was driving a 2003 Jeep Grand Cherokee southbound when his vehicle traveled off the right side of the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene at 4:15 p.m. by Barry County Coroner Gary Swearingen.

It is unknown if the man was wearing a safety device, and the vehicle was totaled.

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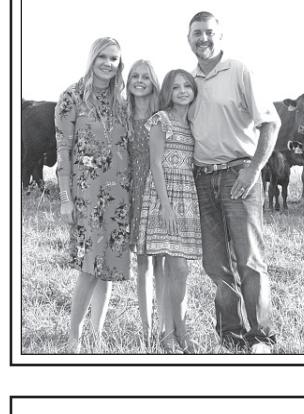
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PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Big change, bigger benefit

A big change is happening today. After years — more than a decade — of offering a 100% free website, as of this morning, original content comes at a premium.

Since I started at the Cassville Democrat in 2014, we've had a robust website. Stories, photos, sports, obits, the e-edition, opinion, community items and more have all been posted weekly by yours truly, formatted and ordered in a way any visitor to the site can see our best first and continue to peruse the rest.

When my wife, Jordan, and I purchased the paper in 2023, the previous corporate owner offered to "take the blame" and convert us to a paid website. To us, passing the buck in that sense was a bit of a cop out. At that time, we were proud to offer one of the few free websites still available, and if we were to begin to charge, we wanted to do it on our terms.

Instead of charging the reader, we explored other revenue options. We began selling digital advertising and linked up with a national advertising company to bring in a little extra revenue.

Ultimately, as we waded deeper and deeper into business ownership, it became incredibly clear we were giving away all of our content to more than half of our readership. While print subscriptions have grown more than 30% in the last three years, our traffic online far outweighs the number of print subscriptions.

Given the disparity, we knew a change had to occur, and that process began about three months ago. Since early October, we have changed virtually every aspect of our online and back-end processes regarding the website. We've partnered with a company leading the way in streamlining digital setups for community newspapers.

With their guidance, we have implemented a new circulation system, migrated website servers for better quality and speed, switched how our e-editions operate, and implemented an online payment system.

As of today, our website no longer says to call or email us about renewals or starting a print subscription. Now, each user has their own account and can manage their own subscriptions — print and digital, or just digital only.

And, because we value our readers, we've set the price at a value. Per industry standard, if you subscribe to the print subscription, you get all the online content included.

If you have a print subscription currently and wish to activate the online access, you will need to call or email me to get it set up, but rest assured that process will be minimal effort.

If a newspaper in hand is not your bag, a digital only subscription is only \$25 a year, and only \$20 for seniors, active military or veterans (though you will have to ping me for that discount code).

We set that price to be not only fair, but accessible, and compared to other newspapers with digital only subscriptions, ours is cheap. It also only applies to original content. News stories, sports stories, opinion pieces and the e-edition make up the entirety of our gatekept content. Obituaries, submitted content, photo galleries, and special sections will all remain free.

Essentially, we're charging specifically for the content we create — no less, no more.

And, because I'm a firm believer your money has value, we are expanding our digital offerings. As of Monday, I have integrated an email newsletter system. I'm still learning and will be working out a rhythm and unexpected kinks in the next few weeks, but I'm very excited to give our weekly paper a daily vibe.

At least four times per week, if not five, newsletter emails will be available to our subscribers. There will likely be a theme of the day, like Community content on Mondays, the e-edition release on Tuesdays, news on Wednesdays, sports on Thursdays and opinion on Fridays, newsletters also will provide a vehicle for breaking news, advertising and other unique content as we create it.

With this setup, if you are an online-only reader, content can be delivered to you daily without you having to seek it out. My hope is this is not only easier to access, but also easier to digest. I hope you look forward to that email in your inbox every day.

The community newspaper industry has come a long way in the last 10 years, and we've been behind the times. We are excited and proud to move into the new age and make it worth not only your money, but also your time.

We know there will be some hiccups along the way, and we have all the support in place to make this transition as seamless as possible.

To take a line from my column a week ago, we hope you enjoy going along on the ride with us. We are confident you won't regret it.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you have an opinion, send a letter to Kyle Troutman, Cassville Democrat, P.O. Box 486, Cassville, MO 65625, by email to ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com or online at <https://forms.gle/RmdQfYe86PtkTKp8A>.

AMERICAN INSIGHTS

Joseph Warren's last stand

He could hear the cannons roar in Boston as he lay in bed, frozen by a headache. He hadn't slept in days. His body wanted to rest.

But Joseph Warren wouldn't lay and rest. It was no day for such a luxury. The birth of American independence, he knew, was nigh. The date was June 17, 1775—the fateful day of Bunker Hill.

The thirty-four-year-old Warren, a widower with four children, struggled out of bed, dressed, tucked pistols in his waist, gathered intelligence reports and letters, grabbed his Bible, and set off on horseback.

He arrived at Breed's Hill, where the colonists had dug in. He grabbed a musket and a sword and stood anxiously on the muddy redoubt walls and watched as British vessels crossed the Charles River to march regulars on Warren's crude but determined militia.

Two months had passed since Warren instructed Paul Revere to ride into the Massachusetts countryside and warn that the British were marching. On April 19, the countrymen fought back the British, first at Lexington and then at Concord. "Oh, what a glorious morning this is!" Sam Adams said.

Days later, Warren engaged the British in a skirmish, during which a lock of his long, curly blonde hair was shot off by a musket ball. It invigorated him. "Perhaps some part of Joseph Warren believed that he could not die on a battlefield," one biographer wrote.

Warren was a doctor who inoculated Bostonians during the smallpox outbreaks. "Warren is a pretty, tall, genteel, fair-faced young gentleman," John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, in 1764. Years later, future president John



DAKODA PETTIGREW

Quincy Adams called Warren "a dear friend of my father, and a beloved physician to me."

But Warren was more than a doctor. "Great events," Richard Frothingham wrote, "attracted Warren to a wider stage, and gave direction to the current of his life." Parliament happened: taxes, resistance, more taxes, more resistance. "He devoted himself to the common cause with a zeal extremely prejudicial to his private interests."

Few patriot leaders labored so intensely for "The Cause" as Warren. And few did so with little attention to personal legacy. While John Adams labored, often vainly and inaccurately, to write himself as the axis on which the Revolution rotated, Warren labored mostly in shrouded secrecy, inattentive to his place in the saga.

He only cared about liberty. "The mistress we court is liberty," Warren once wrote to Sam Adams, "and it is better to die than not to obtain her."

He led spy rings, gathered intelligence, instructed patriots, attended town meetings, and organized bold acts of resistance—he disturbed the minds of royal officers one too many times. "Personal freedom is the natural right of every man," Warren preached regularly.

Twice, he gave rousing ora-

tions commemorating the Boston Massacre. "May we ever be a people," he shouted in 1772. "May our land be a land of liberty, the seat of virtue, the asylum of the oppressed."

In 1774 Warren authored the Suffolk Resolves, a precursor to the Declaration of Independence. "It is an indispensable duty which we owe to God," he wrote, "to maintain, defend, and preserve.... those rights which we are justly entitled by the laws of nature."

Now, Warren stood confidently on Breed's Hill. Americans, he had written, "esteem death, with all its tortures, preferable to slavery."

The battle started. British troops stormed the hill. Warren fired off his musket. The British, though heavily battered, advanced, driving the colonists back. Warren stayed behind to cover their retreat. A horrific melee ensued. The ground, a soldier noted, streamed "with blood and strewed with dead and dying men."

Then fate happened. A musket ball struck Warren in the face. He fell dead instantly. "Warren held the line and was killed facing the enemy," a team of medical examiners concluded in 2015. "His whole soul seemed to be filled with the greatness of the cause," a friend wrote John Adams.

"I hope I shall die up to my knees in blood!" Warren once declared. And so he did, martyring himself so that others could know the true cost of making America that city on a hill.

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.

YOUR VIEW

Post Office collection box should be moved

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision to relocate the blue collection mailbox outside our local post office.

While this change may offer operational convenience for postal workers, it has created a significant hurdle for

many residents.

The new location in the middle of the block requires parallel parking and is far less accessible than its previous spot. For senior citizens and those with limited mobility, the simple task of dropping off a letter now requires them to parallel park, exit their car and navigate to the

mailbox. Due to lack of drive-up access and the approaching traffic during busy times, and in inclement weather, these hazards and inconveniences are only magnified.

Realizing a post office serves as a vital community hub, I urge the local postmaster to reconsider this location

and prioritize the safety and convenience of the customers who rely on these services daily. At the very least, a public site survey should be conducted to find a middle ground that serves both the USPS and the people of Cassville.

Pat Allison
Cassville

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50 years ago**Jan. 21, 1976****- NEW DOCK FOR TABLE ROCK; PUBLIC USE IMPROVEMENTS**

Table Rock Lake is scheduled to receive its first new commercial boat dock since the reservoir was established in 1958, according to resident manager Richard Groves, who said Army Corps of Engineers approval was granted for a facility at Holiday Island. The McCullough Corp. facility is located just across the Missouri-Arkansas line and will include dry storage with eligibility for full concession services. Groves said additional projects planned before spring would focus on modest improvements due to funding limitations, including safety floats in designated swimming areas following two drownings last year. Improvements planned include tent site leveling at Viney Creek, new shower facilities at Kings River, restroom rehabilitation at Eagle Rock, new restroom and shower facilities at Big M, multi-use courts at Campbell Point and new restrooms at Viola. Groves said ground and campsite improvements would be underway before spring, and that Table Rock's public use facilities are among the most complete in the nation.

- DELLS GET PARK CONTRACTS, GOVERNOR AT RR OPENING

Missouri Department of Natural Resources officials announced Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Dell of Cassville were granted contracts to operate restaurant and store concessions at Roaring River State Park beginning Feb. 1. The Dells will open facilities ahead of the March 1 trout season under a two-year contract with renewal options. Other bidders included Mrs. Norman Chaney of Cassville and William Wilhelm of Kansas City. Officials also announced Gov. Christopher Bond will attend the opening at Roaring River, officially opening the season at 7 a.m. March 1. Park Superintendent John Hardin said crews were completing projects in preparation for crowds expected to exceed 2,000 anglers. Accommodations and tackle concessionaires Jim and his wife Rogers reported heavy reservation inquiries. Decisions on horse stable and miniature golf concessions were tabled due to a lack of bidders.

- WILLIAMSON WORKS WITH LION EYE BANK

Williamson Chapel in the Valley in Cassville became the 109th official substation of the Lions Eye Tissue Bank of the Eye Research Foundation with the placement of an eye enucleation kit. Doyle Williamson completed University of Missouri training certifying him to remove donor eyes and volunteered to provide the service. The Shell Knob Lions Club purchased the kit and will assist with transportation. Donor eyes are preserved for transplant, research, surgery or education. Information on eye donation is available through Williamson or the Shell Knob Lions Club.

40 years ago**Jan. 22, 1986****- COUNTY AFTER EARLY AUDIT; CUT OPERATING BUDGET 20%**

Barry County, scheduled for a general audit by the State of Missouri beginning in mid-February, requested an earlier date in an effort to better complete its budget. Presiding Judge Lloyd Dilbeck said the county court contacted State Auditor Margaret Kelley's office to request expedited scheduling. Dilbeck and associate judges Vedes Davis and Bill Chappell acknowledged several officials wanted the audit started as early as possible. Dilbeck said a special audit would require the county to pay for it, but since a general audit was already scheduled, the request simply asked for staffing adjustments if possible. The last general audit of Barry County was con-



40 YEARS AGO: THIS CAME TO AN END — There won't be any more of this type of activity, at least this week. For the past couple of weeks, temperatures in the 50s, 60s and even climbing into the 70s brought out sun worshippers, golfers, gardeners, fishermen and women who enjoyed all of the above. Wednesday morning's drop into the 30s removed all desire for outside activities, at least temporarily. These two mothers and their youngsters were enjoying the outdoors at Roaring River State Park last week. One youngster, noticing his photo was about to be taken, questioned his mother, "Should I put my shoes on?" The early spring-like weather, while enjoyed, was beginning to be a hazard for some crops, with growers noticing budding on fruit trees before temperatures dropped midweek. Democrat file photo

ducted in 1982. Officials

Redshaw and Joan Fox. The committee will plan activities to inform the public about district needs and overcrowded classrooms. The board also heard reports on proposed changes to special education rules, installation of a new walk-in freezer and an agreement by Telemark Industries to refund money from an energy management system and remove equipment. The board voted to extend Place's contract through the 1988-89 school year. Incumbent board members Allen Keeling and Jimmie W. Terry filed for re-election, with the filing deadline set for Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. The next meeting will be Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

30 years ago**Jan. 17, 1996****- FIRST BABY OF 1996**

Jacob Scott Hall is the winner of the Cassville Democrat's inaugural First Baby Contest of 1996. Little Jacob was born on Jan. 1 at 4:01 a.m. at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers, Ark. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Sherry Westlin and Scotty Hall, both of Cassville. Grandparents are Roger and Cheryl Hall of Cassville and Verlee and Jim Roark of Cassville. Great-grandparents are Ray and Barbara Kingery of Butterfield and Alice Roark of Cassville. Jacob was welcomed home by his 3-year-old sister, Mariah Westlin. As winners of the contest, the family will receive a bundle of prizes sponsored by local merchants. Prize winnings include one dozen long-stemmed roses from Designs By Debbie; dinner for two at The Rib; a supply of disposable diapers from Security Bank of Southwest Missouri; a 14-karat gold baby charm from Williamson's Jewelry; a case of baby formula from the Cassville Democrat; baby's first rocker from Westco; an 8x10 color portrait from Connie's Photography; a \$50 savings bond from Brattin Insurance Agency; a 14-karat gold baby ring from Tomblin's Jewelry; a \$50 savings bond from Burl Mitchell's American Family Insurance; baby Reeboks from Sports World; a \$25 gift certificate from Nickle Gifts and Interiors; a teddy bear from Boatmen's Bank; and a \$25 gift certificate from Jan's Fashions.

- ADMINISTRATORS HIRED BY R-4 SCHOOL BOARD

Four district administrators were employed during a two-section meeting of the Cassville Board of Education. Superintendent Dan Bailey said board action included continued inspection of building projects, continuation of the Barry County basketball tournament and regular business. Approved for one-year contract extensions were high school principal Jerry Marple at \$37,000, middle school principal Wayne Brower at \$31,500, elementary principal Martha Dunnam at \$32,000 and assistant high school principal Marvin Henningson at \$30,000. Employment was completed Monday following a continued meeting from the previous Thursday, with contract discussions held in executive session. Directors also reviewed compensation due contractors on a wall built to eliminate water drainage into a classroom building and met with architect Sam Winn of Springfield. Bills payable totaled \$99,343.01.

Reports included Brower inducting board members as honorary members of the middle school Alpha Club and Marple reporting plans to expand the Barry County basketball tournament over the Christmas holiday season. Directors approved a February meeting date change to Feb. 17. Notes from secretary Wanda Paul indicate Boy Scouts attended as observers.

- PURDY COMMITTEE TO PUSH BOND ISSUE

The Purdy R-II Board of Education discussed the upcoming bond issue election scheduled for Feb. 4. Superintendent Dr. Richard Place reported on efforts to help pass the bond issue. Committee members include Carolyn Flummertel, Debbie Terry, Cindy Henbest, Carolyn Smith, Linda

noted the site plan had been approved by the board prior to building an \$80,000 swimming pool this year. He said the new facility, if approved, would be located where the existing club house is now. The proposed building contains 6,000 square feet plus a 1,000-square-foot patio. Estimated cost at this time is in the \$350,000 range. By April, Chasteen told members the association would have price bids, cash flow analysis and other information to present at the April membership meeting, at which time members will decide on a course of action. The existing club house was constructed when the course was built 31 years ago and was added onto twice in its history. Association members also heard from vice president Bill Roller, who presented a summary of accomplishments achieved during the past year. He said most of the activities were made through the efforts of course manager Rex Pietz and greenskeeper Randy Meadows. Improvements included the addition of cart sheds; paving roads and parking lots; automated fairway sprinklers; addition of sand traps, benches and equipment in tee areas; construction of a chemical storage building and new bridge; and a new practice tee, pool and furnishings. Pietz told the group the course hosted 17,670 members in play this year, down two percent from last year. A total of 9,259 guests toured the course, down nine percent from last year, with a total of 26,000 rounds of golf played during an unusually wet spring.

- COUNTY BUDGET REQUESTS TOTALLED OVER \$2.3 MILLION

A total of \$2.3 million in budget requests has been submitted to the Barry County Commission in preparation for approval of the 1996 budget. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said the commission is now in the process of reviewing requests and preparing a

workable budget, stressing that requests would not be adopted in their entirety. The commission is looking at money available and individual department needs. The \$2,391,983 in budget requests is 39 percent higher than the 1995 budget total of \$1,719,384 and 63 percent more than actual 1995 expenditures of \$1,461,513. The county spent 85 percent of what was approved last year. Almost every department has requested more money than last year, with the sheriff's department asking for the largest increase. The sheriff's department is requesting a budget of \$620,464, which is \$231,424 more than was spent last year. Warren said Sheriff Ralph Hendrix wants to hire four more deputies and a civil process server, and money in the sheriff's budget would also be used to purchase four used patrol cars. County Clerk Gary Youngblood said increases in budget requests for the associate circuit judge, circuit clerk and prosecuting attorney's offices would be used to purchase computers and software if approved. Youngblood is also asking for a sizeable increase in the elections budget because 1996 is a major election year. Warren said the commission will have the budget tentatively approved by the budget hearing on Monday and has agreed to set aside \$450,000 in capital project funds for the jail expansion. A chart showing 1996 budget requests compared to 1995 actual expenditures and 1995 approved budget figures accompanies the article.

- BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR E-911 DISCUSSED AT AREA MEETING

Preliminary information about a countywide Enhanced 911 system was presented at a meeting of emergency management personnel last Thursday. Area law enforcement officers, fire department personnel and representa-

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Meet the dynamic Delton! This gorgeous guy is a Collie/Great Pyrenees mix. His date of birth is Sept. 25, 2025. This energetic boy is ready for lots of cuddles, fun and play in his forever home. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanc-tuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



OBITUARIES

**DIANNA LYNN THOMPSON**

Dianna Lynn Thompson, 65, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Monday, December 29, 2025 at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield, Mo.

She was born February 18, 1960, in St. Louis, Mo. the daughter of Frank Meyer and Ida Mae Holtz, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Thompson; three sons, John Souza of Dallas Texas, Michael Souza of Tampa, Fla., and Haímie Dominguez of Tulsa, Okla.; two daughters, Crystal Souza and Brandy Souza of Tulsa, Okla.; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

</div

Sales tax leaves mixed bag to end 2025

December totals smallest in years in Barry County

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

Sales tax revenues to the bi-county area ended 2025 on an unusually low note.

Total receipts of \$2.5 million to bi-county cities and county governments dropped by 13% from 2024, the lowest amount since 2021, at the beginning of the pandemic surge in local sales.

Use taxes became a more prominent feature in the year-end tallies, generating revenue from online sales in five of the seven Barry County cities generating sales tax and three of the six Lawrence County cities. For the year, only half the bi-county cities bested totals for 2024, while countywide taxes for emergency services showed marginal gains. Both Barry and Lawrence county governments, both with use taxes, recorded big gains in 2025.

Complicating the picture further, the Missouri Department of Revenue issued interest for money collected at the end of December, for funds received by the state for the second half of 2022. It was the only interest paid out in 2025. Lawrence County and its six cities split up \$2,060.75, while Barry County and its seven cities parsed out \$2,099.96. The smallest amount was 4 cents for a sunsetting Monett sales tax. Totals have been added into the respective tax totals for the month. Interest disbursements once again came without warning and no indication when another might come.

The seven Barry County cities receiving sales tax revenues generated \$751,379.03, the lowest amount in December since 2020. Not counting the new Seligman law enforcement tax, that reflected a drop of 7% from last December. Exeter, Purdy, and Washburn all beat last December's totals.

• Cassville's 1% general fund tax yielded \$110,198.36, down \$5,557.60.

• Seligman's 1% tax supporting the general fund generated \$10,027.57, down \$596.36.

• Wheaton's 1% tax yielded \$4,358.16, down \$358.76.

• Purdy's 1% tax produced \$5,127.35, up \$1,418.03 for its third consecutive monthly gain.

• Washburn's 1% tax received \$2,984.61, up \$76.86.

• Exeter's 1% tax took in \$2,541.82, up \$736.90 from last December.

• Monett's 1% sales taxes for pay-

GENERAL FUND SALES TAX COLLECTED IN 2025 FOR CITIES

City	1% general	Compared to 2024
Cassville	\$1,392,002.36	-3 %
Exeter	\$31,615.30	-3 %
Monett	\$2,494,914.68	+4 %
Purdy	\$62,631.50	-11 %
Seligman	\$150,397.22	+3 %
Washburn	\$33,212.61	-20 %
Wheaton	\$68,823.14	+12 %

ing general bills produced \$193,534.06, down \$1,935.54.

The county's three half-cent sales taxes each received more than \$216,100. Receipts for the oldest two were down by more than \$19,530, or 8% for the month.

The countywide tax supporting central dispatching produced \$162,407.26, down \$14,639.76.

Summary for 2025

In 2025, more than \$48.7 million in sales and use tax revenues came to the 13 bi-county cities, two county governments, the two county emergency services boards, and the two ambulance districts operating in Barry County.

That total compares to \$47.5 million collected in 2024, and \$43 million in 2023.

The 2025 total came from 72 different sales and use taxes, including 37 in Barry County. Note that online sales, including grocery orders to Walmart, do not charge sales taxes, but go to use taxes. Consequently, general fund totals may drop, drained by a diversion to the use tax, but rise when use tax totals are added in. Cities with older use taxes, like Monett, may have seen that drop in a previous year and recorded higher numbers more recently. Most cities have not committed use tax revenues to specific purposes and lump them back into the general fund. The following totals show specific collections, not combinations.

Here's where the money went:

Total tax numbers

The following tax amounts reflect the total amount of tax collected by each city and county, in 2025, as compared to 2024:

Cassville, which collected four taxes, took in a total of \$3,305,005.65, down almost \$29,250 from 2024 with rises in only 6 of the last 12 months. The city's use tax gathered \$344,404.50 in its second full year of collections, up 15% from the first full year. The use tax pushed overall totals to \$3,649,410.15, up almost \$16,500 over last year's record, up more than \$1.3 million from before the pandemic six years ago.

Exeter, with one tax, collected

\$31,615.30, down 8%, or \$2,811.62 from 2024, when receipts rose by 24%. The total is still up more than \$10,000 from six years ago.

Monett, with five active sales taxes and two sunsetted taxes, generated revenue in 2025. Even the sales tax paying for the Justice Center, sunsetted in 2016, still brought in \$48.59. The seven taxes combined brought in \$5,572,579.03, up almost \$224,000 from a year ago, almost wiping out the drop in 2024 due to the newly introduced use tax. The use tax, collected for its second full year, brought in \$954,045.34, up 11% from 2024. All Monett's taxes combined totaled \$6,526,575.78, up almost \$316,000, or 5%, on top of the 4% gain in 2024. That's up more than \$2 million from 2019.

Purdy, with three taxes, collected \$125,264.36, down 11%, or almost \$15,000 under the 2024 total. Purdy also saw its pandemic peak in 2022 at \$144,309.31. Current receipts are about \$277 lower than the 2018 total.

Seligman now has five sales taxes, with five months of collections from its new 1% tax supporting law enforcement, creating the highest total of any bi-county city at 3.5%. These taxes combined generated \$371,489.91, up \$43,234.40 from a year ago. Without the police tax, receipts were down almost \$6,000. Seligman's use tax, now in its second full year, generated \$82,660.17, up 40% from 2024, putting total receipts at \$454,150.08, up almost \$67,000 over last year. Compared to pre-pandemic 2019, which had two fewer taxes, receipts are up almost \$200,000 in six years.

Washburn, with three taxes, produced \$66,934.22, thanks in part to an unprecedented suspension of collections by the State Auditor for two months due to a clerical mix-up. That's a drop of \$15,274.76, or 19% from 2024. Washburn's use tax, collected for a second full year, brought in an additional \$32,921.59, boosting the year's total to \$99,855.81, only \$4,000 below the 2023 tally but a drop of \$16,376.44 from 2024. Prior to the pandemic, and the arrival of Washburn's Dollar General store, the

city received just under \$60,000 from its sales taxes in 2019.

Wheaton produced \$98,895.89 from its two sales taxes, even though the city's half-cent tax for transportation only generated 46% of the 1-cent tax instead of 50%, an unexplained anomaly that's been going on since 2017. The year's total was up nearly \$10,000, or 11% from last year. Wheaton's use tax generated \$16,430.07, a gain of 33%, putting the combined tax revenue total at \$115,325.96. That's down from the pandemic peak of \$146,998.93 in 2021, but up \$14,000 from 2024. Prior to the pandemic, Wheaton's tax total was \$71,217.18 in 2019.

Barry County has three .5% taxes plus a .125% tax augmenting the general fund. Barry County's two general fund sales taxes received \$3,545,276.04, up \$45,076.58, or 1% from 2024. In pre-pandemic 2019, general fund receipts were just under \$2.7 million.

Barry County's four taxes combined brought in \$9,218,430.78, up almost \$135,000 from last year, the sixth consecutive year of gains. Barry County's use tax yielded an additional \$2,271,450.74, another 10% gain, with 26%, or \$593,028.16 of that going into law enforcement. The overall sum of \$11,489,881.52 was up almost \$345,000, or 3%. That's nearly \$667,000 more than Lawrence County's sales taxes generated. In pre-pandemic 2019, before the law enforcement and the use taxes, the county received a little more than \$4.8 million in the year.

Barry County 911 and central dispatching, supported by a .375% sales tax, garnered \$2,127,145.41, up a little more than \$27,000 for the year, the third year in a row for a gain of less than 1%. Six years ago, the tax generated \$1.6 million.

South Barry County Ambulance District, south of Butterfield, reported receiving \$1,227,664.78, a gain of \$44,213.87 from a year ago, or 4%, compared to a 7% jump between 2023 and 2024.

The Barry-Lawrence Ambulance District received a tax increase to 1% in April, and began receiving larger collections, up from .5%, in November. For the year, the district received \$1,419,844.74, an increase of \$123,430.91. Between 2023 and 2024, receipts fell by almost \$43,000 as Monett's use tax kicked in, decreasing sales tax volume. Barry-Lawrence serves territory from Freistatt to Purdy, and from just west of Verona to east of Sarcoxie. Prior to switching to sales tax in 2019, the ambulance district serving Monett received around \$330,000 in property taxes annually.

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Progress continues at Generations Project



Pictured is a portion of the clothing room, dubbed the Posh Pod, which is fully operational at the Generations Project, located at the old Barry County jail on East Sixth Street. The Generations Project is preparing for setting up a store room, called The Store; a community room; a jobs center; a laundry room; and the Rec Yard Community Garden. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



A shoe room at the Generations Project in Cassville is stocked full and ready for people to use. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



A girls' clothing room at the Generations Project in Cassville is set up for use. The facility, located at the old Barry County jail on East Sixth Street, is also accepting donations of formal wear for high school students to access affordable homecoming or prom dresses. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



The food pantry at the Generations Project in Cassville, dubbed the Commissary Food Bank, is stocked and ready for use. The pantry is open from 12-5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. Carrie Beck, Generations Project manager, said the hours are opposite of the Cassville Pantry on West 10th Street. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



The lounge area at the Generations Project has been put to positive use in recent months, allowing for supervised family visitations with cases involving the Department of Family Services and foster parents. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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SCOREBOARD

Lady Wildcats win at Aurora, fall to McDonald County

The Cassville girls basketball team opened conference play with a 68-52 road win at Aurora on Jan. 4. Cassville jumped out to a 9-2 lead early and led throughout, stretching the advantage to 16 points by halftime. Aurora cut the lead to eight in the second half before Cassville pulled away to secure the win. Cassville scored 16 points in the first quarter, 21 in the second, 14 in the third and 17 in the fourth. Aurora scored 14, seven, 20 and 11. Audrey Kennedy led Cassville with 17 points, followed by Taylor Kennedy with 16. Briley Artherton scored 10, Alex Holycross and Aubrey Stoufer had 9 each, Aubrie Atkinson scored 4 and Tomi Blankenship added 3. Cassville won the JV game 31-26. On Friday, Cassville traveled to McDonald County and fell 57-45. The Lady Wildcats trailed by 10 at halftime and kept the game within single digits for much of the second half, but were unable to overcome the deficit. Cassville scored 7 points in the first quarter, 11 in the second, 15 in the third and 15 in the fourth. McDonald County scored 12, 16, 16 and 13. Stoufer led Cassville with 12 points, followed by Taylor Kennedy with 11. Holycross and Audrey Kennedy each scored 8, Tomi Blankenship had 5 and Atkinson scored 1. Cassville fell in the JV game, 40-25. Cassville finished the week 1-1, moving to 8-5 overall and 1-1 in conference play.

Wildcats sweep 'Houn Dawgs in hoops

The Cassville boys basketball team traveled to Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 6, sweeping all three games. In the varsity contest, Cassville earned a 59-56 win. Aiden Whittington led the Wildcats with 18 points, Tyson Bohmke added 12 and Mason Bryan scored 9. Cassville won the C game, 19-18, with Kaden Stearns hitting a buzzer-beater to secure the victory. The Wildcats won the JV game 53-35, led by Jayden Ritchie with 15 points and Dylan Bohmke with 14. Cassville later faced McDonald County, where the varsity team fell, 63-47. Bryan led Cassville with 9 points and Whittington added 8. The Wildcats earned a 53-43 win in the JV game, with Brayden Phillips scoring 19 points, Dylan Bohmke adding 16 and Wylan Farris scoring 13. Cassville also won the C game, 22-7, led by Mquade Farris with 10 points and Kaden Stearns with eight. Cassville is scheduled to compete in the Crane Tournament this week.

Eighth-grade boys open season 2-1

The Cassville eighth grade boys basketball team opened its season with three games in four days, finishing the week with a 2-1 record. Cassville opened the season on the road Jan. 5 at Logan-Rogersville, jumping out to an early 10-2 lead before the hosts rallied back following a timeout. Logan-Rogersville took the lead and did not give it back, handing Cassville a 51-33 loss. Leading scorers for Cassville were Kelby Lee with 9 points, Will Ray with 7, Tristan Larson with 6, Deagan Gross with 5, Vinny Griffanti with 4 and Colton Yockey with 2. The Wildcats bounced back the following night with a 58-41 road win at Forsyth on Jan. 6. Cassville trailed 12-10 after the first quarter but tightened up defensively, allowing just 10 points in the second quarter to take a 26-20 half-time lead. Cassville extended the advantage in the third quarter by outscoring Forsyth 19-13, then held the Panthers to four points in the fourth quarter. Griffanti led Cassville with 19 points, followed by Lee with 18 and Ray with 10. Yockey scored 6, Garret Matthew had 3 and Gross added 1. Cassville closed the week with its home opener Jan. 8 against Clever, earning a 47-30 win. The Wildcats led 19-16 at halftime in a back-and-forth first half, then pulled away with strong defense in the fourth quarter, holding Clever to three points. Lee scored 18 points to lead Cassville, followed by Griffanti with 17. Gross added 5, Larson scored 4 and Ray had 3.

Cassville middle school boys turn in strong week

Cassville's middle school boys basketball teams turned

WILDCATS 3RD IN MONETT TOURNAMENT



Cassville's Tyler Hodge avoids a pin in a match at the 54th Annual Monett Boys Wrestling Tournament on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville evaluating matches as squad prepares for postseason

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktrotman@cassville-democrat.com
The Cassville boys wrestling team is enjoying a third-place team finish at the 54th Annual Monett Boys Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, assessing their performances as they begin to look toward the fast-approaching postseason on the mats.

The Wildcats scored 241.5 points to take third place as a team, behind Springdale Har-Ber with 369 and fellow Class 2 powerhouse Oak Grove with 305.5.

Individually, six of the 19 Cassville wrestlers participating finished in the medals, led by Colton Roark and Riley James taking first place at 175 and 190 pounds, respectively. Boni Lopez, at 113 pounds, and Carson Hutchins, at 165 pounds, both took second place. Rounding out medals were two fourth-place finishes from Bradyn Sizemore, at 150 pounds, and Tyler Annecharico at 215 pounds.

"I thought the team competed well at the tournament this weekend," said Nathan Fortner, Cassville boys wrestling coach. "We're still focusing on our performance rather than wins and losses. Then, we can reevaluate our matches and get better in certain positions to prepare us for postseason. I'm proud of their effort Saturday."

Roark, defending state champion at 165 pounds and three-time state medalist in his senior season, is 31-1 so far this year. He earned three straight pins before winning a 7-0 decision in the semifinals and pinning his championship opponent.

"Colt has picked it up in practice this



Cassville's Easton Stone takes down his opponent in action at the 54th Annual Monett Boys Wrestling Tournament on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

past week which shows me he's getting ready to try and run back his state championship. He's got to continue that work the rest of the year to get on top of the podium. He had one of the toughest brackets in the tournament including 4 past state medalist and he dominated his way through it."

James, a three-time state medalist also in his senior season, made his debut at the Monett event after being ineligible for the first half of the season.

He followed the same path as Roark, earning two pins, then a 4-0 decision in the semifinals and a pin in the championship bout.

"I thought he got better as the tournament went on," Fortner said. "He had to knock some rust off throughout

and get back into competition mode."

While the Wildcats' most decorated wrestlers took care of business, newcomers to the spotlight also shone well, Fortner said.

"Boni has had a great year and has been working extremely hard in the practice room, which is showing in his performance," Fortner said. "He's getting better every time he steps on the mat, and I'm looking for some big things from him this postseason. Carson is our JV wrestler but is filling in for Tristan Thompson and Mason Rillstone since they couldn't wrestle at Monett."

"It shows the depth we have at that weight because he is our third backup

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

Lady Wildcats medal thrice in Monett

Winchell voted tournament's Most outstanding Wrestler

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktrotman@cassville-democrat.com
A Cassville girls wrestler basket in the spotlight on Friday, taking first place in her weight class and being voted the tournament's Most outstanding Wrestler.

Analeigh Winchell, a junior who took fourth place at state last season, pinned her way through the 155-pound bracket. Her first four matches did not last more than a minute, with pins in the quarterfinal and semifinal coming in 17 and 9 seconds, respectively. In her championship bout, Winchell, at 27-3 this season, pinned a 22-3 Webb City opponent in 1:20.

"Analeigh had a great tournament," said Casey Parsons, Cassville girls wrestling coach. "In her semifinal match, the girl scratched Analeigh's eye. So, she was in extreme pain going into her finals match, but in true Analeigh fashion, she pushed through the pain and pinned the Webb City girl in the first period.

"In the next month, she is going to hone in on condi-



Cassville's Isabella Bauman sizes up her opponent, and gets a pin soon after, during action at the 2nd Annual Monett Girls Wrestling Tournament on Friday. Bauman took third in her weight class. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

tioning and fine tuning a few things. She was voted 'Most Outstanding Wrestler' of the tournament by coaches, and this says a lot since there was 188 girls in this tournament."

Beyond Winchell's championship performance, two of Cassville's other 10 competitors brought home third-place hardware: Isabella Bauman at 100 pounds and Anna Vanderhoef at 145 pounds.

"Isabella and Anna are believing in their abilities and gaining confidence more every day, and that is pushing them to the top in their weight class-

es. For example, Anna came off the mat after her third-place match in tears — she said these are tears of joy. She pinned a girl from Aurora that had beat her earlier this year."

Parsons said the tournament was an overall success, and the team is heading in the right direction as the post-season approaches.

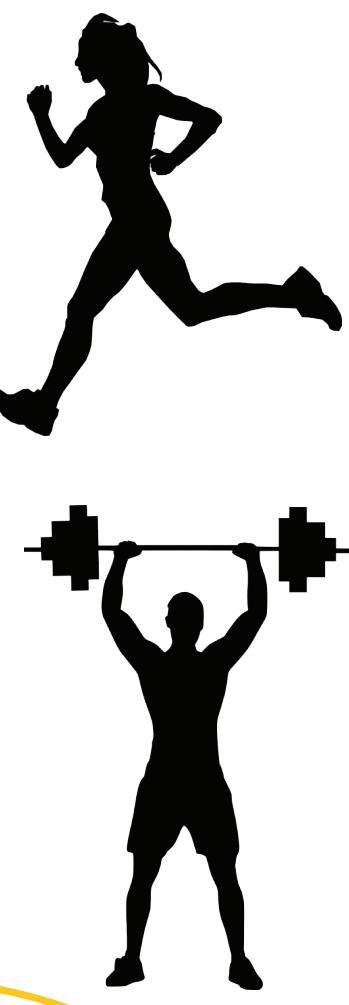
"I am proud of the girls overall performance at the Monett tournament even our young girls got some wins and are learning from each match," Parsons said. "All of the girls are working harder each match

as we are headed into the last month of season."

Full results from the Monett tournament include:

- 100: Isabella Bauman (22-5) placed 3rd and scored 9.0 team points.
 - Round 2 - Isabella Bauman 22-5 won by fall over Shyanne Downs (Bolivar) 6-9 (Fall 0:39)
 - Round 4 - Isabella Bauman 22-5 won by fall over Angelica Sturgis (Joplin) 2-5 (Fall 1:03)
 - Round 5 - Chloe Kirksey (Willard) 18-6 won by fall over Isabella Bauman 22-5 (Fall 1:21)
 - 3rd Place Match - Isabella Bauman 22-5 won by major decision over Samantha Williams (Neosho) 9-10 (MD 19-6)
 - 105: Allison Deaver (25-8) placed 5th and scored 5.0 team points.
 - Round 1 - Allison Deaver 25-8 won by fall over Natalie Hernandez (Kickapoo) 10-11 (Fall 3:24)
 - Round 3 - Allie Mills (Oak Grove) 15-8 won by fall over Allison Deaver 25-8 (Fall 1:36)
 - Consolation Bracket - Allison Deaver 25-8 won by decision over Lexie Smith (Webb City) 15-15 (Dec 7-3)
 - 5th Place Match - Allison Deaver 25-8 won by tech fall over Sheccid Gonzalez (McDonald County) 13-11 (TF 1.5:34 (18-2))
 - 120: Hopelyne Thompson (10-13) placed 13th and scored 0.0 team points.
 - Round 1 - Ivy Nobis (Webb City) 21-13 won by fall over Hopelyne Thompson 10-13 (Fall 1:57)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Girls Wrestling

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

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
2/17	Southwest	Home 7:15 pm
2/20	Nevada	Away 7:15 pm

Neutral
Home 8:00 pm
Away 7:15 pm
Home 7:00 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Away 7:15 pm
Home 6:00 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Away 7:15 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Away 7:15 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Home 7:15 pm

Girls Basketball

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
2/24	Neosho	Away 7:00 pm
2/26	Carl Junction	Home 7:30 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

Boys Wrestling

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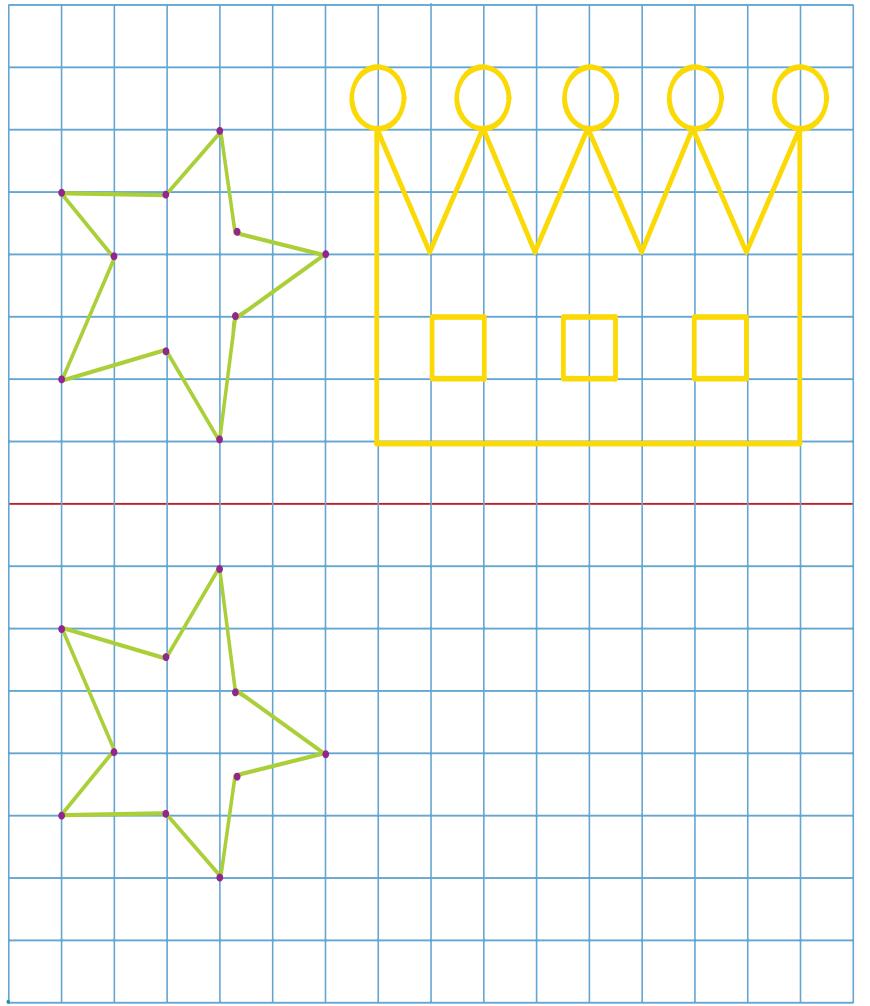
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MIRROR OR IMAGE

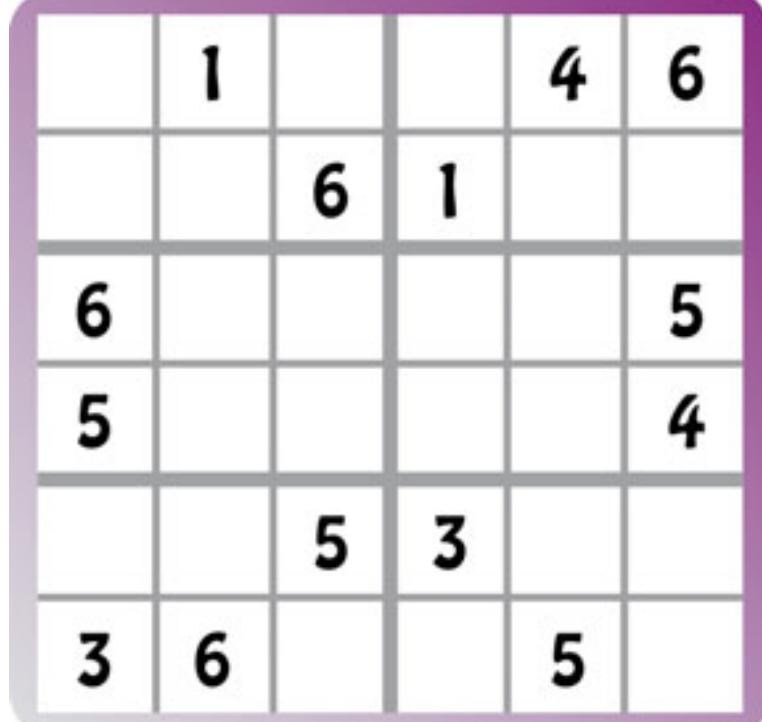
DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



DOT TO DOT



Sudoku 6x6



COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 6, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

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

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

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JUST kidding

Q: What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?

A: SUPPLIES!



JUST kidding

Q: Why did the traffic light turn red?

A: You would too if you had to change in the middle of the street.



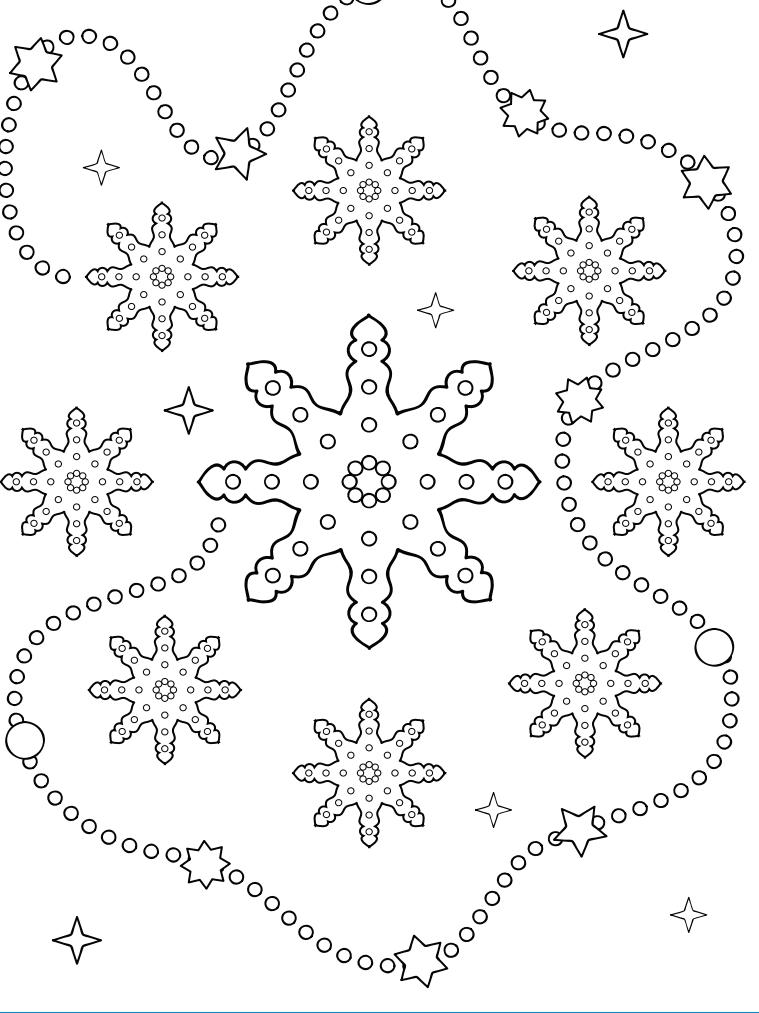
JUST kidding

Q: What did one elevator say to the other elevator?

A: I think I'm coming down with something.



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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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Don't look back

Genesis 19 (the story of Sodom and Gomorrah) is one of the most sobering chapters in the Bible. It shows us total moral corruption in humanity, God's judgment, God's mercy, and the danger of loving a world that is under judgment.

Sodom's sin was not hidden, secret or isolated. The Scripture here tells us that "ALL" the men of the city — young and old — surrounded Lot's house with a "violent and perverse" demand (Genesis 19:4-5 "Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."). This was a city-wide expression of the deranged, aggressive sexual sin. The extent of this evil reveals how thoroughly sin



SCOTT MITCHELL

can consume a society when God is rejected.

The Bible is consistent in naming this behavior as "exceedingly grave" sin. From Genesis to Jude, Scripture speaks with clarity and unity: God does not redefine sin to fit culture. Yet this truth must be held alongside another

truth — that God does not take pleasure in judgment. He is patient, merciful, and calls sinners to repent. Judgment only comes when evil is embraced and repentance is refused.

In Genesis 19:11, "They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway."

God struck the men with blindness. Even then, they continued trying to break through the door. This moment shows one of sin's most terrifying effects: that sin blinds the heart so deeply that even divine warning is ignored.

Lot warned his family of the destruction that was coming, but they mocked him. His tolerant life of the sin around him had weakened his testimony. It is a sad reminder that when believers look like the world, the world is unlikely to pay attention to their warnings.

Yet in the middle of judgment, mercy shines. Genesis 19:16 says that the angels seized Lot and his family, "for the compassion of the LORD was upon him." You see, Lot was not rescued by the angels because he was righteous enough, but because God is merciful enough. Salvation has always been an act of His grace.

But then came the warn-

ing: "Do not look behind you." Lot's wife did — and became a pillar of salt. She was physically leaving Sodom, but Sodom had not left her heart. Jesus later warned, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). You cannot follow God while clinging to the sins of this world you're being called to leave.

The message remains clear: run from sin, trust God's mercy, and whatever you do — don't look back!

Scott Mitchell is the pastor at Solid Rock Baptist Church, located at 13704 Farm Road 1040 in Exeter. He may be reached at 417-846-6619.

BIBLE VERSE:

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

— GALATIANS 3:26-29

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MISCELLANEOUS**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

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing for the property at 7509 Little Street in Seligman, MO 65745.

Parcel Number
27-5-0-22-001-002-0002.000.

I wish to go before the Seligman Planning and Zoning Commission and request their recommendation to rezone this property. Their

recommendation will then be taken before the Seligman City Council to request the actual rezoning.

The property is currently zoned as Agricultural on the south side of State Hwy DD and RI on the north side.

I wish to rezone the south side to RI so that all the property is zoned the same, with the end goal of adding a city street and house lots for new construction.

Any comments or concerns can be addressed at the hearing during the scheduled Planning and Zoning Meeting on January 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM

1st insertion 01/07/26
52-1

PROBATE**IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

Judge or Division:
PROBATE
Case Number:
25BR-PR00191
In the Estate of
RUTH ETTA BUCHNER,
Deceased.

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
RUTH ETTA BUCHNER, Decedent:

On January 5, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of

RUTH ETTA BUCHNER, decedent by the Probate

Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is:

BILL BUCHNER,
21705 JASMINE LANE ,
EAGLE ROCK, MO 65641

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:

CORDELIA HERRIN,
P.O. BOX 276
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-847-2734

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first

publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative,

then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later,

or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month

period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as

provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section

473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier

through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section

537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 20-OCT-2025

Date of first publication: January 14, 2026

Date of second publication:

January 21, 2026

Date of third publication: January 28, 2026

Date of fourth publication: February 4, 2026

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk

by S. Parker, Deputy

Probate Clerk

Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and

extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 01/14/26
1-4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY MAY JOHNSON, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 25BR-PR00065****NOTICE OF FILING FINAL SETTLEMENT & PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION****TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF BETTY MAY JOHNSON, Deceased:**

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are successors in interest to the personal property of the Estate of Betty May Johnson and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, on or after February 12, 2026, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty (20) days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

Angela C. Artherton, Attorney

Sam Cowherd, Personal Representative

10388 Farm Road 2172 Cassville, MO 65625 (417) 665-6511 angela@arthertonlaw.com

Dates of Publication –

1/14/2026,
1/21/2026,
1/28/2026,
2/4/2026

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE OF FEBRUARY 12, 2026 IS NOT A COURT APPEARANCE DATE.

It is an estimated date as to when the Final Settlement will be filed with the Court.

1st insertion 01/14/26
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION**Estate No.**

25BR-PR00036

In the Estate of:

Arlie Cleo Knighten
Deceased

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF Arlie Cleo Knighten, Deceased:**

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in interest to the personal / real property of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, on January 2026, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

James Randall

City of Wheaton	
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures	
July 2025-December 2025	
General Fund Revenue	
Property Tax	\$4,584.72
City Sales Tax	\$32,526.93
Half Cent Sales Tax (streets)	\$16,004.19
Motor Fuel Tax (streets)	\$20,540.38
Use Tax	\$5,750.56
Other Tax	\$15.27
Trash Service Revenue	\$18,879.56
Police Revenue	\$13,144.18
Other General Revenue	\$22,699.12
General Fund Revenue Total	\$134,144.91
Water Department Revenue	\$65,193.80
Sewer Department Revenue	\$55,444.57
Natural Gas Department Revenue	\$120,569.89
TOTAL REVENUE	\$375,353.17
General Fund Expenditures	\$101,287.46
Water Department Expenditures	\$67,939.18
Sewer Department Expenditures	\$41,388.93
Natural Gas Department Expenditures	\$116,743.90
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$327,359.47
BALANCE ON WATER BOND	\$668,900.00

<p>Attorney 405 E Broadway, Monett, MO 65708 Address January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2026 Dates of publication Personal Representative ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE Service of the Within notice is acknowledged at Monett Missouri on January 6, 2026 PROOF OF MAILING OF COPY OF NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION Samantha Prescott, on that state(s) that a copy of the above Notice was mailed by the undersigned on November 25, 2025 by ordinary mail, according to law, to: Heirs Joe</p>

SPORTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

Wheaton, Missouri
Beginning at the Northeast corner of the West Half the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest of the Northeast Quarter of Said Section 34, Township 14, Range 29; Thence South 0 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds

West a distance of 205 feet; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 25 seconds

West a distance of 80 feet; thence North 0 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds

East a distance of 75-feet; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 25 seconds

West a distance of 70 feet; thence North 0 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds

East a distance of 130 feet to the North line of said Section 34; thence

South 89 degrees 46 minutes 25 seconds East along the North line of said Section 34, a

distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning.

All in Barry County Missouri.

to satisfy said debt and trust.

Please publish:
January 14, 2026
January 21, 2026
January 28, 2026
February 04, 2026

Jon Homer,
Trustee

Security Bank of
Southwest Missouri

Blake B. Fields,
Attorney for Trustee

Law Office of Blake B.
Fields, LLC

605 Main Street,
Cassville, MO 65625

1st insertion 01/14/26

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S
SALE

WHEREAS,
JEFFERERY HEALEY
and
KIMBERLY HEALEY,
by their Deed of Trust
signed and dated the 9th
day of March, 2021, and
recorded on March 10th
2021 in the Recorder's
Office for Barry County,
Missouri in Deed of Trust
in Book 21, Page 1494,
conveyed to Robert

Haskins, as Trustee
of The Robert Haskins
Revocable Living Trust
dated November 25, 2014,
the following described real
estate situate in the County
of Barry, State of Missouri,
to-wit;

Lots 10 and 11 in
Presley's 2nd Addition to
the City of Cassville,

Barry County, Missouri,
and 20 feet off the entire
South side of Lot 9 in
Presley's 2nd Addition to
the City of Cassville,
Missouri, according to the
recorded plat thereof.

which conveyance was
made in trust to secure
the payment of one certain
note in said Deed of Trust
described and

WHEREAS, default was
made and still continues in
payment of said note;

NOW THEREFORE, at
the request of the legal
holder of said note and in
pursuance of the provisions
of said Deed of Trust, the
undersigned will sell the
property above described
at public vendue to the
highest bidder for cash at
the East front door of the
old County Courthouse
in the City of Cassville,
Barry County, Missouri,
on February 6, 2026,
beginning at 9:00 a.m. for
the purposes of satisfying
said indebtedness and the
costs of executing this trust.

James J. Randall
trustee
405 E. Broadway,
P.O. Box 151
Monett, Missouri 65708

Telephone:
(417) 235-8688

TO BE PUBLISHED
IN THE CASSVILLE
DEMOCRAT ON:

January 14, 21, 28 and
February 4, 2026.

1st insertion 01/14/26

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Scoreboard: Seventh grade splits game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

in a strong week, with
both the seventh and
eighth grade squads fin-
ishing with 2-1 records.
The eighth grade team
opened with a road loss
at Logan-Rogersville

Wildcats: 3 top wrestlers unable to compete in tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

at that weight class and
still took second place
in a varsity tournament.
Carson would be a vari-
sity starter at most pro-
grams and still works
really hard in the room,
which will set him up
well when he does get
his shot."

Thompson, a two-time
state medalist, and Ethan
Sizemore, a state qual-
ifier last year, were both
out on Saturday, and
newcomer Kellen Welsy
was 1-1 on the day before
medically forfeiting due
to sickness.

Full results from the
tournament include:

113: Boni Lopez (24-5) placed
2nd and scored 27.5 team points.

• Round 1 - Boni Lopez 24-5
won by fall over Tyler Weibling
(Harrisonville) 2-12 (Fall 7:00)

• Round 2 - Boni Lopez 24-5
won by tech fall over Dyson
Cutbirth (Monett) 5-6 (TF-1.5 3:12
(17-2))

• Round 3 - Boni Lopez 24-5
won by fall over Jacob O'Dell
(DeSoto) 18-5 (Fall 5:27)

• Championship Bracket -
Boni Lopez 24-5 won by fall over
William Paduch-Lischer (Springdale
Har-Ber) 14-10 (Fall 0:56)

• 1st Place Match - Atreyu
Whitten (Oak Grove) 23-2 won
by fall over Boni Lopez 24-5 (Fall
2:57)

113: Noah Uria (6-15) placed
7th.

• Round 1 - Atreyu Whitten
(Oak Grove) 23-2 won by tech fall
over Noah Uria 6-15 (TF-1.5 2:00
(16-1))

• Round 2 - William Paduch-
Lischer (Springdale Har-Ber) 14-10
won by fall over Noah Uria 6-15
(Fall 3:33)

• Round 3 - Cayden (Cole)
Perez (Knob Noster) 10-10 won
by tech fall over Noah Uria 6-15
(TF-1.5 5:33 (17-2))

• Consolation Bracket - Jacob
O'Dell (DeSoto) 18-5 won by fall
over Noah Uria 6-15 (Fall 3:59)

• 7th Place Match - Noah Uria
6-15 won by major decision over
Tyler Weibling (Harrisonville) 2-12
(MD 14-4)

120: Trevor Garnett (11-14)
placed 7th and scored 7.5 team
points.

• Round 1 - Trevor Garnett
11-14 won by tech fall over
Braxton Warren (Harrisonville) 8-8
(TF-1.5 4:36 (15-0))

• Round 2 - Denis Velasquez
(Carthage) 9-3 won by fall over
Trevor Garnett 11-14 (Fall 5:41)

• Quarterfinal - Asher
Copeland (Springdale Har-Ber)
19-7 won by tech fall over Trevor

Garnett 11-14 (TF-1.5 2:37 (17-2))

• Cons. Round 1 - Collin
Montgomery (Bolivar) 12-10 won
by decision over Trevor Garnett
11-14 (Dec 9-5)

• 7th Place Match - Trevor
Garnett 11-14 won by decision
over Mason Lyons (Reeds Spring)
3-8 (Dec 7-1)

126: Rylen Holman (17-6)
placed 4th and scored 24.0 team
points.

• Round 2 - Rylen Holman
17-6 won by fall over Chase Brooks
(Webb City) 7-22 (Fall 1:52)

• Round 3 - Rylen Holman
17-6 won by fall over Kayden
Shepherd (Nevada) 14-11 (Fall
3:25)

• Quarterfinal - Rylen Holman
17-6 won by fall over Adam Jones
(Carthage) 13-12 (Fall 1:41)

• Semifinal - Brenton
Drummond (DeSoto) 22-1 won by
tech fall over Rylen Holman 17-6
(TF-1.5 5:24 (19-2))

• 3rd Place Match - Perry
Morgan (Oak Grove) 20-3 won by
major decision over Rylen Holman
17-6 (MD 10-1)

126: Michael Winchell (13-17)
placed 10th.

• Round 1 - Klyde Webb
(Harrisonville) 11-10 won by fall
over Michael Winchell 13-17 (Fall
3:14)

• Round 3 - Brenton
Drummond (DeSoto) 22-1 won by
fall over Michael Winchell 13-17
(Fall 2:25)

• Round 4 - Michael Winchell
13-17 won by fall over Jude
Holleman (Eldon) 8-11 (Fall 3:21)

• Round 5 - Michael Winchell
13-17 won by fall over Chase
Brooks (Webb City) 7-22 (Fall 5:22)

• Round 6 - Aidan McAtee
(Reeds Spring) 12-3 won by
major decision over Michael
Winchell 13-17 (MD 14-2)

132: Kole Fry (18-14) placed
9th and scored 10.5 team points.

• Round 1 - Kade Adams
(Monett) 17-3 won by fall over
Kole Fry 18-14 (Fall 1:31)

• Round 2 - Raef Braman
(Knob Noster) 15-6 won by fall
over Kole Fry 18-14 (Fall 0:47)

• Consolation Bracket - Kole
Fry 18-14 won by fall over Payton
Bond (Nevada) 14-11 (Fall 4:15)

• 9th Place Match - Kole Fry
18-14 won by tech fall over Mason
Artym (Carthage) 2-3 (TF-1.5 3:38
(16-0))

132: Hayden Jereczek (4-12)
placed 12th.

• Round 1 - Paden Vance
(McDonald County) 22-6 won by
fall over Hayden Jereczek 4-12
(Fall 0:27)

• Round 2 - Ryder Gaston
(Oak Grove) 15-7 won by fall over
Hayden Jereczek 4-12 (Fall 0:29)

• Consolation Bracket - Mason

135: Molly Pickett (7-18)
placed 15th and scored 0.0 team
points.

• Round 1 - Kylie Tomlinson
(Neosho) 14-10 won by fall over
Molly Pickett 7-18 (Fall 0:38)

• Round 2 - Clarey Huck
(Desoto) 24-7 won by fall over
Molly Pickett 7-18 (Fall 0:43)

• Round 3 - Addison Kelley
(Oak Grove) 10-11 won by fall over
Molly Pickett 7-18 (Fall 0:49)

• Consolation Bracket - Zoe
Bohstedt (Reed Springs) 1-4 won
by fall over Molly Pickett 7-18
(Fall 0:53)

• 15th Place Match - Molly
Pickett 7-18 won by fall over Shayla
Ledezma (McDonald County) 0-7
(Fall 0:31)

140: Estrella Garcia (5-15)
placed 10th and scored 0.0 team
points.

• Round 2 - Gabby Barnes
(Frontenac) 4-12 won by fall over
Estrella Garcia 5-15 (Fall 1:40)

• Round 3 - Tallynn Pohlsander
(Hillcrest) 23-4 won by fall over
Estrella Garcia 5-15 (Fall 1:19)

• Consolation Bracket - Estrella
Garcia 5-15 won by injury default
over Tyilee Curiel (Neosho) 5-9
(Inj. 0:00)

• 9th Place Match - Olivia
Kingsley (Reed Springs) 3-2 won by
fall over Estrella Garcia 5-15 (Fall
1:18)

145: Anna Vanderhoef (20-10)
placed 3rd and scored 9.0 team
points.

• Round 1 - Anna Vanderhoef
20-10 won by fall over Brooke
Obed (McDonald County) 7-8 (Fall
1:19)

• Round 2 - Alanah Turner
(Reed Springs) 1-3 won by fall over
Anna Vanderhoef 20-10 (Fall 1:04)

• Round 3 - Anna Vanderhoef

Artym (Carthage) 2-3 won by fall
over Hayden Jereczek 4-12 (Fall
0:49)

• 11th Place Match - Payton
Bond (Nevada) 14-11 won by tech
fall over Hayden Jereczek 4-12 (TF-
1.5 1:17 (15-0))

138: Kellen Welsy (19-9)
placed 8th and scored 9.0 team
points.

• Round 1 - Kellen Welsy 19-9
won by fall over Landon Green
(Eldon) 9-12 (Fall 1:20)

• Round 2 - Kellen Welsy
19-9 won by fall over Stratton
Bledsoe (Logan-Rogersville) 5-16
(Fall 1:50)

• Round 3 - Marcus Braman
(Knob Noster) 15-7 won by deci-
sion over Kellen Welsy 19-9 (Dec
14-8)

• Consolation Bracket -
Douglas Ball (Carthage) 5-5 won
by medical forfeit over Kellen
Welsy 19-9 (M. For.)

• 7th Place Match - Finnley
McDermitt (Logan-Rogersville)
11-11 won by medical forfeit over
Kellen Welsy 19-9 (M. For.)

138: Easton Stone (5-6) placed
11th.

• Round 1 - Easton Stone 5-6
won by fall over Ronnie Jo Clouse
(Reeds Spring) 9-17 (Fall 1:19)

• Round 2 - Jacob Campbell
(Springdale Har-Ber) 19-6 won by
fall over Easton Stone 5-6 (Fall
0:47)

• Round 3 - Finnley McDermitt
(Logan-Rogersville) 11-11 won by
tech fall over Easton Stone 5-6
(TF-1.5 4:22 (26-8))

• Consolation Bracket - Chris
Spears (Monett) 12-7 won by
major decision over Easton Stone
5-6 (MD 11-1)