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PHOTOS: SHIVELEY SURPRISED WITH CHAMBER AWARD — PAGE 4A

LADY WILDCATS HEAD TO DISTRICTS >>>

Young Cassville squad aims for multiple state qualifications. — PAGE 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM



Purdy extends superintendent's contract

School board reviews improvement strategies

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat
The Purdy school board has extended the contract of Superintendent Travis Graham and approved waiving tuition for new students who lived beyond the district's borders.

PURDY SCHOOLS

What: Held January school board meeting

Action: Renewed superintendent's contract for three years

More: Change coming to Board of Education

Board members extended Graham's contract through the 2028-29 school year, keeping him committed for three years. They also approved raising Graham's base pay by 2.66%

with the addition of a family plan insurance, and continuing the relocation stipend for another year.

The board also hired Brandice Shores as a middle school English language learner teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

The board agreed to waive out-of-district tuition for two students seeking enrollment as long as families provided transportation to and from school, and that the students followed

the student handbook. Neither student had attended Purdy previously.

There will be change coming to the Board of Education in the April 7 election. Four candidates filed for the three open seats. Incumbents David Young and Nathan Lamp filed for re-election. Also running are Kaley Thigpen and David Wormington. It will be the first election in Purdy in two years.

Graham reported the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

BARRY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

What: Hosting information and dialogue event

Where: Eagle Rock Fire Station

Speaker: Barry County Sheriff

Danny Boyd

Information, dialogue event in Eagle Rock

Sheriff to speak, host Q&A session at fire station

The Barry County Democrats are inviting the public to an open community information and public dialogue event featuring Barry County Sheriff Danny Boyd as guest speaker.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Fire Station, located at 30625 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock.

Boyd will provide residents with an overview of his department, emerging trends and key challenges facing the Barry County Sheriff's Office. This presentation aims to enhance transparency, strengthen community trust and foster open communication between elected and community leaders and the public, a Committee press release said.

Following his remarks, Boyd will host a question-and-answer session, giving attendees the opportunity to ask questions on any topic related to public safety, law enforcement operations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

Cassville band students perform at districts

11 selected to perform at district concert, 7 play in Conference Honors Band

Cassville High School's band program earned well-deserved recognition as students participated in the District Honors Band and Conference Honors Band events held Jan. 10 at Joplin High School.

Cassville Band Director Micah Boise announced that 11 Cassville band students were selected to take part in the prestigious performances, traveling

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Reuter, McBroom crowned Tip-Off royalty



Cassville senior Claire Reuter is crowned Tip-Off Queen on Friday by 2025 Queen Kyla Bowling, as this year's King, Aiden McBroom, looks on at left. Gwendy Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Join the fun at 14th Annual Trivia Night March 6

Proceeds from Cassville Education Fund event benefit Cassville teachers

The Cassville Education Fund will host its 14th Annual Trivia night on March 6.

The informal evening of fun and games begins at 7 p.m. at the Cassville High School commons. The defending overall champions from 2025, the Malcontents (representing Ellis, Cupps and Herrin law office), will battle other teams to see who

has the greatest trivia knowledge.

Topics include everything from sports, history, geography, literature, pop culture, movies and music, to food and nature. This is a team competition where team members discuss each question and agree upon a single answer that is written on their answer sheet.

Four rounds of trivia questions will be held. While the scores of each round are being tallied, team members will be able to participate in optional bonus point competitions.

The overall champions will be the team

that has correctly answered the most number of questions and earned the most bonus points. The winners will have their team name engraved on a traveling trophy. In addition to the overall champions, the Smarties Award will be given to the team that has the highest number of correct answers.

Dessert and refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

Friends, church groups, co-workers, clubs and trivia buffs are encouraged to form their own teams with up to eight

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

Purdy FBLA continues success under new leadership



Under new leadership this year, the Purdy FBLA programs continued its legacy of success at the District Leadership Conference on Feb. 5, producing 15 first-place winners, 45 medalists and 29 qualifiers for the FBLA State Leadership Conference in April. Melanie Grossman, who brings with her 26 years of success in business education and FBLA leadership from Cassville and East Newton, came out of retirement in August of 2025 to step into the program sponsor role following the retirement of Kay Wright in May 2025. Wright concluded a successful and impactful career at Purdy, leaving behind a program built on dedication, student achievement and competitive excellence, a Purdy press release said. The release added that Grossman's return to the classroom reflects a shared commitment to student growth and ensures continuity of excellence as Purdy FBLA moves forward. Contributed photo

COVERING BARRY COUNTY, MO., LIKE THE MORNING DEW SINCE 1871.



LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Jazz Night on Tuesday

The Cassville High School and Cassville Middle School Jazz Bands will host the annual Jazz Night on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center. Admission to the show is \$5. Love Notes will again be read during the show, and a reception will follow the concert, with refreshments available. Andy's Beauty's at Oak Hill Court is sponsoring the event.

BCGHS hosting Valentine's event

The Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society has announced the Bayless/Salyer House will be available, both inside and outside, with large hearts for Valentine's pictures from 3:30-5:30 p.m., on Thursday and Friday, and on Saturday by appointment. For more information, people may call Lynn Hilburn at 417 847-7917.

4-H hosting 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run

The Barry County 4-H will host a 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run fundraiser on March 21 starting at the Cassville Aquatic Center, located at 501 Sale Barn Road in Cassville. Check-in is at 8 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, and cost for the 1-Mile Fun Run is \$20. People may register online at <https://pears.io/events/mu/4287/>, or at the MU Extension office, located in the Barry County Courthouse, by March 1.

Summer Putting League kicks off April in southwest Missouri

Mini golf enthusiasts are invited to tee it up this summer with the Summer Putting League, running from April through September and featuring monthly competitive play at two local courses. League play will take place on the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Each event will consist of 36 holes, with an entry fee of \$20 per night. The first Tuesday of each month will be at Coral Reef Mini Golf in Branson, and the third Tuesday of each month will be at Zone 4 Mini Golf and More in Cassville. The season will conclude with a championship event, scheduled for October or November, where league participants will compete for top honors. The Summer Putting League is open to players looking for fun, friendly competition throughout the warmer months. For more information or questions about the league, people may contact, Jody Kimble at 479-831-6757.

Quilts of Valor event at Cassville Senior Center

On Tuesday, The Cassville Senior Center, located at 1111 Fair Street in Cassville, will host an event for veterans, and the public are also invited to attend. During this Event, the Quilts Of Valor organization will present quilts to a group of local Veterans. The presentation is during the regular lunch time at the Center, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Democratic Central Committee meeting scheduled

The Barry County Democratic Central Committee will meet today (Wednesday) at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Fire Station, located at 30625 St. Hwy 86 in Eagle Rock. Sheriff Danny Boyd is the special guest.

Book collection now at Bayless-Salyer house

The Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society book collection is now located at the Bayless/Salyer house on the corner of 9th and Townsend streets, behind the Post Office. This collection includes genealogical and historical information on states (including Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma), immigration and migration, the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Native Americans and African Americans. It also has a vast collection of local family histories. The research room is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For all other times, people may call Norma Terry at 417-827-6585, or Lynna Spellman at 417-827-9676.

Voter registration ongoing for April elections

For those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the April 7 General Municipal Election, the last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 11, 2026. People may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or the Monett Chamber of Commerce. Registered voters should notify the Clerk's Office of any change of address or name. Photo ID is required to vote in the April General Municipal Election. Absentee voting is ongoing at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two-week in-person, no-excuse absentee voting begins March 24. If unable to vote in person, voters may send a written request to the office of Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625, or fax to: 417-847-5311. The Office will need: name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, phone number, reason for voting absentee and signature. Those who live in the Monett area may go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561, opt: 3, or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

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

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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Four Cassville Middle School students earned Junior High District Honor Band accolades. Earning spots in the band were: Trystan Moore, Sunny Burns, Geneva Aschwanden and Ivan Ortega. Contributed photo



Eleven Cassville students played in the District Honor Band's concert on Jan. 10 at Joplin High School. Contributed photo

Band: 25 CMS musicians audition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

to Joplin after school on Friday and returning early Saturday morning for a full day of intensive rehearsals. The event culminated in an evening concert, during which each honors band performed four musical selections showcasing their preparation and talent.

Several Cassville musicians had previously secured positions in the District Honors Band following auditions last fall. These students included TJ Cash on baritone, Sterling Zucca on trumpet, Jacie Hudson on percussion, and Jonah Cupps on oboe. Selection for District Honors Band is based on individual performance and places students among the top musicians in the region.

In addition, seven Cassville students were chosen to perform with the Conference Honors Band, an ensemble composed of students nominated by high school band directors throughout the district. Cassville's Conference Honors Band members were Wesley Garner on saxophone, Isaac Luney on percussion, Gracie Gray on clarinet, Audrey Mitchell on clarinet, Isabel Serrano on clarinet, Kimberly Hang on flute and Aubrey Conrad on percussion.

"Earning a place in either honors ensemble requires dedication, strong musicianship, and a willingness to commit extra time to rehearsals and performances," a Cassville band press

release said. "The Cassville Band's strong presence at the district level reflects the continued growth and success of the program, as well as the hard work put in by students throughout the school year. Their performances highlighted not only individual achievement but also the collective excellence of Cassville's music program."

Along with the high school honorees, 25 Cassville Middle School band students recently auditioned for the Junior

High District Honor Band.

Auditions took place at Neosho in January. Earning

spots in the band were:

Trystan Moore, Sunny Burns, Geneva Aschwanden and Ivan Ortega.

Trivia: \$45K donated since 2011

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

members. Individuals can participate as well and will be assigned to a pick-up team the night of the event.

Entrance fees are \$15 per player or \$120 per team. Optional bonus point games are \$15 per team. To guarantee a spot in the competition, participants should pre-register at the Cassville Chamber of Commerce office, 504 Main Street, or call 417-847-2814.

Spectators may observe the fun for a \$5 per person admission fee.

All proceeds from Trivia Night benefit the non-profit Cassville Education Fund.

The fund is a permanent endowment supporting academic programs at Cassville schools.

Grants from the interest on the fund will be awarded this spring for stu-

dent-centered academic programs.

Since the fund was established in 2011, almost \$45,000 has been awarded to Cassville schools.

Our goal is to make this an ongoing event with various public and civic leaders discussing current topics of interest throughout Barry County."

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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Reuter, McBroom crowned Tip-Off royalty



Cassville senior Aiden McBroom is crowned Tip-Off King on Friday by 2025 King Jonathan Stults. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Cassville Tip-Off Queen Claire Reuter smiles after being crowned on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Tip-Off candidates Olivia Cypret, left, and Hayden Jereczek, both freshmen, smile for a photo during Friday's ceremony. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Seniors Layla Bailey and Timothy Cash pose for a photo while being announced at Friday's Tip-Off ceremony in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Juniors Taylor Yarnall, left, and Carson Cash smile for a photo while being announced at Friday's Cassville Tip-Off ceremony. Yarnall was named Princess, and Cash was named Prince Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

El ganador super

A year ago today, I wrote a column about Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime show, and this year, the performance by Bad Bunny was unlike any other, yet there were many similarities.

The most obvious difference was the language — his whole performance was in Spanish. I took four years of Spanish through high school and college, but I understood about as much of the lyrics as anyone who has never studied the language.

I have also never listened to Bad Bunny's music before, because it's in Spanish. Yet, I found a great deal of enjoyment in the performance the Puerto Rican put on.

One of the greatest things about the Super Bowl halftime show is the imagery, and it did not disappoint. The NFL playing surface was transformed into a sugar cane field, with a central stage resembling a traditional home, with traditional storefronts and tons of other native Puerto Rican imagery.

There was a marriage on stage — a bona fide marriage. The couple asked Bad Bunny to come to their wedding, and though he declined that request, he made an offer to them to get married on the Super Bowl stage. That's pretty darn cool.

Guest appearances from Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin added a little spice, though I was a little disappointed there were not a couple more guest performances.

The best parts, by far, were the very beginning and the very end. Bad Bunny entered the stage with the name "Ocasio" across his back — not his stage name, but his family name. The first words out of his mouth (yes, in Spanish) were: "My name is Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio. And if today I'm here at the Super Bowl, it's because I never, never stopped believing in myself."

That's a message we can all stand behind in any language. At the show's end, he named every country in North America, South America and Central America — and paraded the flag of each of the countries he named. It was a message of unity, capped with the phrase, "God Bless America."

It invoked an old Hispanic trope, that the United States frequently use "America" to reference only one country, when the Americas encompass many more cultures and traditions than just those of the USA.

Yet, the message was not one of division, it was one of love. Plastered across the jumbotron was the phrase, "The only thing more powerful than hate is love."

In my opinion, and you can take it or leave it, it was in stark contrast to the opposition to Bad Bunny being awarded the performance. From what I have seen on social media, many of our friends and neighbors opted for the competing halftime show, the Kid Rock-headlined Turning Point USA's "All-American Halftime Show."

The connotation of that phrasing is that the Super Bowl Halftime show is unAmerican because it was in another language and performed by someone that doesn't fit the Anglo-European majority of US citizens.

Yet, Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, born in Puerto Rico in 1994, is an American citizen by birth, the same as Kid Rock, Brantley Gilbert, Lee Brice and Gabby Barrett. No matter whose music you prefer — and I've listened to way more Kid Rock in my days than Bad Bunny — the implication that Ocasio is not All-American is inherently unAmerican.

As a nation, our vast cultural differences are what make us strong. From traditions to food to music and everything in between, being American is more than what the "All-American Halftime Show" portrayed it to be. And I'll borrow a couple paragraphs from my column last year that still stand true:

"If you did not enjoy [Bad Bunny], don't fret! The Super Bowl has been very hip-hop and R&B driven in recent years, and judging by the history of performers, I'm anticipating a switch in demographics. The early 2000s saw many more mainstream artists center stage, like Aerosmith and NSYNC in 2001 and U2 in 2002. The lineup from 2008-2010 was Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Bruce Springsteen and the E. Street Band, and The Who.

"For me, those three years were the least memorable in the last 20, but as they say, different strokes for different folks.

"No matter who plays the halftime show next year and beyond, I hope they use it as an opportunity to entertain, but also to educate, inform and inspire.

"And if I find myself not understanding the message, I hope it makes me think."

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

The purpose of the Commentary page is to provide a forum of various opinions, and we highly encourage letters to the editor. The opinions of columnists are not necessarily shared by the Cassville Democrat or its staff. If you have an opinion, send a letter to Kyle Troutman, Cassville Democrat, P.O. Box 486, Cassville, MO 65625, email ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.



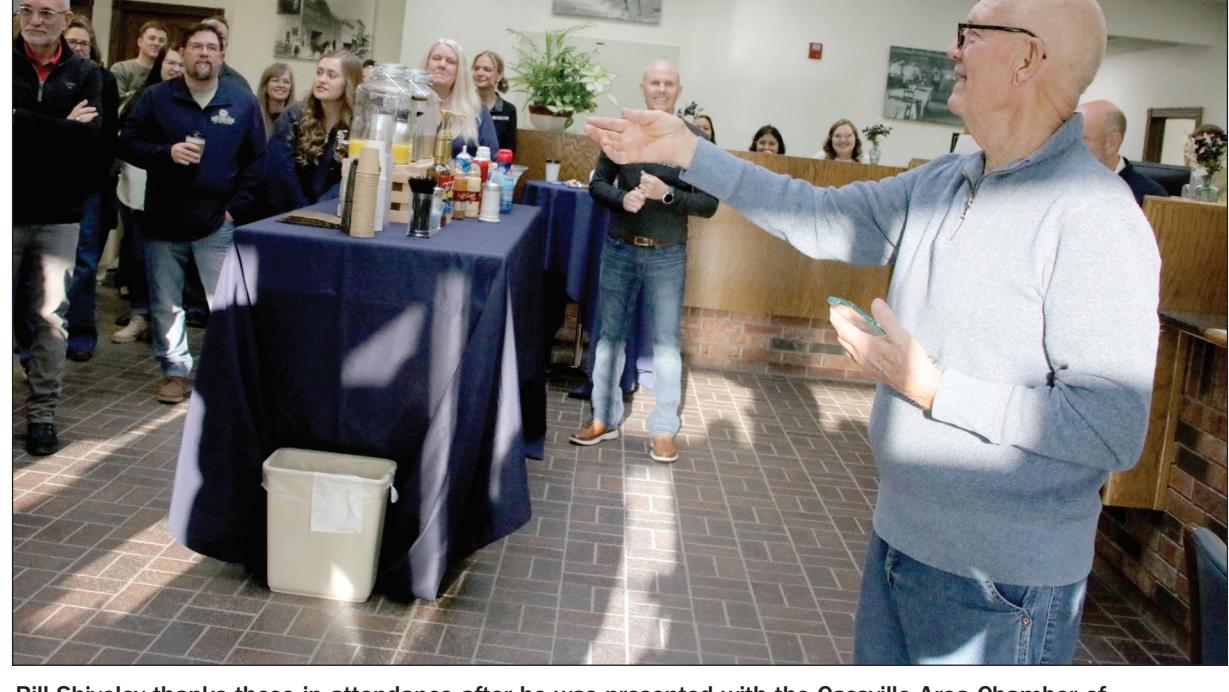
Chamber surprises Bill Shiveley with Lifetime Achievement award



Bill Shiveley, center, smiles as his wife, Diane, behind him to the left, is surprised to see the couple's two sons arrive for a special ceremony honoring Shiveley with the Cassville area Chamber of Commerce's lifetime Achievement Award at the First Friday Coffee event at First State Bank of the Ozarks in Cassville on Feb. 6. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Bill and Diane Shiveley hug their sons, Greg Shiveley, of St. Louis, and Steve Shiveley, of Monett, after the two surprised their parents by coming to the First Friday Coffee at First State Bank of the Ozarks on Feb. 6, where Bill Shiveley was presented with the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Bill Shiveley thanks those in attendance after he was presented with the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award at the First Friday Coffee at First State Bank of the Ozarks on Feb. 6. Shiveley spent 42 years with the Barry Electric Cooperative and was mayor of Cassville for 13 years. He also served nearly 30 years on the First State Bank Board, more than 20 years on the South Barry County Hospital District Board and 11 years on Mercy's Midwest Region Board. Shiveley is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and an active volunteer with the Chamber, especially maintaining Christmas lights in town and the Nativity scene on cemetery hill. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



From left, Diane Shiveley, Bill Shiveley, Steve Shiveley and Greg Shiveley smile after Bill was presented the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award at the First Friday Coffee at First State Bank of the Ozarks on Feb. 6. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

THROUGH THE YEARS

50 years ago

Feb. 11, 1976

- FOREST SHARE TO COUNTY WILL INCREASE 11 TIMES

A windfall of funds to Barry County will result in the combination of Clark and Mark Twain National Forests in Missouri, according to an announcement this week by Congressman Gene Taylor. James Roles, ranger of the Cassville District of Mark Twain, said income to the county, road districts and schools would increase about 11 times under the proposal. Congressman Taylor's office said Monday the signing of an executive order by President Ford would merge the two national forests in the southern part of the state. Funds derived from the sale of minerals, timber, grazing rights and other special use permits by the National Forest Service will be divided. The congressional office explained the Forest Service each year dispenses 25 percent of the monies collected to the various states and counties based on the number of acres that are located within the respective boundaries. Last year Barry County received \$5,749 based on a payment of .11 per acre from Mark Twain. Clark forest counties received \$2,07 per acre. Under the new combination, Barry County's share should increase to \$1.21 per acre for the 53,000 acres in this county in the Cassville district. This would increase the fund considerably to \$64,000 in fiscal 1976. Roles said forest offices in Rolla have practically settled on continuing the name Mark Twain for the entire region. The Cassville district will remain in operation, with all forest offices remaining at Rolla. Roles said the Mark Twain presently runs to Van Buren, Ava and Willow Springs. The Cassville district includes some forest area in Stone County. Congressman Taylor said about two years ago the National Forest Service combined the administration of the two areas and located all personnel in Rolla, closing the Springfield office. It became obvious to me that it would be more than official if the two forests were completely merged and I made that suggestion to the president and secretary of agriculture. I'm gratified they have concurred. Last year the State of Missouri received a total of 1.7 million dollars from the program of distribution of funds. Funds received annually are distributed to schools and road districts through the Barry County clerk's office on a formula recommended by the national government. Included are number of pupils in each district and number of miles of roads and area assessed evaluations.

40 years ago

Feb. 19, 1986

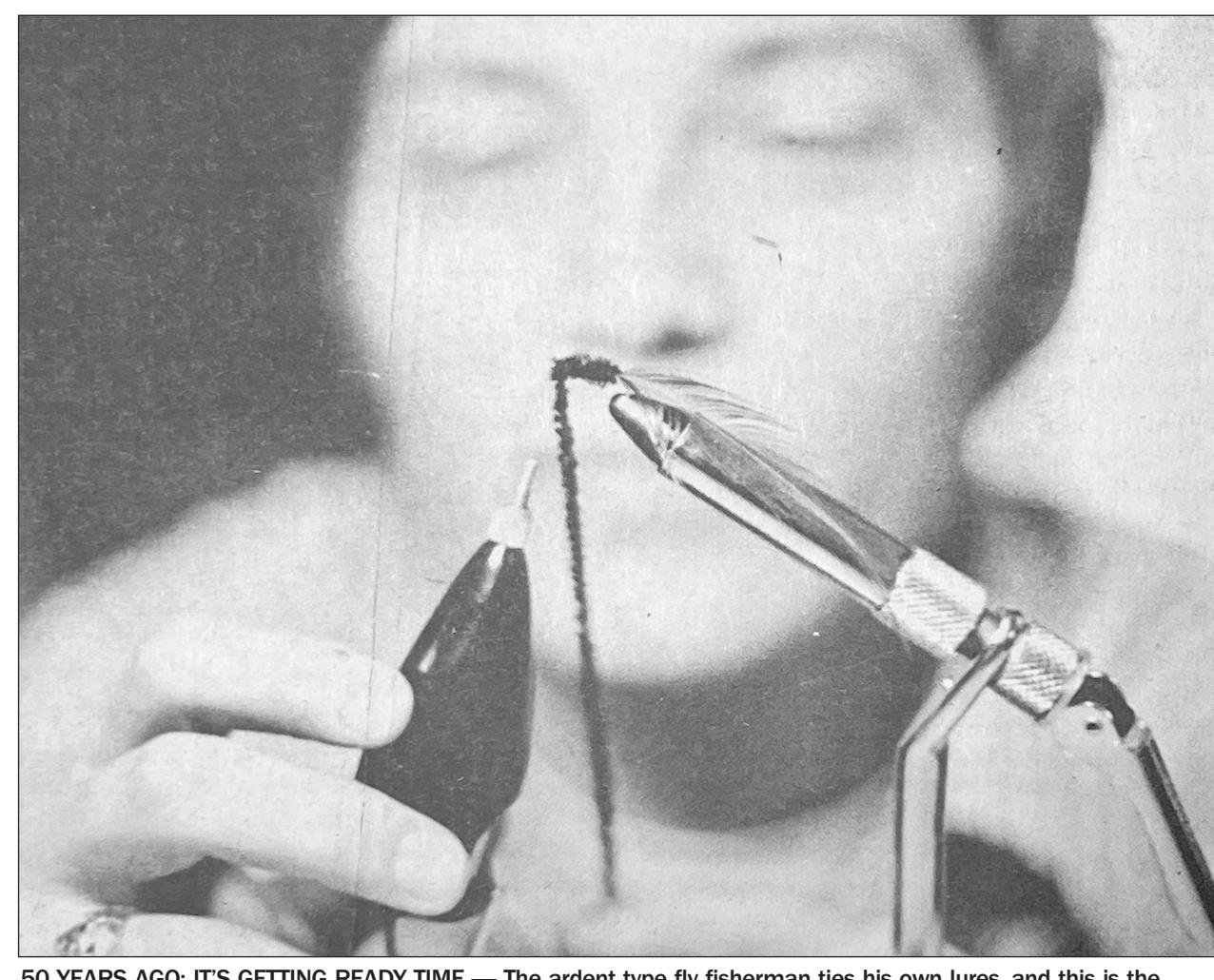
- INSPECTION SAYS CLOSE BRIDGE AT 13TH STREET

A consulting engineering firm has recommended the city of Cassville close the 13th Street bridge over Flat Creek. The bridge evaluation information was asked for by the city of Cassville through the Missouri Highway Department. George Ulmer, city engineer, said he was informed Tuesday by the Springfield concern making the evaluation that the bridge should be closed. Highway department and legal advisors have recommended closing. Mayor Rolland Meador said the city was looking at the liability that might be involved. The mayor said he first advised Cassville R-4 school district officials since at

least two bus routes use the bridge. The bridge involved also serves a heavily populated area of Cassville, Wildwood Estates, East 13th Street and an access to Highway 248. Ulmer said the bridge is 10 feet wide and 86 feet long. Beams in the center portion of the structure are the problem area according to the evaluation. In addition to problems of width and other safety factors, Meador said the structure had been a source of trouble for Cassville over a period of years. The narrowness of the throat of the bridge has been thought to cause back-up of Flat Creek in times of flooding. "Perhaps the time has come to seriously consider doing something if a crossing is to be maintained on 13th Street," Meador said. "It's quite possible an 80-20 project with Barry County would be possible with the availability of additional sales tax funds recently approved," the mayor observed. City officials would be in conference later this week to set an exact closing date of the crossing if this in fact was the eventual decision.

- THREE LANE MAIN STREET IN \$1.2 MILLION HIGHWAY PLAN

Major improvements on Business Route 37 in Cassville and Highway 112, costing an estimated \$1.2 million, will be proposed by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department. Joseph Mickes, district engineer, made the information known this week in a Cassville Rotary Club appearance. Mickes, going to Jefferson City for a headquarters assignment with the department, introduced his replacement, Ken Stalcup, who will be engineer of District Seven, headquartered in Joplin. Highway people have been considering the project, including some signalization and three-laning for a number of years. Relieving of flooding problems between First and Third Streets is also in the plan. Cassville municipal efforts would be tied to the plan. Mickes said the project would run from one-half mile east of Highway 37 four-way stop to south of Route 248 on Highway 112 near the entrance to Southern Hills subdivision. Included would be widening, resurfacing and installing a left turn lane. One mile in length, lanes would be 12'-14'-12' permitting turn lanes and exploiting through traffic. A traffic signal would be located at the Business 37 intersection with Routes 112-76-248. Another feature would be widening the 56-year-old Flat Creek Bridge to 22 feet. On Main Street, the project would begin one-half way between Fifth and Sixth Streets. There will be an extra lane at the 112-248 intersection, but no signalization. The project obviously will neck down to get across the Flat Creek bridge, then widen again to provide three lanes in the heavy travel area. On the south part of Business 37, the project will run from the connection of Main Street and the by-pass fill that connects with Highway 37 west of town. Mickes said the project was not in 1986 programs by the Highway Department. He said planning would be completed by district offices for presentation to the commission probably in July. It could be on construction plans by 1988, the engineer estimated. Designed to better handle traffic in a heavy commercial area, the three-laning would cover traffic counts that are high. Don Hershberger of the District Seven offic-



50 YEARS AGO: IT'S GETTING READY TIME — The ardent type fly fisherman ties his own lures, and this is the time to make sure the favorite type is in ample supply. Jim Rogers, concessionaire at Roaring River State Park, furnished this example in preparation for opening activities March 1. Most fly tiers feel their special combination of materials, colors and just the right application of both are what produce the best results in pursuit of the wily trout. Democrat file photo

es said today's counts are running about 8,302 vehicles daily from 11th Street south to the T-intersection between Fifth and Fourth Streets. The east arm of the project, Route 36 and Business 37 carries 7,376 vehicles daily, the leg from Fifth Street south 7,221 and the north part of Main Street 8,302. Mickes said the design of the project was such that would carry traffic in the downtown area anticipated at 10,360 daily by the year 1996. "That's just 10 years away," the engineer noted. Preliminary plans in the project include some curbing at the main intersection where signalization will be used. Mickes said the highway property inside the curb areas would be leased to the City of Cassville for adjoining commercial parking. Highway plans for a major project in the busy intersection area approximately 10 years ago were dropped by the department when commercial opposition was expressed. Highway officials said the project could be completed when funds were available since no additional right-of-way would be required.

30 years ago

Feb. 14, 1996

- ROARING RIVER HATCHERY CREWS PLAN STOCKING STRATEGY FOR OPENER

The Missouri Department of Conservation expects more than 2,500 anglers at Roaring River on opening day, weather conditions permitting. Hatchery Manager Jerry Dean reports that the hatchery staff is busy preparing for March 1. At least 5,500, 12-inch rainbow trout will be stocked in addition to the 1,900, 14-inch trout and 113 lunkers already in the stream for the winter catch and release program. Twenty-five more three-to-six pound lunkers will be added before opening day. Trout will be distributed evenly throughout the stream with about 228 trout in each of Roaring River's 33 fishing holes. An additional 300 fish will be stocked in the management area below the park. Water conditions have been lower than normal this winter due to a relatively low amount of precipitation. The recent snow melts have increased the river's flow, but it is still below normal, according to Dean. Crews have been busy removing more than 2,665 cubic yards of gravel from six holes in the stream this winter. Two other bank stabilization projects are

planned for the fly area as soon as weather improves and the park receives permits from the Corps of Engineers. In February, MDC initiated the new Point of Sale system for selling permits. The Roaring River hatchery staff began selling permits on the system Feb. 1. Although the permit system was designed with a large database and easy access, it does take a little more time to purchase the permit the first time. Dean advises fishermen to purchase permits before coming to the park on opening day. Lines for permit sales will probably be slower this year. The park will continue its opening day tradition of honoring an individual who is significant in the park's history by presenting James Woods with the first tag of the 1996 season. Woods, a longtime trout fisherman and outdoorsman, was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps and helped construct the hatchery at Roaring River during the 1930s. He has been the secretary/treasurer of CCC Co. 1713 for 40 years.

- LOCAL PHYSICIAN JOINS PEACE KEEPING MISSION IN BOSNIA

The first National Guard unit to be deployed in support of the United States' peace keeping mission in Bosnia will travel with a local physician on board. Dr. Tom Harris, a family practice physician with Roaring River Family Medicine Clinic in Cassville, will spend two weeks at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy, serving as flight surgeon with the 184th Fighter Squadron of the Arkansas Air National

Guard. Harris is one of the 200 guardsmen in his squadron assigned to Mission Decisive Edge. The squadron of F-16s, pilots and support personnel leave for Italy on March 6. The squadron's primary mission, according to Harris, will be to patrol and protect the no-fly zone over Bosnia. As part of the peace accords, Bosnians, Serbs and Croatians are banned from flying fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft in the airspace of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The squadron's secondary mission includes providing close air support to troops on the ground and conducting approved air strikes against designated targets that threaten the security of UN-declared safe areas. As the squadron's flight surgeon, Harris' job is to keep the 20 pilots and 180 support personnel healthy. He will work out of an air transportable clinic, which will be set up at the air base. Harris also expects to fly at least one sortie over the no-fly zone. He said flight surgeons routinely fly with pilots so that they can observe the pilot's environment and experience physiological conditions and stress factors. The Arkansas squadron will be cooperating with other multinational units based at Aviano. According to the flight commander, squadrons from the United States, Italy and France will be flying out of Aviano. On an international level, NATO aircraft are also stationed at other air bases in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom and on carriers in the Adriatic.

Squadrons from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey, Britain and the U.S. have been deployed as part of Decisive Edge. Harris has been in the military ever since he was 18. From 1973 to 1978, he served in the U.S. Army as a special forces medic. He then left the army to attend college. While at the University of Arkansas, he continued to serve as a medic in the Arkansas National Guard. He then received a military scholarship to medical school, serving as a United States Air Force reserve during that time. Harris completed his three-year residency at Scott Air Force Base and then served an additional four years at Wheeler Air Force Base and Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. Harris has reached the rank of major and successfully completed the Top Knife fighter surgeon's course in 1993. He trains monthly with the 184th Fighter Squadron, which is based in Ft. Smith, Ark. In talking about the United States peacekeeping role in Bosnia, Harris said he believes the government has a valid mission there. He added that the United States has a moral obligation to make sure fighting among the warring parties ends and peace prevails. Harris said his overseas deployment will end March 22. His squadron is scheduled to fly a training mission to Australia for 30 days in late June and July. His involvement in that mission is still undetermined.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Hi I'm Chevelle! I am told I am absolutely adorable and they are so right about that. I'm not really sure of my parents but they guess I'm a Shepherd/Terrier mix and that my birthday is Nov. 7, 2025. My sister and I can't believe that our human just abandoned us on the road. How rude! The people at the Haven are treating us really nice but we think it would be fun to have a family we can call our own. I like my sister but I'm open to going into a home without her. I just really want us both to find a family who treats us like the royalty we are! Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647.

Contributed photo



OBITUARIES

**THOMAS 'TOM' PARKER**

Thomas "Tom" Parker, born Oct. 25, 1945, died on Jan. 8, 2025.

Tom was born in Belknap, Ill., to Harold "Cotton" Parker and Lottie Mae Parker, of Cypress, Ill., who preceded him in death.

Also preceding in death were his brother, Danny Parker, and sister, Diana Ledbetter.

Parker is survived by his wife of 43 years, Theresa Parker; son Michael L. Keith and wife Jenea Keith, of Cassville; son Matthew Parker, of Kimberling City; son Chris Parker and wife Aaron Parker, of Grantsburg, Ill.; daughter Shanna and husband Lynnie Crain, of Olmstead, Ill.; grandson Garrett Keith; grandson Zeth Parker; grandson Xander Parker; 27 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**JACKIE ELMER VEITH**

Jackie Elmer Veith (Jack), passed away on December 26, 2025, in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born on March 10, 1938, in Monett, Mo., to Elmer and Flossie (Russell) Veith, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his brother, Larry Veith, and his wife Gloria (Holder) Veith of Purdy, Mo.; his sister, Helen (Veith) Lowe, and her husband Bill Lowe of Joplin, Mo.; and his brother-in-law, Bill Kimball of York, Pa.

Survivors include his sister, Jean (Veith) Kimball of York, Pa.; his brother, Bob Veith and his wife Kathy of Hudson, Colo.; four nephews; three nieces, and many great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

He graduated from Purdy High School and spent much of his early years working for local farmers and at the milk plant in Monett, where he gained experience hauling milk. His dedication to agriculture led him to take on the role of Ranch Foreman in Okla., where he worked at least at two different ranches before eventually moving to Texas. In Texas, he contributed his efforts to the Ground Water Tech.

The family would like to extend a special Thank You to the St. Agnes Group Home and staff.

Graveside services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at New Site Cemetery in Monett, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the services.

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Cassville, Missouri****417-847-2141**Visit www.fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbooks and private condolences

Cassville's Speech and Debate team recently took top honors at the Big 8 Conference Tournament. Front row, from left: Gavin Kohler, Ayla Roberts, Kimberly Hang, Amber Davis, Samantha Baugus, Glandy Salas Cecenas and Riley Doucet. Back row: Koby Fare, Mason Rillstone, David Rebach, Kaid Williams, Harlee Carter and Kinzie Davis. Contributed photo

Cassville Speech and Debate owns Big 8**Program puts up finalist in every event**

The Cassville High School Speech and Debate team placed first in the Big 8 Conference Tournament the weekend of Jan. 30 at Nevada.

In addition to being named the Big 8 Champions, CHS student participants placed in finals in every event. Results included:

- David Rehbach, District Champion in Radio Speaking, 2nd in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking and 4th in Duet Acting with Gavin Koehler
- Sam Baugus, District Champion in Humorous Interpretation, 3rd in Dramatic Interpretation, and 3rd with Koby Fare in Duet Acting
- Kim Hang, 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation, 2nd in Humorous Interpretation and 3rd with Amber Davis in Duo Interpretation
- Riley Doucet, 2nd in Prose and 6th in Storytelling
- Mason Rillstone, 3rd in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking, 5th in Radio and 7th in Storytelling
- Gavin Koehler and Koby Fare, 5th in Duo Interpretation
- Harlee Carter, 6th in Poetry
- Kinzie Davis, 7th in Informative Speaking

First State Bank of the Ozarks joins chamber

First Friday Coffee was held at First State Bank of the Ozarks on Feb. 6, giving the organization the opportunity to cut the ribbon after joining the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce. Board President Randy Henderson did the honors, as the bank has rebranded from First State Bank of Purdy. ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Purdy: Will host boys district hoops tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Missouri Association of School Administrators planned a legislative review of bills under consideration by the Missouri General Assembly and initiatives pushed by Gov. Mike Kehoe. One called for requiring 70% of elementary school assignments to use pen and paper. State Rep. Tricia Byrnes, R-Wentzville, the bill's sponsor, argued dig-

ital instruction had lowered literacy rates. The bill also mandates teaching cursive writing and limiting digital instruction.

Graham pledged to keep board members versed on the latest proposals to improve advocacy for the district.

A report on the district's showing on the state's Annual Performance Review has been delayed while Graham contests some of the numbers in the report. He anticipated making his review at the February board meeting.

In the elementary school report, Principal Julie Dalton noted math teacher Nicole Crouthamel has provid-

ed Tier 3 intervention to students below grade level for third through sixth graders. Crouthamel provided an example of a student who could not count or write numbers, and within a week he could count to 100 and recognize patterns. She was also working on teaching how to tell time from an analog clock.

The January professional development session focused on standard-base reference and grading practice training from STEP-UP. Dalton also reviewed the student Christmas program and staff celebration. The Care To Learn program recognized Donna Terry and Dyanna Yarbro as top

donors. Others were identified for their dedication. The Parents As Teachers program extended a special thanks to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Purdy for sponsoring the December book giveaway.

Graham, as interim high school principal, recounted the Hall of Fame induction luncheon for the high school girls basketball team from 1980 to 1982.

Purdy will host the boys district basketball tournament on February 24, 26 and 28.

Ongoing work by staff has focused on identifying gaps in curriculum and instruction to put appropriate resources in place to improve student performance. Graham cited standards referenced grading that focuses on clearly defined learning standards, rather than averaging points from assignments, behavior, or extra credit. He noted, "Overall, Standards-Referenced Grading provides more meaningful feedback, promotes equity, and helps high school students better understand and improve their learning."

Graham added the new structure of the SOAR hour has enabled teachers in core subjects to work with students in smaller settings, allowing tutoring-style interventions.

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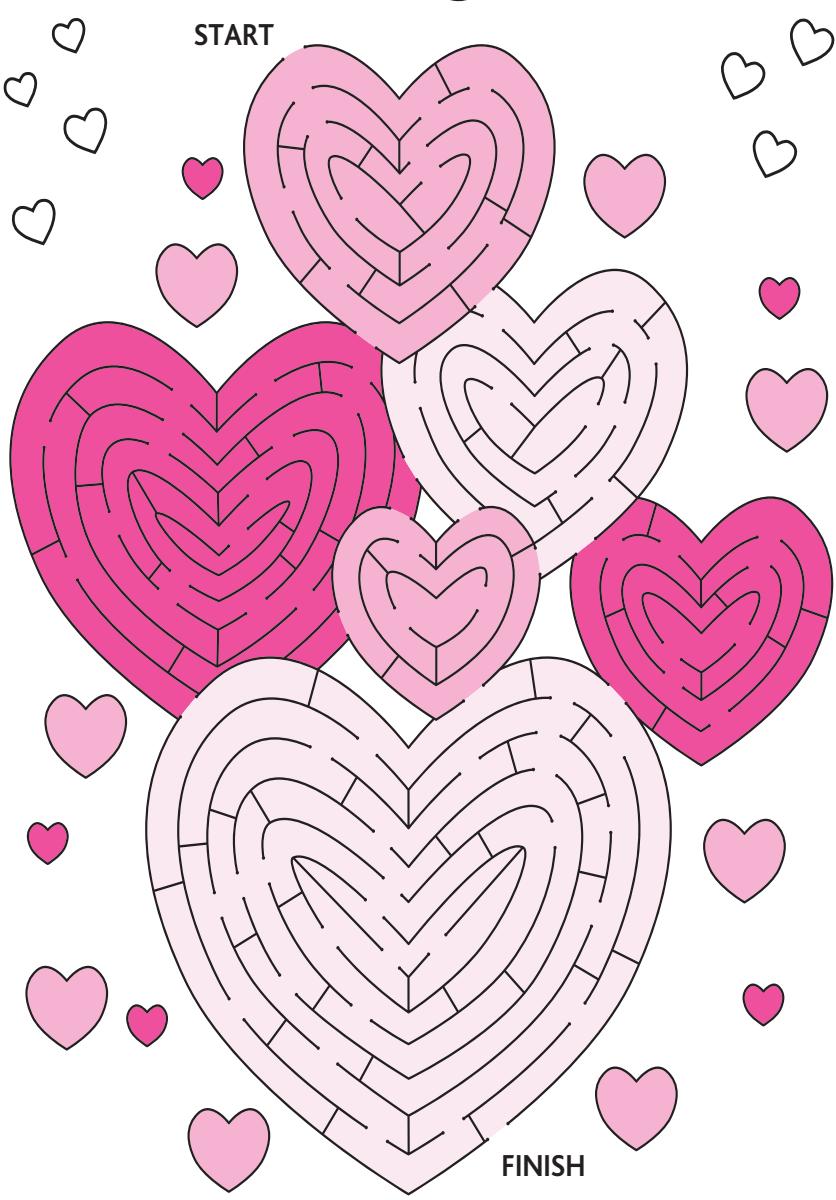
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Jeff Bradford • Atlanta, Texas • April 14, 1980–Jan. 29, 2026
Waverly Wood • Cassville • Sept. 19, 1944–Feb. 3, 2026
Barbara Fletcher • Aurora • Jan. 12, 1944–Feb. 8, 2026

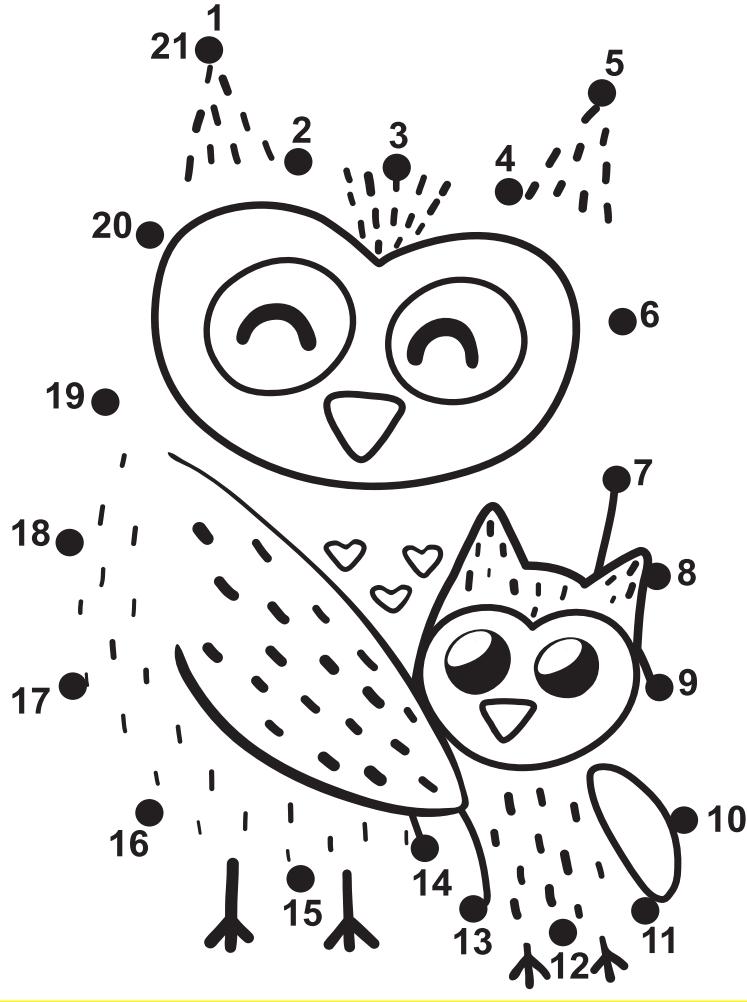
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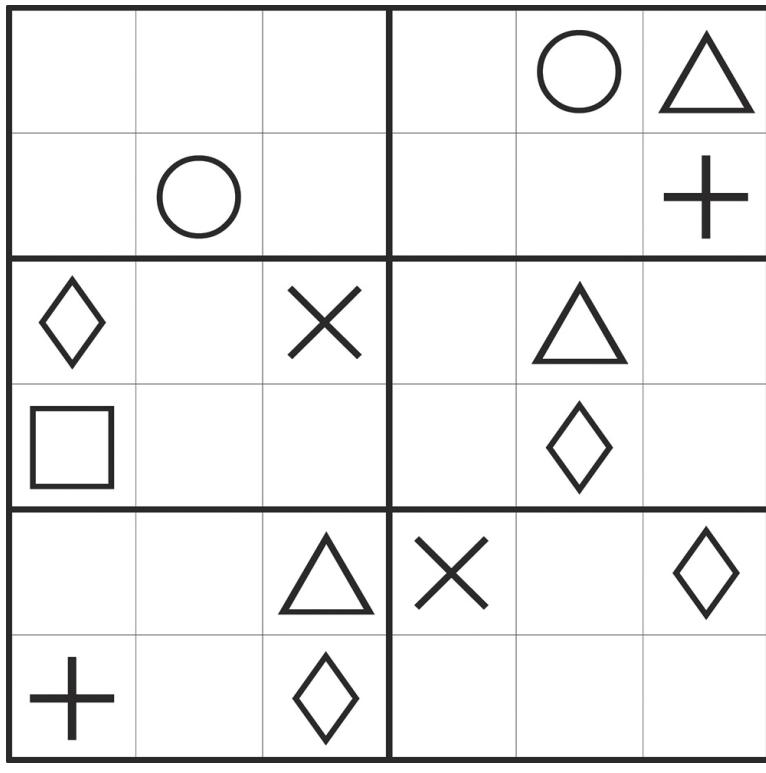
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COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

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

○	□	△	+		
◊	×	△			
□			◊		
	△	×			◊
+		◊			

ANSWER



JUST kidding

Q: Can February March?

A: No, but April May.



JUST kidding

Q: What time do ducks wake up?

A: At the crack of dawn.



JUST kidding

Q: What does every birthday end with?

A: The letter Y.



Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?

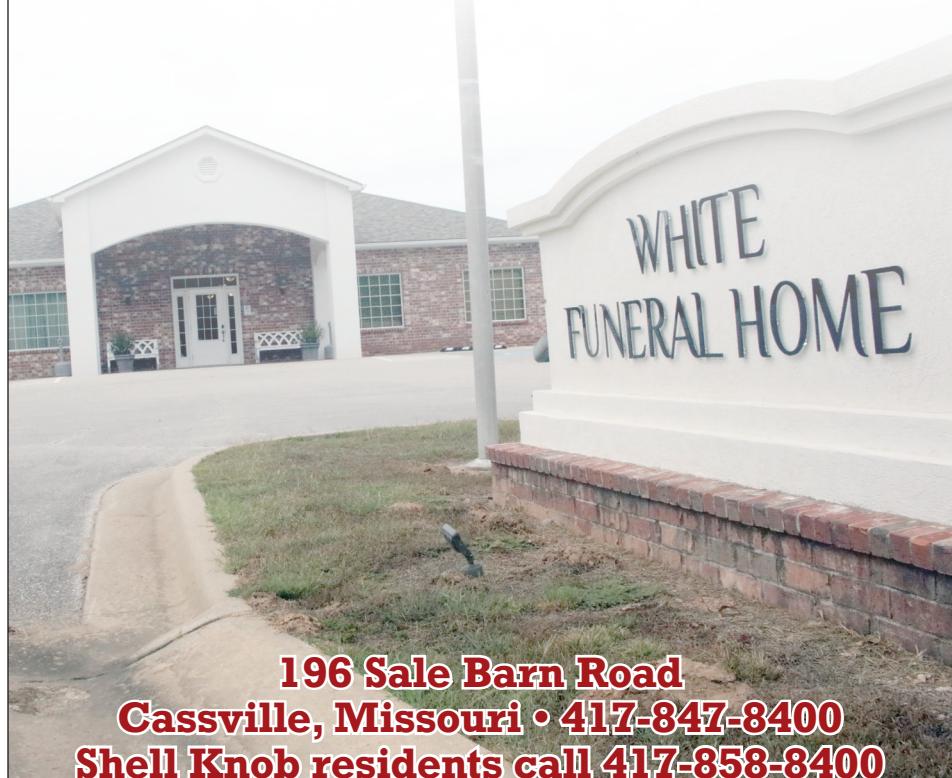


ANSWER 6 AND 7

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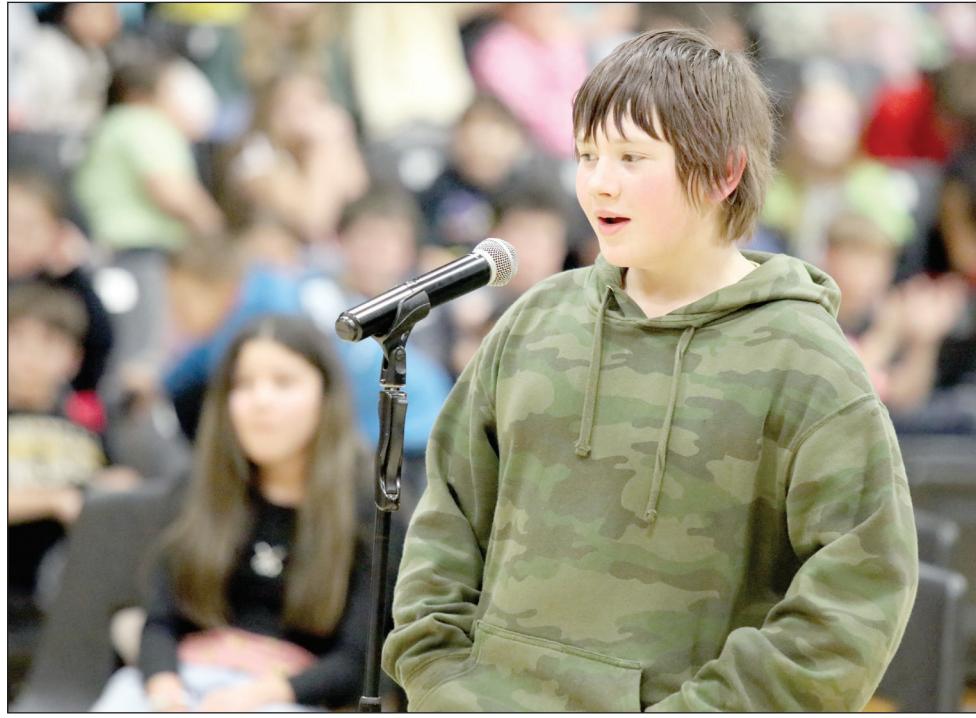
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Jenkins wins Spelling Bee with 'hammerhead'



On Feb. 4, fourth- and fifth-grade classroom spelling bee winners competed in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee. Fifth-grade student Mark Jenkins is pictured sighing in relief after taking first place by correctly spelling "hammerhead." He will compete in the Joplin Globe Spelling Bee on March 13. Fourth-grade student Isabella Martinez finished in second place and will serve as Cassville's alternate at the Joplin Spelling Bee. Jenkins is the son of Tara Pointer and Mark Jenkins. Martinez is the daughter of Yolanda Barrientos. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Isabella Martinez correctly spells a word in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4. Martinez, a fourth-grade student, took second place in the contest. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Arianna Vanbrunt thinks carefully as she spells a word in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Avah Isom smiles as she spells in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Avery Greek spells a word in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4 as her peers look on. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Justus Greek, right, and Avah Isom, middle, high five Mark Jenkins after he spelled a word correctly in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Kannon Scott watched intently as his fellow classmates competed in the Cassville Intermediate Spelling Bee on Feb. 4. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

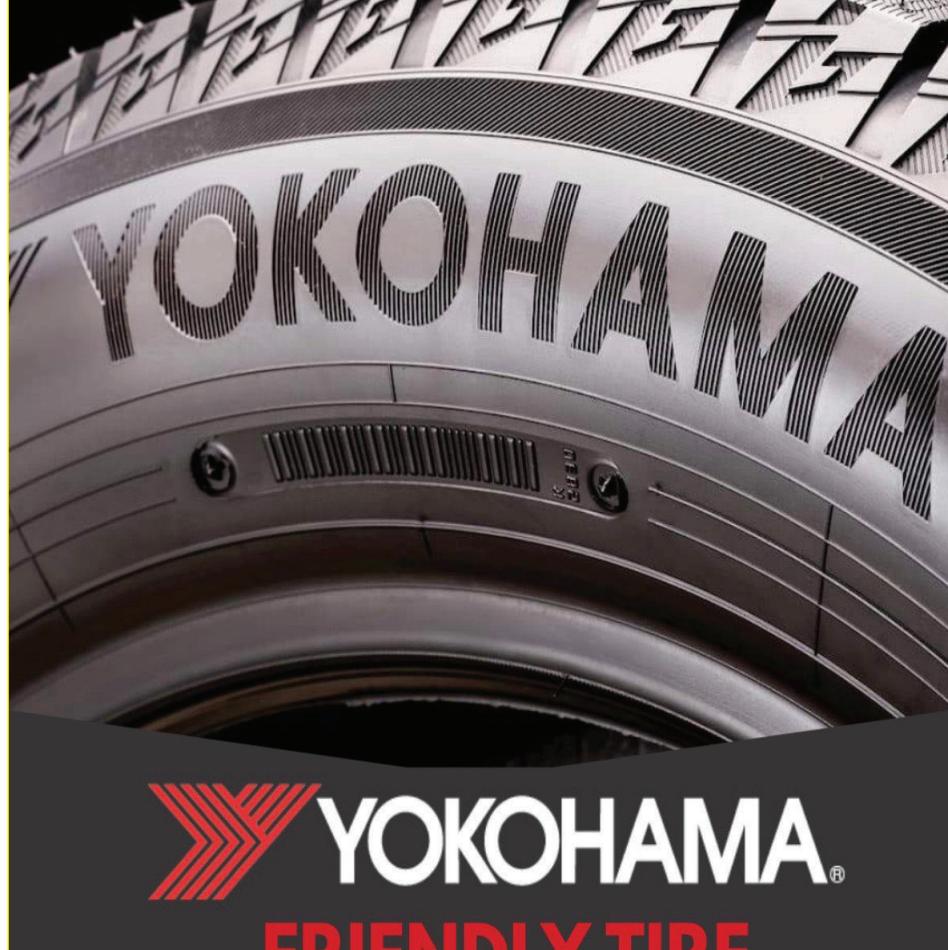
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STATE BERTHS ON THE LINE



Cassville's Myah Dunfee works toward a takedown of an opponent in the Monett Tournament earlier this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Lady Wildcats head to Buffalo for districts

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

After having just one state qualifier last year — sixth-place finisher Analeigh Winchell — the Cassville girls wrestling team is hoping to make more noise this week at the Class 1, District 3 Tournament in Buffalo.

Casey Parsons, Cassville girls wrestling coach, said a young roster and steady growth have defined the season as her team prepares for the postseason.

"This season, we're a young team," Parsons said. "We have our juniors leading the team, Analeigh and Isabella Bauman, and that has been good. The girls have grown so much. Analeigh was our only one to make it to state last year, and I think we have a good shot at three to four of them to make it this year, depending on how they wrestle this weekend."

Bauman wrestles at 100 pounds and brings a record of 30-5 to Buffalo, and at 105 pounds is AJ Deaver, with a record of 28-10. Anna Vanderhoef also has a great shot to qualify, but will be on a quick turnaround from a non-sports injury.

"She just come back today from a concussion, so she's been out for a couple weeks," Parsons said. "She

has a great shot as long as everything goes fine this week in practice, and I look for her to make the top four at districts and punch her ticket to state."

Parsons said Winchell, wrestling at 155 pounds with a record of 40-4 at 155, has set the goal of topping the podium at districts.

The remainder of the district line-up, Parsons said, is a large class of freshmen.

"Gracie Farsungchin is my 120-pounder," Parsons said. "Hopeyne Thompson is at 125, Myah Dunfee is 130, Estrella Garcia is 140, and Alexis Lands is 170."

Though the majority of the squad are newcomers to district action, Parsons said the schedule this year has been built to prepare the group for postseason conditions.

"We have been to a lot of big tournaments this year to prepare us," Parsons said. "Eldon is a big tournament that looks a lot like districts. I think there were 14 schools there from our district, and we did good."

Parsons said the approach is to treat districts like another event while recognizing the added challenges.

"It's another tournament, but it has a lot higher stakes, and hopefully

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Alexis Lands grapples with an opponent at the Monett Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

SCOREBOARD



Cassville's Alex Holycross brings down a board while playing against Monett last week. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

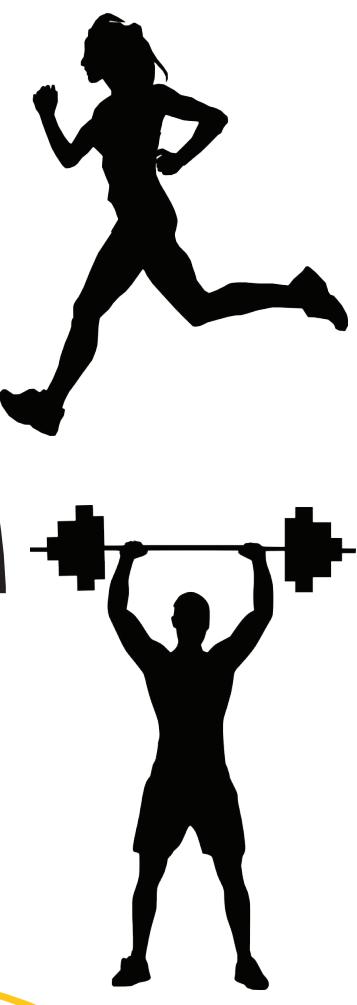
Lady Wildcats 2-1 on the week, topple Monett

Cassville posted a 2-1 overall record, including a pair of Big 8 wins, in a three-game effort last week. The Lady Wildcats traveled to rival Monett on Feb. 2, where both teams entered the game at 13-5 and battled back and forth for three quarters before finally creating a little space in the final frame, going on to win the game 57-47. Audrey Kennedy led in scoring with 16, Aubrey Stoufer added 12, Alex Holycross put in 9, Taylor Kennedy had 8, Brylee Gross finished with 7 and Briley Artherton scored 5. The junior varsity squad also won, 17-7. On Feb. 4, Cassville welcomed Lamar to town in a makeup game from the previous week. The Lady Wildcats led throughout the game and came out with a 61-36 win. Holycross put in 24, Audrey Kennedy had 12, Taylor Kennedy also scored 12, Gross put in 6, Artherton had 5 and Aubrie Atkinson contributed 2. The junior varsity was again victorious, 45-27. Finally, on Feb. 5, Cassville traveled to Ash Grove to take on the No. 6 ranked team in Class 3, dropping that game, 42-61. The Lady Cats stayed close for three quarters before Ash Grove started to pull away at the end of the third. Holycross led Cassville with 13 points, Stoufer scored 8, Artherton added 8, Taylor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Spencer Drollinger goes for 2 in a game against Hollister this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Girls Wrestling

2/20-21 Class 1, District 3 Tournament Buffalo High School

Boys Basketball

2/13 Mt. Vernon
2/17 Southwest
2/20 Nevada
2/26 Forsyth

Away 7:15 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Home 7:15 pm
Away 7:00 pm

Girls Basketball

2/12 Mt. Vernon
2/20 Nevada
2/24 Neosho
2/26 Carl Junction

Away 7:00 pm
Home 7:00 pm
Away 7:00 pm
Home 7:30 pm

Boys Wrestling

2/20-21 Class 2, District 6 Tournament Buffalo High School

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life." Acts 11:18

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BIBLE VERSE:

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing."

— 2 THESSALONIANS 1:3

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RR 1, Box 1158, Seligman
662-3333

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Front & Pierce, Exeter
835-4492

BRIDGEWAY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob
858-3770

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
209 W. Jefferson, Purdy
442-3898

OK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
6121 Hwy. 90, Washburn, Mo.
737-9477.

RIDLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
16544 FR 1027, Exeter
846-3513

BAPTIST

BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST

15th St. & Presley Dr.
442-7815

BETHLEHEM FREEWILL BAPTIST

Jct. 76 & JJ Highway
Rocky Comfort

BIBLE BAPTIST
Fasco Rd., Cassville
847-4871

BUTTERFIELD FIRST BAPTIST
10901 Walnut St., Butterfield
442-7887

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Exeter, Mo.
665-1295

CARR LANE SOUTHERN BAPTIST

R.O. Box 69, Eagle Rock
870-577-6025

CORINTH SOUTHERN BAPTIST
AA Hwy., Cassville
847-4165

EMMANUEL SOUTHERN BAPTIST

821 Old Exeter Rd., Cassville
847-3239

FIRST BAPTIST
Hwy. YY, Shell Knob
858-3496

FIRST BAPTIST

117 W. Garber St., Fairview

FIRST BAPTIST

602 West St., Cassville
847-2965

FIRST BAPTIST

Wheaton

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

Exeter, 835-5433

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

104 W. Hwy. J, Golden
271-3605

FIRST BAPTIST WASHBURN

2nd St. North 618, Washburn
826-5000

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

14970 FR. 1150, Cassville, Mo.

GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

P.O. Box 352, Shell Knob
858-6868

GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST

1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 & 1150,

Cassville; 847-4691

HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP

Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield
847-9289

MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST

HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115

MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST

RR 1, Washburn
826-5232

MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST

FR. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245

MT. ZION BAPTIST

Hwy. 37 S., Washburn
826-5840

NEW HOPE BAPTIST

3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy.

then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter
652-3885

OAK RIDGE

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville

Pastor: 501-538-6261

Local: 417-847-4597

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST

RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn
435-2319

PURDY FIRST BAPTIST

3rd & Washington St., Purdy
442-7435

SHILOH BAPTIST

Hwy. 248, Jenkins
574-6466

PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rocky Comfort

PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST

RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn
826-5158

RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter

652-7884

ROARING RIVER BAPTIST

HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock

271-3142

ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST

RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770

SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Business 37 N., Cassville

826-5295

VIOLA BAPTIST

Hwy. 39, Shell Knob

858-2597

WAYMARK CHURCH

2581 State Hwy 37

235-7466

WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST

Hwy. 86 & Hwy. A, Wheaton

652-3898

WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST

11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton

P.O. Box 175, 652-3186

CATHOLIC

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Hwy. 39-30, Shell Knob

858-2518

ST. EDWARD PARISH

107 17th St., Cassville

847-4948

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CASSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

404 State Hwy 248 Cassville, MO, 65625

Normal worship time, 10 a.m.

916-539-4708

cassvillechurchofchrist.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hwy. 90 E., Washburn

826-5890

CHURCH OF CHRIST

39 Lake Rd., Shell Knob

858-3839

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gosetree Hwy. 86, Wheaton

652-3873

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1104 Mill St., Cassville

847-2374

CHURCH OF GOD

APOSTOLIC FAITH

Rocky Comfort

Patrick Hostetler

Call for a free quote (Fully Insured)

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

N. Business Hwy. 37, Cassville

847-4873

CHURCH OF CHRIST

847-4873

NAZARENE

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

417-619-1498

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

417-619-1498

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

417-619-1498

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

417-619-1498

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

417-619-1498

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

SPECIAL NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
Please check your ad the first day of publication. If it contains an error, report it to the *Cassville Democrat*. Errors will be corrected, and credit will be issued for the first day of publications only. The *Cassville Democrat* shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the publication (whether published correctly or not) or omission of an advertisement.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 2BR, 1BA, country setting, close in Cassville, \$850 per month. Serious inquiries only. 417-848-5556.

FOR RENT: In Purdy, 2BR house, central air & heat, fenced yard, storage building, \$850/mo plus deposit. Call 417-847-2808.

PETS

PUPPIES: 4 female Frenchies for sale. 7 months old. \$500 each. Call 316-519-6316.

MISCELLANEOUS

NOTICE OF ELECTION
OF SUPERVISORS
SWCD BOARD
ELECTIONS

Let it be known that the Barry County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an election for one supervisor in each of two different territories in the county. Territory 2 includes (Townships: Pleasant Ridge, McDowell, McDonald, Jenkins, Mountain, Ozark, and Crane Creek) and Territory 4 includes (Townships: Liberty, Exeter, Washburn, Ash, and Sugar Creek). The election will take place from February 1 to February 20. Ballots are available to print online at <https://mosoilandwater.land/content/barry/board-members>. Printed ballots may be returned to the district by mail and must be postmarked no later than February 20th. You may also vote in person from 8 am to 4:30 pm at 3202 County Farm Rd Cassville, MO 65625. Each eligible land representative in the district is allowed one vote. A land representative is defined as the owner or representative authorized by power of attorney of any farm lying within an area proposed to be established, and subsequently established, as a soil and water conservation district under Chapter 278, RSMO. Each farm is entitled to representation by a land representative: provided, however, that the land representative is a taxpayer of the county within which the soil and water district is located.

The following qualified candidates will be considered for election:

Territory 2 -
Christopher Cale
Hammen

Bryant Vaught-Jenkins
Township

Voyd Brown-McDowell
Township

Territory 4 -
Clay Hammen-Exeter
Township

Steven Mattingly-Exeter
Township

Supervisors manage the administration of district policies and programs, as well as district personnel and funds. The district is supported by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soil and water sales tax. For additional information on the district election, contact the district office 417-847-2862 EXT: 3, stephanie.parsons@swcd.mo.gov and 3202 county Farm Rd Cassville, MO 65625

1st insertion 01/21/26

2-6

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF BARRY
COUNTY, MISSOURI AT
CASSVILLE

JOSILYN CREASON,
Plaintiff,

VS.

JASON MAYBERRY
d/b/a MAYBERRY

CONSTRUCTION, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.

25BR-CC00085

NOTICE UPON ORDER
FOR SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri
to JASON MAYBERRY,
d/b/a MAYBERRY
CONSTRUCTION, LLC.

You are hereby notified
that an action has
commenced against you in

the Circuit Court of
Barry County, Missouri,
the object and general
nature of which is a Petition
in Damages.

The names of all parties
in this action are Josilyne
Creason, and the name
and address of the attorney
for the Plaintiff is J. Michael
Riehn, Attorney at Law,
P. O. Box 324, Cassville,
Missouri 65625.

You are further notified
that, unless you file an
answer or other pleading
or otherwise appear and
defend against this action
within 45 days after January
28, 2026, judgment by
default will be entered
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.

A true copy from the
record.

Witness my hand and the
seal of the Circuit Court this
22nd day of January, 2026.

Craig Williams

by Kami Stanton

First publication:

January 28, 2026

Second Publication:

February 4, 2026

Third Publication:

February 11, 2026

Fourth Publication:

February 18, 2026

1st insertion 01/28/26

3-6

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COURT
JUVENILE DIVISION
AT BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI

In the Interest of:
G. G. H. (M.)
DOB: 06/11/2024
Case No.
25BR-JU00079

NOTICE UPON ORDER
FOR SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF
MISSOURI TO

Mackenzy Gail McCarley,
Legal Mother of G.G. H.
(M.)

You are hereby notified
that an action has commenced
in the Circuit Court of Barry
County, Missouri, the object
and general nature of which
is the Termination of Parental
Rights for the above-mentioned
child under Chapter 211 of the Revised
Statutes of Missouri.

The number assigned
to said action is stated in
the caption above, and
the name and address of
the attorney for Petitioner,
Missouri Children's
Division, is: Sheena Garvin,
601 Commercial Avenue,
Joplin, Missouri, 64801,
Telephone Number
(417) 625-9924.

To be published in the
newspaper that is circulated
in Barry County, this being
the *Cassville Democrat*.

You are hereby notified
that, unless you file an
answer to the Petition or
other pleading or otherwise
appear and defend against
the aforesaid Petition within
forty-five (45) days after
the 28th day of January,
2026, or appear and defend
against the aforementioned
action at the

Barry County
Judicial Center,
102 West Street #2,
City of Cassville,

State of Missouri,
judgment by default will
be rendered against you,
and Judgment Terminating
Parental Rights will be
entered.

The next hearing for
this matter is scheduled to
occur on March 06, 2026 at
9:00 a.m.

Witness my hand and the
seal of the Circuit Court this
22nd day of January, 2026.

Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton

Deputy Clerk

1st Publication:

January 28, 2026

2nd Publication: February

4, 2026

3rd Publication:

February 11, 2026

4th Publication:

February 18, 2026

1st insertion 01/28/26

3-6

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF BARRY
COUNTY, MISSOURI AT
CASSVILLE

TIM REAL AND JUDY

REAL,
PLAINTIFFS,
VS.
EDWIN L. OREM,
EDNA L. OREM their
heirs, grantees, devisees,
successors, consorts, and
assigns,
DEFENDANTS,
Case Number:
26BR-CC00007

NOTICE UPON ORDER
FOR PUBLICATION OF
NOTICETHE STATE OF
MISSOURI TO:

Defendants,
Edwin L. Orem
and Edna L. Orem
if they shall be deceased,
then their
unknown heirs, grantees,
consorts, spouses or
successors of those of them
who shall be deceased.

YOU ARE HEREBY
NOTIFIED that an action
has been commenced
against you in the

Circuit Court for the
County of Barry, Missouri,
the object and general
nature of which is to
quiet title to the following
described property in Barry
County, Missouri:

Lots 65 and 66, Elmo's
Subdivision No. 2, Table
Rock Lake, Barry County,
Missouri as platted in
Plat book 5, Page 200,
Recorders' Office of Barry
County, Missouri.

The names of all the
parties to said suit are stated
above in the caption hereof and
the name and address
of the attorney for Plaintiff is
Harry D. Schwartz,

P.O. Box 276,
702 West Street,
Cassville, Missouri 65625.

YOU ARE FURTHER
NOTIFIED that, unless
you file an answer or other
pleading or shall otherwise
appear and defend against
the aforesaid Petition within
45 days after the 28th day of
January, 2026 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.

A true copy from the
record.

WITNESS my hand and the
seal of the Circuit Court this
22nd day of January, 2026.

CRAIG WILLIAMS,
Circuit Clerk

By:

Kami Stanton

Deputy Clerk

1st Publication:

January 28, 2026

2nd Publication: February

4, 2026

3rd Publication:

February 11, 2026

4th Publication:

February 18, 2026

1st insertion 01/28/26

3-6

DISTRICT COURT
EUREKA COUNTY,
NEVADA

NICOLETTE JOY HAYES
Plaintiff,
VS.
JOSHUA SHAWN
HAYES
Defendant.

CASE NO.: CV 2601-276

DEPT: District Court

ORDER FOR SERVICE
BY PUBLICATION

Upon reading the Ex Part
Motion for Publication and
corresponding declarations,
it appearing that a verified
complaint has been filed
and a summons was issued
directed to the Defendant;
that Defendant is a
necessary party; that the
Defendant cannot be found
after due diligence, or by
concealment seeks to avoid
the service of summons
and complaint, and that
the Defendant cannot be
served by other means:

THEREFORE, IT IS
ORDERED that Defendant
may be served by
publication of the

summons in the (name
of newspaper) McDonald
County Press, and Cassville
Democrat

Publication shall run at
least once a week for a
period of 4 consecutive
weeks.

1st insertion 02/04/28

4-7

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI

TIM REAL AND JUDY

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, February 16, 2026 — 10 a.m.

Location: Purdy, MO. From the Jct's of Hwy 37 & Hwy C go East on Hwy C 1/10 mile. Turn left on Old Bus 37 and go 2/10 mile. Auction on left. (200 W. Jefferson ST, Purdy MO)

**ESTATE — 1996 FORD F 350 POWER STROKE
DIESEL PICKUP — JAYCO 5TH WHEEL CAMPER
— OLD PIN BALL MACHINE — JUKE BOX — TOOLS
— COLLECTIBLES — HOUSEHOLD — HIT & MISS
ENGINE — ZERO TURN MOWER — MISC**

**LAKE LOTS SELLING FROM THIS LOCATION, (2)
Lake lots, Shell Knob MO**



Ford Pickup: 1996 Ford F-350 XLT, Crew Cab, automatic, 4x4, 7.3 power stroke diesel with diesel transfer tank. **Pinball:** 1970 D Gottlieb & Co Scuba 2 player, pinball machine. (only 1,450 units were produced). **5th Wheel Camper:** 2018 Jayco Eagle HT, 26 RLX w/slides. **Jukebox:** 1978 Rock-Ola Mystic 478, vintage, vinyl-based jukebox, it holds 45 rpm records — (2) Pachinko machines. **Collectibles:** Old Coca Cola poster (rough) — Bud light pool table light — Fairbanks Morse 3 hp, 475 rpm hit & miss engine on iron wheel cart — vintage console juke box — Tudor Tru Action elect football game — old metal can — old Americana washing machine — American shuffle board table — old cedar chest — lg old porcelain sink — old horse drawn plow — ash bucket. **Tools:** Kobalt 60 gal 220 upright air compressor — air hose — 10" Central Machine table saw — 8" table top drill press — Echo weed eater — Poseidon 200 psi 1.8 hp air compressor — misc chains — Ridgid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

PROBATE**IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUDGE OR DIVISION: PROBATE**

In the Estate of
JAMES KING,
Deceased.
Case Number:
26BR-PR00003

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
JAMES KING,
Decedent:
On January 14, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

JAMES KING,
decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's name and business address is:

WANDA FOWLER,
211 EAGLE NEST
CASSVILLE, MO 65625

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

ANGELA ARTHERTON,
10388 FARM ROAD 2172
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
870-688-0619

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:

01-DEC-2025

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk

Date of first publication:

January 21, 2026

Date of second publication:

January 28, 2026

Date of third publication:

February 4, 2026

Date of fourth publication:

February 11, 2026

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 01/21/26

2-5

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

In the Estate of
Hubert Lee Shepherd,
Deceased
Estate Number:
25BR-PR00057

AMENDED NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF

HUBERT LEE SHEPHERD, 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 estate of the decedent and of the

extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, on or about February 26, 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.

DONALD L. CUPPS,
Attorney

Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz

P. O. Box 276

Cassville, MO 65625

CHRISTINE SHEPHERD

Personal Representative

Dates of Publication

1/21/2026,

1/28/2026,

2/4/2026,

2/11/2026

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE 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 01/21/26

2-5

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

In Re the Estate of:

Leslie H. Lindsay,

Estate No.

25BR-PR00091

Deceased

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PROPOSED ORDER OF DISTRIBUTION

To all persons interested in the above referenced estate:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned personal representative will file a

petition for an order approving final settlement of the estate together with a final

settlement and proposed order of distribution in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court

of Barry County, Missouri, on March 12, 2026, or as may be continued by the court.

If no objections to the settlement or proposed order of distribution are filed within

(20) days after the date of the filing thereof, the court will consider said settlement and

proposed distribution and, upon their approval, the court will determine the persons

entitled to decedent's descendible interest in the estate and the extent and character of

their interest therein.

Upon proof of compliance with the court's order of distribution by the personal representative, the court will discharge the personal representative and her sureties, if

any, from further claim or demand by any interested person.

Dated: 2/9/2026

Lydia Raska,

Personal Representative

James A. Pettit,

Bar No. 66147

P. O. Box 148

Aurora, MO 65605

417-678-2187

james@pettitlawoffice.

com

Attorney for Personal Representative

For Publication:

2/11/26,

2/18/26,

2/25/26,

3/6/26

1st insertion 02/11/26

5-8

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUDGE OR DIVISION: PROBATE

Case Number:

25BR-PR00190

In the Estate of

VIRGINIA RUTH MAYER,

Deceased

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION - NON-RESIDENT FIDUCIARY)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of

LILY ANN PETERSEN,

Decedent:

On January 30, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

LILY ANN PETERSEN,

decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or

direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for

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

VIRGINIA RUTH MAYER,

decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or

direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for

supervised administration is made to and granted by

the court. The name and

business address is:

JARRELL DAVID

RHEA, 236 S 485 W

PROVIDENCE, UT

84332 The personal

representative's attorney's

name, business address and

phone number is:

JAMES JOSEPH

RANDALL,

405 E BROADWAY,

MONETT, MO 65708,

417-235-8688

The non-resident

personal representative's

designated agent's

name, business address and

phone number is:

FARES MASRI,

405 BROADWAY

P.O. BOX 151

MONETT, MO 65708,

417-235-8688

The personal

representative's attorney's

name, business address and

phone number is:

SAMANTHA PRESCOTT,

405 E BROADWAY,

MONETT, MO 65708,

417-235-8688

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

LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A
 Lassley Jr. a married man dated January 4, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 22, Page 96 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, March 10, 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:

PART OF THE EAST HALF (E1/2) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 1000.09 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 0 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 357.29 FEET, THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST 486.87 FEET, THENCE NORTH 29 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 51 SECONDS WEST 278.66 FEET, THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST 115.02, THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 43 SECONDS WEST 326.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND A TRACT OF LAND 7 FEET WIDE AND 393.68 FEET ALONG THE EAST SIDE THEREOF, AND 15 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE THEREOF MAKING THE BACK WEST LINE 372.29 FEET AND THE EAST LINE 408.68 FEET AND THE NORTH LINE WILL BE 333.45 FEET.

ACCESS EASEMENT: AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS PURPOSES BEING 30 FEET WIDE AND HAVING PARALLEL LINES DESCRIBED ALONG THE WEST LINE AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF (E1/2) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST 215.0 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 7 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST 791.53 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 26 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 187.75 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 115.02 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 29 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 51 SECONDS EAST 278.66 FEET TO THE POINT OF TERMINATION.

To satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C., Successor Trustee 612 Spirit Drive St. Louis, MO 63005 (636) 537-0110

File No: 229868.031026.465450 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: February 11, 2026 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026 1st insertion 02/11/26 5-8



Cassville's Anna Vanderhoef battles her way to a pin in the Monett Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wrestling: Tournaments this season prepare squad for districts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

the girls' nerves are ready for it because of our schedule," she said.

In the final week before districts, Parsons said practice will revolve around specific technical goals.

"Each girl has something they are working on, whether it's wrestling the full three periods, getting off bottom, or take-downs," she said. "We're going to fine-tune those this week and focus on the end to punch those tickets."

Parsons said Winchell has taken on a larger leadership role in practice, especially with so many younger teammates.

"In the practice room last week, she stepped it up and was holding those girls accountable," Parsons said. "She's telling them she's been to state and wants to go again, and if they're going to make it, they have to work harder."

Parsons said that leadership has been important late in the season.

"She's pushing them on what they need to do and stepping up leadership-wise to help these younger girls get to the state tournament," she said.

With matches beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Parsons said the team's travel plans, which include an



Cassville's AJ Deaver works against an opponent at the Monett Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

overnight stay in Bolivar, are designed to keep athletes rested for the two-day event.

"We try to stay at least one two-day tournament so the girls get the feel of it and know how that is," Parsons said. "They get the excitement of staying away from their parents, but we have a responsibility and a job to get done. I have really responsible girls, so I'm not concerned about that at all."

Parsons said timing and distance made an overnight stay the practical choice.

"It's about an hour and 50 minutes, and wrestling on Friday night doesn't get over until about 9:30 or 10 p.m., or later," Parsons said. "We're going to stay about 20 minutes away so we can get them in bed at a decent time and they can be well-rested to wrestle on Saturday morning."

With most of the roster new

to the postseason, Parsons said expectations are still developing.

"I have a lot of freshmen, and they've never experienced this postseason," Parsons said. "The only three that have experienced the postseason are Analeigh, AJ and Anna."

Parsons said the younger wrestlers understand the basics of what is at stake but have not yet felt it firsthand.

"They're excited for districts and excited to work hard to make it to state," Parsons said. "They know they need to be in the top four to make it to state, but until they punch their ticket or make that bubble match or the semis or the finals, they don't understand the extent of it yet."

Parsons said the team mindset remains steady entering the tournament.

"We've prepared them pretty good, and they feel like it's a big tournament that we're traveling to and they've got a job to do," Parsons said.

Looking more long-term, the goal is for the experience to build motivation for future seasons.

"I hope they all come back out and the experience gives them that feeling," Parsons said. "If they don't make it to state this year, it gives them that drive to set that as their goal for next year."

Scoreboard: Middle school squads both turn in trio of wins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Kennedy had 5, Brylee Gross contributed 5 and Audrey Kennedy put in 3. Cassville's record now moves to 15-6 overall and 4-1 in Big 8 Conference play. The Lady Wildcats welcomed East Newton to town Monday and travels to Mt. Vernon on Thursday.

Wildcats pick up pair of wins

On Feb. 3, Cassville traveled to Monett and swept the Cubs with victories in the C game, JV game and varsity game. The JV Wildcats won, 61-40, and the varsity Wildcats won, 63-45. Leading the varsity squad in scoring was Tyson Bohmke with 26 points, and Carlos Barrientos added 18 points and nine rebounds. On Thursday against Lamar the JV won, 52-47, while the varsity lost, 54-59. Bohmke again led the varsity in scoring with 16, Aiden Whittington added 13, and Cheney Kelley put up 12. Barrientos also added 8 rebounds. On Friday the Wildcats JV team beat Skyline by a score of 59-20 while the varsity team lost, 49-41. Bohmke led the way with 17 points, and Masin Bryan added 9. Cassville hosted East Newton on Tuesday and



Cassville's Audrey Kennedy puts in a pair during a win over Monett last week. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

travels to Mt. Vernon on Friday.

Middle school hoops teams go undefeated last week

Cassville Middle School boys basketball teams had a strong week on the court, with both the seventh- and

and balanced scoring helped Cassville control each contest from start to finish. The eighth-grade team also turned in an outstanding week. Cassville defeated Granby 45-37 before earning a 47-27 road win at Mt. Vernon. The Wildcats capped off the week with a convincing 54-16 vict-

ry over Hollister, using their defensive intensity and team play to secure the sweep. Following this week's action, the seventh-grade team improves to 9-3 on the season, while the eighth-grade squad moves to 11-1 as both teams continue to build momentum heading into the final stretch.

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WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

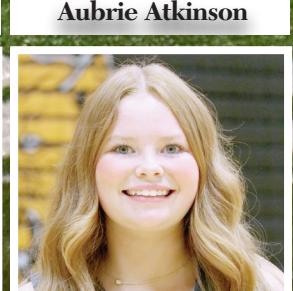
Emma Rooney



Wyatt Hollingsworth



Logan Parsons



Aubrie Atkinson

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