



**LOCAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE FFA WEEK >>>**

Cassville, Exeter, Southwest, Wheaton, Purdy FFA info. — **PAGES 8-12A**



# CASSVILLE Democrat

FEBRUARY 25, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

**CITY OF PURDY**

**What:** Dealing with sewer system issues  
**Change:** USDA layoffs require charges and costs to be reviewed by national office  
**More:** Engineer advises city reapply for funding under State Revolving Fund

## Purdy wrestles with sewer issues

DNR alters application for state funding, forcing action

**BY MURRAY BISHOFF**

Special to the Cassville Democrat  
 During the Feb. 11 meeting, Purdy City Council members wrestled with how to proceed with fixing the city's long-running problems with its sanitary sewer system.

Engineer Bob Sell, with Allgeier, Martin and Associates, reported that federal budget cuts resulted in laying off a significant number of employees in the local US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office. Because the city has a loan through Rural Development, calculations over parity with charges versus costs now have to be done by the national office, significantly delaying a decision. This forced the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to revise its application policy for securing funding for local infrastructure projects through the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Sell said that in the past, the city could have Allgeier, Martin design and bid a project, then later approve a rate increase to cover the project's cost. Now, DNR wanted an ordinance in place, declaring rate increases, before the project could be considered. That meant a rate study has been done first, included in the ordinance. Then the ordinance would have to be passed before the engineers could proceed with the design.

Sell continued that it was unlikely the city could complete a rate study and approve an ordinance before the September deadline for State Revolving Fund applications. At DNR's recommendation, he advised the city to simply reapply to DNR for funding under the SRF. That required immediate action with a March 1 deadline. Council members passed a resolution to reapply, approving an application identical to the last one, except with different names for the current council members.

The project in question called for major spending on lining sanitary sewer pipes to keep stormwater from flowing into mains through cracks and leaking manholes, what's known as inflow and infiltration (I&I). Purdy now sends effluent to Monett for processing, and over a certain volume, pays extra.

Known for having a major I&I  
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## Sunday is for fishing

2,000 anglers again expected for Opening Day

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com  
 Opening Day at Roaring River State Park is once again expected to draw roughly 2,000 anglers casting for more than 6,500 stocked trout —

**OPENING DAY**

**When:** Sunday, beginning at 6:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Roaring River State Park  
**More:** 2,000 anglers expected, 100 lunkers going in

plus the typical 100 lunkers — in the first Sunday opening since 2020 when 1,700 tags were sold amid the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brad Farwell, Roaring River Hatchery manager, said staff have been busy prepping for the annual event.

"I know I'll stock 100 lunkers because that's a typical given number," Farwell said. "I'd say we'll have maybe 2,000 to 2,100 anglers, and we'll probably stock around 6,500 fish — 6,500 plus 100 lunkers."

In order to throw in a line, an angler needs a fishing license

and trout tag, which can be purchased in the Park Store, located across from the junction of 112 and F Highways.

Larry Quinalty, local resident known for his years as a college professor, work at the Roaring River Nature Center and numerous Dutch oven demonstrations and cookbooks, will fire the gun at 6:30 a.m.

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## Smooth sounds serenade on Jazz Night



Brody Howell plays a solo in "Aftershock" during the annual Jazz Night on Feb. 17 at the Performing Arts Center in Cassville.  
 Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Purdy school chooses calendar for 2026-27

APR report discovers technical issues

**BY MURRAY BISHOFF**

Special to the Cassville Democrat  
 The Purdy school board wrestled with scheduling for the coming school year and reviewed issues with the Annual Performance Review (APR), as assessed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, during its Feb. 12 meeting.

Board members found themselves torn over the options the Missouri General Assembly imposed over when school could open, no earlier than 14 days before the first Monday in September, putting the start date on Aug. 24.

Superintendent Travis Graham took two options to the faculty.

The first choice called for 169 in-session days, with five additional school days in May. That would have pushed summer school back an extra week to allow the five days to be placed at the end of the year if needed for snow make-up days. It would also start school one day later and have one less day in the April break.

The second option, preferred by faculty, called for fulfilling the number of hours required by the state rather than counting days.

While two board members preferred the first option, Board Member Ken Terry observed asking teachers for their opinion then ignoring it represented a poor faith gesture. Option A did not receive a second to the

motion, while Option B passed on a 4-2 vote.

Graham explained he delayed his report on the Annual Performance Review because of several issues surfaced. During the district's trial-run year under the Missouri School Improvement Plan 6, the Purdy district scored 70.3 percent. With more background on what the state wanted, in the second year Purdy's score rose to 80.5, then to 80.8 percent. For last year, however, Purdy's score dropped to 74.2 percent.

Graham responded by digging into the district's performance totals, finding several areas only scored at "approaching" and thus did not receive sufficient points in those areas.

"I looked at the CSIP [Comprehensive School Improvement Program] plans,

talked to the core teachers, and looked at what we are teaching," Graham said. "These scores are reflecting on the MAP [Missouri Achievement Program] scores and the EOC [end-of-course exams] for high school students. Fortunately for us, the state puts out blueprints on what standards are going to be assessed. We went backward designing from there to make sure our standards align, and in growth."

A more difficult issue surfaced in looking at the continuous improvement variable.

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# LOCAL

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Mercy ER entrance opens March 3

Mercy Cassville has announced its new Emergency Room (ER) entrance will be open on March 3. The milestone represents continued progress in the ongoing facility construction and improvement efforts, a hospital press release said. As the hospital enters the next phase, the main foyer, along with portions of respiratory therapy, the stress lab and the nuclear medicine area will be temporarily closed while remodel work is being completed. The renovation phase is expected to last through June 10. During this time, all outpatients and visitors should use the clinic entrance to access patient access check-in, which will operate from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After 4:30 p.m., people should use the ER entrance. "Thank you for your patience and support as we work to enhance our facility and improve the patient experience," the release said.

### Oak Hill Cemetery Annual Meeting in March

The Oak Hill Cemetery Annual Meeting will be on March 12 at the Family Life Center in Cassville beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will include the election of officers and other issues concerning the cemetery to be discussed. Anyone interested is asked to attend.

### Commodity Conference coming

Commodity Conference, hosted by Missouri Farm Bureau will be held on Monday. Dinner will be provided at 6 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. There is no cost for the dinner or event. Speakers include Doug Heady, who will be discussing weather and forecasting. Taylor Ann Washburn, director of marketing and commodities will be discussing prices for 2026 in the cattle, dairy and crops industries. The event will be held at the Southwest Center, located at 14548 State Hwy. H in Mt. Vernon.

### Wheaton Road District to meet

The monthly Wheaton Road District Meeting will be held on March 3 at 5 p.m. at the Wheaton road district barn on Hwy A across from Holmes Farm Supply.

### Community Garden monthly meetings returning

The Barry County Community Garden is resuming the monthly meetings on the first Monday of every month. The March meeting will be held on March 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Harvick Farms and Nursery in Cassville. Those who are already gardeners at every skill level, including beginner, are interested in growing food, or are interested in volunteering with the Community Garden are invited to attend.

### 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.

### 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](https://sos.mo.gov). The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is March 25. For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561, opt: 3, or email [jennis@barrycountyclerk.com](mailto:jennis@barrycountyclerk.com) or [ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com](mailto: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.

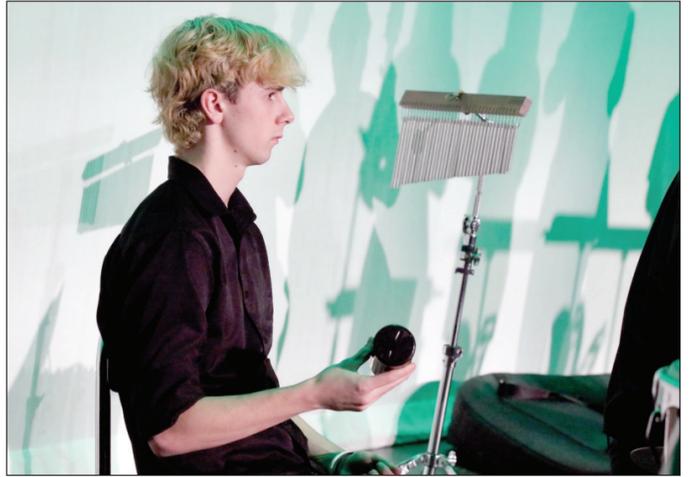
### Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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](http://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.

## Smooth sounds serenade on Jazz Night



Brextin Sprague performs with the Wildcat Jazz during the annual Jazz Night on Feb. 17 at the Performing Arts Center in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/  
[kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)



Trystan Moore performs a solo in "Opus One" at the Jazz Night concert on Feb. 17 at the Performing Arts Center in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/  
[kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)



Hadley Davis-Moore plays a solo in 'Flight of the Foo Birds' during the annual Jazz Night concert on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/  
[kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)

## Purdy: No decision on website

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problem, Purdy has worked for more than a decade trying to reduce its stormwater infiltration issue. Despite past spending on sewer crews that repaired pipe problems, Sell estimated less than 10 percent of the city's sewer mains have been lined to keep stormwater out. Camera work on sewer mains, done seven years ago, may no longer reflect current conditions.

"Things are not going to get better over time," the engineer said.

Purdy's sewer system can send 60,000 to 70,000 gallons of effluent a day to Monett without paying a surcharge. On the plus side, Sell said Monett agreed to raise Purdy's limit up from 200,000 gallons to 300,000 gallons a month without a surcharge. The challenge, then, is to reduce costs from unnecessary volume caused by rain.

When Purdy passed a bond issue to build the sewer link to Monett, bids ran much lower than expected. That left unused bonding capacity. Sell said the city had the ability to raise rates within its current authority without going back to the voters. If the council imposed a higher charge for sewer repairs than necessary, Sell said the council could roll back the amount later. In the meantime, council members would have to calculate an amount and submit it to DNR to pursue a low interest loan through DNR's SRF.

At council member Heather VanNote's recommendation, aldermen agreed to contact legal counsel overseeing the city's bonding capacity to see how far the city could proceed with improvements. Aldermen then voted to authorize applying to DNR for a loan to proceed.

The discussion over the sewer issue had originally been planned for closed session. Without a legal foundation for closing the meeting, council members clarified the status of the discussion under the Sunshine Law and reviewed the matter in open session.

Council members voted to enter into a contract with CPI Technologies at \$795 a month on a three-year contract for an information technology services. Mayor Brian Bowers noted that Wheaton used CPI for two years and spoke highly of the vendor.

Aldermen expressed concern about securing information within the city's system from security threats.

No decision was made about hiring a vendor to build a city website. Clerk Sasha Gomez presented council members with a proposal from the GO CAPS student program in Monett, which offered to build a website. Concern was raised about compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and who would run the system, as well as update it. Council members voted to table the proposals to seek additional information.

In department reports, public works foreman Kevin Cook indicated the new sewer pump for the est lift station had been installed. The city now had four pumps all acquired in the last two years. The new OMA pumps were performing well.

Cook noted the efficiency rating for water service dropped to 77 percent, in part because a relay on the pumps between the two water towers had failed and was on order. He had been switching between towers by hand. Cook asked aldermen to alert him if they discovered any overflows while waiting for the needed part, which is the size of a cellphone.

Police Chief Jackie Lowe reported several domestic issues during the past month. On Jan. 12, a 14-year-old who assaulted his mother was subdued by a Juvenile Officer and was taken away in leg chains. In another case, Lowe arrested Levis Dalton Maddocks, 23, on an Arkansas warrant for sexual indecency with a child. In another case, Lowe arrested Antoin Deontae Jackson, 35, of Kentucky, for fourth-degree assault.

Lowe responded to five calls about dogs, several over the condition of the animals during severe weather.

VanNote observed there appeared to be inconsistent information in city records over how many animals people were allowed to have. The revised livestock ordinance placed the total at 15, while Lowe's records put the number at 6. One resident had 21, he added. VanNote advised consulting with city attorney Toni Hendricks to resolve the matter.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 11.

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P.O. Box 486 • 600 Main Street • Cassville, MO 65625  
Phone: 417-847-2610  
Email address: [cassvillem democrat@outlook.com](mailto:cassvillem democrat@outlook.com)  
Website: [www.cassville-democrat.com](http://www.cassville-democrat.com)

**STAFF**  
Jordan Troutman..... Office Manager/Reporter  
Kyle Troutman..... Editor/Sports Editor/Graphic Designer  
Sheila Harris.....Sales Executive/Reporter

# School: Five administrative contracts renewed; new hires made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

While the district earned 100 percent of points in several areas, data for the kindergarten assessment was not put into the data uploaded to the state's Missouri Student Information System (MOSIS). Since then, Graham made sure the data was in the district's system, but in a test, found it still failed to upload. The Individual Career and Academic Plan also failed to transfer.

"I took for granted the data was in the system," Graham said. "It should have exported. The state would not make the exception because I did not meet the appeals window."

Graham pulled in former principal Bob Vice and enlisted the high school secretary to run

monthly reports, as well as data company Infinite Campus. The problem has still not been resolved.

Had those issues been overcome, Graham said the district's APR score would have come in at 78 percent, only a 2 percent drop.

"We're working on aligning our curriculum and instruction, making sure we are instructing appropriately. I anticipate a good jump going into next year," Graham added. He noted the efforts to fine-tune the curriculum and following the action steps he put in place would be crucial as the state shifted to imposing a letter grade on all school districts after evaluating numbers for the current school year.

In other reports, Graham noted the Missouri General Assembly was considering a number of education-related bills, including tax reform and open enrollment that could impact Purdy. Open enrollment represented a potential loss of student enrollment up to 5 percent and a transportation burden if students chose to go to a nearby district.

"There are a lot of moving parts in preparing the FY27 district budget," Graham said. "With the level of uncertainties regarding financial resources, I am working on several scenarios and will be attending legislative sessions as I am able."

The district will have an election on April 7. The four candidates for three

open positions are David Young, Nathan Lamp, David Wormington, and Kaley Thigpen.

In student achievement, the Eagle Echoes elementary choir received a 1 rating at the Northeast Oklahoma A&M College's choral festival. Two students in eighth and ninth grades had their artwork chosen for display at WonderWorks in Branson. Winn Htet was named the elementary school's spelling bee winner.

Graham reported the Purdy Future Business Leaders of America chapter scored 15 district championships, earned 45 medals and qualified 29 for state competition. Two seniors had received Missouri State University Presidential Scholarships,

valued at \$75,000 over five years.

Graham noted receiving positive feedback from faculty on changes made in the structure for SOAR hour. Teachers now had the opportunity to work with students in smaller settings that allowed tutoring-style intervention.

In personnel action, board members added a year to the contract for principal Julie Dalton, who oversees grades eight and under;

The following administrative contracts were renewed:

- Jennifer Cornelius as athletic director and assistant principal for all grades
- Darcy Brown as special education director
- Kristy Cook as director of district business services

• Emily Kool as director of technology

• Julie Keeler as director of operations

Resignations were received from English language arts teacher Brandi King for seventh and eighth grade, high school special education teacher Robert Ryman, and paraprofessionals Marlene Villa and Grace Gardner.

The board hired Emaleigh Harper as a second grade teacher, Jacy Cash as an administrative assistant for the superintendent, and Julia Brown and Veronica Rey Sanchez as paraprofessionals.

In extra duty assignments, Drew Williams was hired as the boys golf coach and Carder Eaton was named middle school baseball assistant coach.

# Opening: Hatchery renovations are nearing completion

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In observance of another long-standing tradition, the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce will give away mugs of hot coffee (coffee courtesy of Sunshine Coffeehouse, mugs courtesy of Chamber members) to Opening Day anglers, beginning at 5 a.m., under the large tent across the road and a bit south of the historic CCC Lodge. Walmart of Cassville will be handing out doughnuts and Realty Mart will be handing out free shirts while supplies last.

Chamber Director Morgan Williams said from 6:30 a.m. to noon, the Lunker Station will open and begin handing out Lunker patches. Arvest Bank will hand out a prize to the first catch of the day brought to be weighed in. Mercy will hand out prizes to the largest adult lunker and largest child lunker brought to the Lunker Station before noon.

For those seeking an overnight stay, or to warm their toes, the Emory Melton Inn will open its doors at 9 a.m. on Friday and be open 24 hours thereafter.

If it's food and drink people are looking for, the restaurant in the Inn will open from noon to 7 p.m. on Friday. Normal restaurant hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., until Daylight Savings Time resumes, and will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. throughout the remainder of March.

Beyond Opening Day, Farwell said regular-sea-

son stocking calculations are driven by projected attendance and a targeted fish-per-angler rate.

"From March 1 to October 31, we stock fish every night," Farwell said. "We base it off historical tag sales, weather forecasts and holidays. We take that anticipated number of anglers times 1.8, and that tells us how many fish to stock."

That 1.8 fish-per-angler target is higher than last year and should be noticeable to regular visitors.

"Bennett Spring is still shut down, and they don't have any fish on site," Farwell said. "Because of that, we're going to be at 1.8 fish per person for the year."

The projected rate compares favorably to recent seasons.

"The traditional average is 2.25," Farwell said. "Last year was 1.6, so it will be quite a bit higher. When you get down to 1.5 or 1.6, even around 1.7, anglers notice it. At 1.8 or 2.0, we usually don't get many complaints, so it should be pretty good."

Opening Day attendance has gradually declined over time, though Farwell said turnout remains strong.

"It seems like every year opening day numbers go down a little bit," Farwell said. "Part of that is culture changing."

Some anglers now intentionally avoid the Opening Day crowds.

"I hear a lot of people say they would never fish on March first and come

the day after or the week after," Farwell said. "It's still good numbers."

Hatchery renovations are nearing completion as the season begins, including major underground utility replacements.

"We're still doing a renovation project right now down here at the hatchery," Farwell said. "We were doing an oxygen line replacement. We had a temporary oxygen line running across the ground for the last couple of years, so they're reburying a new oxygen line and getting that taken care of."

The original buried line deteriorated beyond repair.

"The old oxygen line started leaking underneath the ground, and there wasn't a feasible way to fix it," Farwell said. "When they looked at the copper, it was getting too thin in too many spots, so they wanted to redo the whole thing."

Crews also replaced another key fuel line serving hatchery facilities.

"They put in a new propane line also," Farwell said. "They buried that propane line from the tank all the way down to the hatchery building and over to the bathroom."

Inside the hatchery, a multi-unit ultraviolet treatment system is being installed to reduce fish disease losses.

"They're doing a UV upgrade in the hatchery," Farwell said. "They're putting in four UV units now in the building instead of one, so we shouldn't have

issues with bacteria or parasites."

Disease-related loss has significantly reduced output in recent years.

"It should make our loss rate extremely low," Farwell said. "We've been having issues with Aeromonas bacteria."

The difference in survival rates can be substantial.

"If I got 200,000 eggs and they hatched out and got Aeromonas, I might get 50,000 to 75,000 fish out of it," Farwell said. "Before having the Aeromonas problem, it would be 150,000."

The new system is expected to improve fingerling survival and reduce treatment needs.

"The new UV units will probably increase fingerling production by decreasing the loss from Aeromonas bacteria," Farwell said. "If they get disease in the hatchery, you're treating them with antibiotics multiple times."

Renovation work has temporarily reduced hatchery capacity.

"The hatchery building itself has been shut down since about September, and we've had 17 out of the 40 pools shut off because of the renovation project," Farwell said. "We'll start ramping back up production as soon as the project's done."

Full operations should resume shortly after Opening Day.

"Hopefully it will be done close to March first," Farwell said. "Maybe not March 1st, but pretty

close."

A broader return to full production is expected later in the spring.

River access and zone regulations will remain unchanged for the new season.

"No changes to the zones and no real river maintenance," Farwell said. "They're talking about trying to get the long-reach excavator down here to do some dredging, but that hasn't been done yet."

One bank-stabilization project remains under consideration.

"We do have a project to stabilize the bank in campground two that we're looking at trying to get completed," Farwell said. "We haven't gotten the go-ahead on that yet."

Farwell said the current round of construction focuses on reliability rather than expanded output.

"The oxygen line and propane line replacement won't change capacity," Farwell said. "They're just fixing infrastructure that was falling apart."

Most major capital projects are now complete.

"This is the last of the legacy projects and upgrades we needed to get done," Farwell said. "We've got a roof replacement coming for all the buildings, but that won't interfere with anyone."

Staffing levels remain stable heading into the season opener.

"My end is good and I don't have any openings or much turnover,"

Farwell said. "I've got the same crew I've had."

The hatchery operates with a mix of full-time and hourly workers covering multiple shifts.

"I've got six full-time employees and six hourly," Farwell said. "Two work midnight to eight on the weekends and alternate."

An intern is also assigned to assist with operations and learn department procedures.

"I also have an intern working Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from eight to four, learning how conservation works," Farwell said.

This season marks Farwell's fifth Opening Day overseeing hatchery operations.

"This will be my fifth one," Farwell said. "I wanted to say four because I didn't want to seem that old, but I am."

The UV system installation is the improvement he most wants completed as anglers return to the stream.

"I'm excited to get the UV system done in the hatchery because it will help so much with mortality," Farwell said. "It's hard to watch them die and not be able to do anything about it."

He expects the upgrades to produce healthier fish and smoother operations going forward.

"If we don't stress the fish out and get the UV system in, it should make things a lot better," Farwell said. "That's what I'm most excited about."

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# COMMENTARY

## PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

### A busy week ahead in Barry County

On Saturday, I took a day away to go visit Jacob Brower, my old boss and former publisher of the Cassville Democrat and The Monett Times, and he asked me a question many people hint at but don't ask outright — how many hours per week do you work these days?

Between the more than a handful of hats I wear — news journalist, photographer, sports writer, designer, website manager, social media manager and publisher — my honest answer to Brower was that I put in about 50 hours a week on average. Some weeks require more, and in others, I can get by with less.

This week is on the “more” side of things. This issue is one of our largest in a while at 22 pages. Having completed the five FFA pages and two Opening Day pages, I am now turning my attention to the next five days.

Today (Wednesday) and Thursday, I will be at Mizzou Arena in Columbia covering the state wrestling tournament. Cassville has eight boys and one girl for me to track, and because we publish Monett Monthly these days, I will also take the opportunity to cover as many of the six Cubs as I can, as well.

I've written about state wrestling before. It's absolute chaos, Thursday especially. Between the drive up Wednesday and the full day of Thursday coverage, I will put in 24 hours on the clock quite easily. As fast-paced and stressful as it is, it's a lot of fun. It's emotional and gripping to watch our local youth battle their way to the best placements they can, reveling in the wins and despairing in the losses.

As usual, I plan to have live updates, probably thousands of photos and numerous highlight videos from each wrestler. The mental preparation has already begun. It's a challenge, but a rewarding one by the end.

On the way back from Columbia, I'll be making a stop in Jefferson City to pick up our 1,500 Trout Times magazines, another weeks-long labor of love that highlights the best of Barry County.

As always happens during this week, there is a possibility one of our small-school basketball teams reaches a district championship contest, which could mean some extra travel on Saturday.

Time will tell whether that materializes or not, but one thing that I can always count on is Opening Day.

On a Sunday this year, more than 2,000 anglers are expected to cast their first lines of the season, and I will be there bright and early to capture the madness.

I'm secretly hoping the weather forecast shifts a day and we get a little more of the 70 degrees than 50 degrees, but I won't be holding my breath.

This year, Dr. Larry Quinalty is firing the gun. I've talked to Larry a few times over the years about his Dutch oven cooking, but the interview I did with him for Trout Times revealed so much more of his adventures.

Larry has traveled to all seen continents — even Antarctica — and worked as a professor, worked for the Nature Center and written numerous books, and he has another coming out.

It's always fun when state elected officials make their way to our neck of the woods to fire the gun, like Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe did last year, but there's something even more special about local folks getting the traditional honor.

As usual, I figure I'll run into the every-year-anglers in their every-year-spots. Yet, one of the beauties of Opening Day is getting to meet new people and tell their stories, whether they live on a Barry County Farm Road or come from hundreds of miles away.

Next week's issue may not be 22 pages, but one thing is for sure — I could have enough content to make it so.

After the paper is put to bed, I imagine there's only one thing I will be craving: rest.

Here's to a great week of Cassville and Barry County news and sports. I can't wait to deliver it all to you.

*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.



## COMMUNITY VOICES

# The meanings of March 1st at Roaring River

It's almost March First, as we all know.

For many reasons March First has special significance. When I was much younger than I am now, I had a special jacket. It was a Kansas City Chiefs coat. That coat also had a March First significance.

That year, 1973, my parents along with my Aunt Irene and Uncle Bob decided to get adjoining cabins for the opening of trout season at Roaring River. Because of this, I was able to get a prized fishing spot, along with my brother, David, and our cousins Joe, Burl, and Holly.

Little did we know that our prized spot would land us on KY3 the next day. I will never forget the visual of my left arm casting out, while fishing near the bridge, while wearing my beloved Chiefs coat.

Because of this and so many other memories, March First has so much significance for me and so many others. What are some of the lessons I associate with the sight of March First on the calendar?

First, there is a sense of accomplishment that comes with this day. We have made it through the winter months of December, January, and February. Winter isn't officially over but you can see the finish line to reaching spring just around the corner.

It's similar to when I ran track in high school. As you neared the end of the old two-mile relay, there was this incredible sense of relief, regardless of whether you had finished first or not.

Next is the sense of renewal. The start of the spring season brings the sense of renewal that comes with seeing opportunities unfold in front of us. Whether it is the thought of planting grass in that bare spot in the yard, beautiful flowers or shrubs, putting up a bird feeder, planning the next fishing or float trip, the sight of spring brings all types of possibilities. This can open up our



JON HORNER

minds to see the joys and blessings in our lives.

Next is perseverance. A sense of confidence can come from the feeling of persevering through what we hope are the worst of the winter months. Even though this hasn't been a bad winter, it's still winter. And persevering and making it to the other side feels good.

This is similar to what we can encounter quite often in our lives. There can certainly be winter moments. Making it out of these moments reminds us there can be brighter days to follow the winter-time of our lives.

Memories are another part of March First. To me, this ties into the significance of Roaring River State Park. Since 1928, Roaring River State Park has entertained millions of people simply with its quiet beauty and grace. It is truly an extraordinary example of God's majesty and beautiful artistry at work.

March First and Roaring River are really special. There are lots of sporting seasons. There's deer, turkey, squirrel, crow, coyote, goose, groundhog and frog seasons. And, you can fish for all kinds of fish: bass, crappie, catfish, just to name a few.

But, the only one that will close down schools is the beautiful rain-

bow trout — on March First.

For me and so many people in this area and throughout Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and beyond, the opening of trout season is an exciting time.

Now, I have to give full disclosure, I'm not a big fisherman. I'm definitely not accomplished at reeling in the famed rainbow trout. But, I love Roaring River, the beauty of the park, the excitement of opening day, and seeing how much it means to long-time fishermen.

It's amazing how March First brings together family and friends and their traditions are truly priceless.

I have served coffee to eager fishermen and women for over 35 years. I have seen the God-given beauty of the fog coming off the water, the joy of a little boy or girl catching their first fish, the reunion of life long friends and family members, and the pride resulting from hauling in a lunker trout. It's fun, and lastly, it can be a celebration.

A celebration of all the things I've talked about, accomplishment, renewal, perseverance, memories and God's majesty and beauty.

It's truly a day to celebrate and appreciate that we have this God-given masterpiece in our backyard, which brings so much fun and joy to thousands each March First.

Here's to Roaring River's 98th season! And, here's to another year that will once again bring together friends and family at one of the most beautiful places on earth, our own Roaring River.

Happy March First.

*Jon Horner is a local community bank president, published author, newspaper columnist, motivational speaker, and mayor of America's Real Hometown. He can be reached at jonhorner77@gmail.com*

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**50 years ago**

**March 3, 1976**  
**— EXETER PASSES 90¢ SCHOOL TAX HIKE BY 79%**

Voters in the Exeter district Tuesday gave overwhelming support to their school by approving a 90-cent tax levy increase by 79 percent, according to Superintendent John Black. Divided into two issues, the bond hikes required a two-thirds majority. Black said the board of education and all school personnel sincerely appreciated the turnout of voters and their response to needed improvements on the physical plant on the campus. The additional funds will provide construction of a new 2,200-square-foot building mostly as a multi-purpose facility that can be used for classrooms, meeting places, a library and a host of other school needs. This facility will cost about \$70,000 of the total \$80,000 bond issue. The remaining \$10,000 will be used to update and repair existing campus buildings. Financing the improvements will be a 23-cent levy increase for debt service and 67 cents for regular operations. The issues received identical votes, 287 in favor and 76 against. Black said the board would meet Thursday with bonding company and architectural representatives to get further plans in the works. The facility is scheduled for use by next September. Roger Frangkiser of Shell Knob is the project architect. Exeter's levy will increase to \$4.69 with the addition of the bond issue on tax statements next year.

**— SPRINGFIELD SECOND FOR STAGE BAND**

The CHS stage band, directed by John Knight, successfully competed against bands from throughout the state to win the Class 2-A second place trophy at the SMSU Jazz Festival at Springfield Saturday. The judges awarded Cassville's performance a "1" rating for the contest and chose Greg Roark, Doug Hart and Holly Edmondson as outstanding soloists. Knight commented that he was proud of the members of the Cassville Jazz Ensemble for the fine job they did for their school and community. "It is quite a distinction to win a trophy at this contest. However, I believe that the most important result is that the more than 1,500 young men and women who participated in this event displayed an outstanding musical maturity and discipline that must be evident in the making of fine music." Members of the stage band are Cathy Hollingsworth, Judy Smithson, Marilyn Stringer, Marilyn Stringer, Holly Edmondson, Jeff VanZandt, Alan Cannady, Greg Roark, Danny Seely, Denise Malarkey, Jerry Beuterbaugh, Stuart Borders, Brian Hunt, Jil Stephens, Doug Hart, Mike Fitzpatrick, John Cowherd, David Buntin, Jamie Bowers, Rhonda St. John, Joe Linnenbrink, Steve Vaughan, Danny Priest and Phil Voorhees. This Saturday the CHS Stage Band will go to Pittsburg, Kansas for a clinic.

**40 years ago**

**March 5, 1986**  
**— NO RECORD, BUT EVENTFUL OPENING AT ROARING RIVER**

There were no new records at Roaring River State Park for the March 1 opening, unless it might have been in the spectator department. The Saturday opening didn't attract a record number



**30 YEARS AGO: A LOT OF STOCKING GOING ON:** The hatchery staff at Roaring River State Park is busy stocking the stream with trout in preparation for Friday's opener. In the photo above, Hatchery Manager Jerry Dean, on the left, and Assistant Hatchery Manager Tom Whelan are shown stocking one of the main fishing holes along the stream. Dean said his crews would stock at least 5,500 12-inch rainbow trout and 25 lunkers. He estimates that there are approximately 1,900 14-inch trout and 113 lunkers left in the stream from the winter catch and release program. Based on these numbers, fishermen can expect about 228 fish in each of Roaring River's 33 fishing holes. Over 2,500 anglers are expected streamside on March 1. Democrat file photo

of fishermen, falling just 325 short, but that's a strong second place. That put 3,179 fishermen along the Roaring River put-and-take stream from 6:30 a.m. Saturday until closing time at 6:00 p.m. The standing record for opening day is 3,504 set in 1981. The 1985 opening number was 2,316. Even though the fisherman number didn't set a new record, anglers were still in the traditional elbow-to-elbow mode when the opening signal came. For the upper area of the stream the opening came about five minutes early. Secretary of State Roy Blunt, doing the honors of firing the opening gun, did so at the urging of Conservation Agent Charles Marrs at about 6:25 a.m. Five minutes later the sirens sounded sending the word to those who were out of earshot of the gun. As traditional as anything were the opening morning temperatures, registered at 18 degrees by Skip Doak, assistant hatchery superintendent. Those 2,580 anglers who were streamside at the opening found themselves spending considerable time freeing the rod guides of ice. Once the sun got over the hills surrounding Roaring River hollow, temperatures got into the 60s and anglers started shedding heavy clothing. Spectators in the park were estimated in the 10,000 range before the day was over. "You couldn't believe the traffic," said superintendent Boyd Holcomb. Cassville Chamber of Commerce members served around 50 gallons of coffee in their trips up and down the stream in the pre-opening hours. "We started at 4:30 a.m.," said Louise Fisher, "and haven't stopped getting the warming refreshment out to the visitors." Park ranger Charles Weathers said the 1986 opening was an uneventful event in his department. Outside the traffic directing problems, "we had very little trouble, just some youngsters Friday night doing a lot of driving around." Holcomb said there were over 200 camping units in the park for the opening. Before noon opening day, there had been 21 lunker badges presented by the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the C of C awarded trophy prizes for outstanding catches. Getting these awards were: Men's division, Ron Terry, Nevada, for a 10.8 lunker. He was using two-pound test line, requiring about 30 minutes to land the fish. Women's division, Tammy Miller of Cassville, 1.9. It was her third year to take the award. Youth division, Jason Doss of Monett, 4.0. It was the

first Roaring River opening for the Monett third grader. The opening festivities were continuing somewhat Sunday morning when by 9:00 a.m. there were just over 1,200 anglers at streamside. The figure was expected to go over 1,500 before the day was out. One angler known in this area, J.D. Smith of Pierce City, was highly successful. He had a 9.8 in his cooler. Smith said, "I thought I was hung up on the bottom until I felt the line move, then I knew it was a lunker." It was his first fish of this size as a veteran of Roaring River since 1941, said the Cassville native and retired superintendent of schools in Lawrence County. Merle Rogers, park naturalist, said he had a run of more than usual visitors at the nature center. Most usually for opening people are interested in fishing, but with good weather this year they wanted to visit other park features, he commented. Jack Nickols, concessionaire at the park, said his department ran smoothly during the opening. He noted that for the most part people were content with slower-than-usual service at the park store, restaurant and other services due to the big crowds. Anglers, completely enjoying the crowded conditions "because that's what you expect for opening," took turns at barrel fires at streamside to warm their hands or toes. Hatchery superintendent Charles Curry said his crews stocked about 10,000 trout in the stream prior to Saturday. Hatchery staff efforts were obviously being well received with lots of average limits visible both Saturday and Sunday.

**— WITHHELD CHECKS PROMPTS WORDS BETWEEN OFFICIALS**

There were harsh words passing between some county officials Friday involving failure to issue paychecks for sheriff's department deputies. Prosecuting Attorney John Lewright said this week that he had indeed threatened to file charges against Treasurer Gene Fare if the latter had not issued all paychecks on February 28. Presiding Commissioner Lloyd Dilbeck acknowledged the problem. Dilbeck said the county commission had issued the checks, knowing the funds were in the bank to cover them. For some unknown reason, Fare had withheld checks written to the deputy force and locked them in his office. When it was discovered checks for the deputies were not in the office for distribution, Sheriff Jim Hopkins contacted county officials for an explanation. Dilbeck said he told officials the administrative court had issued the payments but

he would check to make sure funds were available to cover them, which he did. In the meantime, Fare had left the courthouse to attend a meeting in Monett. Sheriff's officers contacted the Monett police force to deliver a message to the treasurer that he was wanted in the county seat. Fare returned, was informed of the prosecuting attorney's intentions and, upon learning Lewright and Dilbeck had determined funds were in the bank to cover the checks, went to his office to get the warrants and issued them to deputies. Lewright's lone comment following the incident was, "I would have certainly filed charges if the treasurer had not performed his duties." Fare, an opponent to county sales tax in two election decisions, had previously maintained the county had ample funds to conduct business without passing an additional tax. Friday he apparently took a different attitude in not issuing checks because funds were not available to cover them. Some of the activity through the courthouse was covered by television cameras. Sound reports were in one newscast, with conversations omitted in later broadcasts. Dilbeck said later, "It is the county commission's job to issue checks for payment of salaries and bills. We do so, under these difficult times, on the basis of what funds are available. The court would not have issued the checks had we thought the money was not in the bank. Why the treasurer took the action, I do not know." Checks issued were the final ones for one-half the deputy staff of Sheriff Hopkins. His department had been hardest hit in cutbacks ordered by county gov-

ernment.  
**— FBIA STUDENTS RANK IN DISTRICT EVENTS**

Twenty-five Future Business Leaders of America returned from the District 5 skills contest at Aurora February 26 with an impressive number of ratings. Top five ratings were received in fourteen of the seventeen events entered. Placing in the top two and eligible to participate in state contests in April in Jefferson City are: Kevin Black, first, and Tracy Thomas, second, in business law; Bobbie Reed, first, entrepreneurship one; Sheri Lowe, second, business English two; Kristie Davis, second, economics; Keith Abramovitz, first, business math one; and Evelle Hasler, first, stenographer two. Others placing in events were: Perlinda Pettigrew, fifth, clerk-typist two; Michael Evans, third, and Kevin Black, fourth, entrepreneurship one; SueZanne VanTwyver, fourth, accounting two; Kim Norris, fifth, accounting one; Bobbie Reed, third, business English one; Christina Peters, third, economics; Brenna Manley, fourth, office procedures; Max Schroeder, third, business math one; Karen Watson, third, and Mary Jane Schlichtman, fifth, business math two; Bette Miller, fifth, word processing, machine transcription; and Brenna Manley, fourth, stenographer one. District five consists of eight schools in this area: Southwest, Purdy, Cassville, Monett, Aurora, Verona, Crane and Marionville.

**30 years ago**

**Feb. 28, 1996**  
**— CATCH THE ACTION AT ROARING RIVER**

March weather is always unpredictable but you can count on one thing — the arrival of trout season. When the gun is fired on the 68th annual opening day this Friday, anglers will be standing shoulder-to-shoulder ready to cast into the trout-filled waters of Roaring River. Fishermen from near and far will be welcomed to the park by a faithful crew of Cassville Chamber of Commerce members who will be serving hot coffee along the river banks beginning at 5 a.m. The opening gun will be fired at 6:30 a.m. by Secretary of State Rebecca Cook, a return to tradition. One new addition to the March 1 festivities will be the opportunity for fishermen to have their photos taken with their big catch of the day. The chamber will be taking souvenir Polaroid pictures of fishermen who weigh-in lunker trout. The pictures will be given to the anglers as an opening day keepsake. Hatchery Manager Jerry

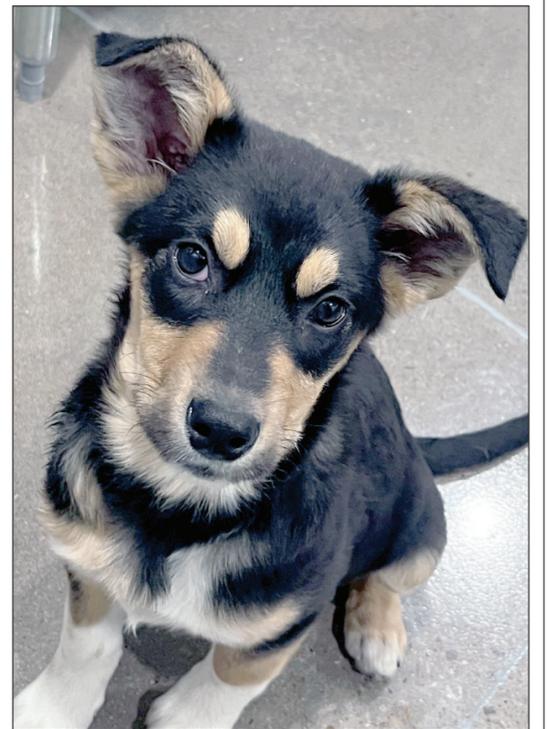
Dean said the stream will be stocked and ready for anglers by Friday. He is predicting that this year's opener will attract more than 2,500 fishermen, all vying for one of the 7,500 trout estimated to be in the stream. Weather forecasts are calling for a chance of rain, snow and ice on Friday with temperatures ranging from a high of 38 degrees to a low of 17. Dean said the river is quite a bit below normal and fairly clear. Pete Landstad, park superintendent, said the park is ready for visitors. He reports that all campsites are now open. Landstad said visitor numbers on opening day could range from 12,000 to 20,000. The park will continue its tradition of honoring an individual who is significant in the park's history. This year, James Woods of Cassville, an avid trout fisherman and outdoorsman, will receive the first trout tag of the 1996 season. Woods' involvement with the park dates back to the 1930s when he was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which helped construct the hatchery at Roaring River. Woods has served as secretary/treasurer of CCC Co. 1713 for 40 years.

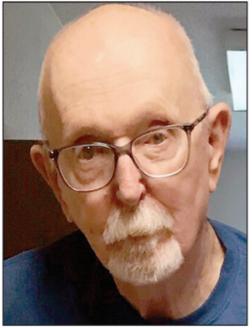
**— HOSPITAL BOARD DISCUSSES COST OF EXPANSION PROJECT**

South Barry County Hospital board members met Tuesday in regular session to discuss construction costs of its expansion project currently underway. According to a monthly report, the hospital plans to spend approximately \$2,470,381 at this time to complete the construction project, which will add 22,000 square feet to the current facility. Based on a state-approved certificate of need, the hospital is only allowed to spend 10 percent over the original projected cost of \$2,202,125. Debbie Stubbs, chief executive officer, reported to the board that unless the hospital went to the state and asked for a cost overrun, construction costs would have to be capped at \$2,532,338. Stubbs added that the hospital only had \$61,957 left to cover unforeseen budget changes. Following the financial overview, the board discussed pending change orders and approved items totaling about \$19,000, including a change in exterior paint colors and installation of two sump pumps in the elevator pits. The consensus of the board was that cost overruns would have to be kept to a minimum. Stubbs and Board President Don Cupps agreed that the hospital did not want to have to go to the state with a request to spend more money.

**Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week**

Have you ever seen such an adorable face? Temperance is a shepherd mix with an estimated date of birth of Sept. 15, 2025. She and her brother were abandoned in a field, left to fend for themselves. Both are sweet babies who truly deserve a better life. Adopters can complete an application at [www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt](http://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 micro-chipped. For more information, people may email [havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com), or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





**HUBERT "HUE" BOWERS**

Hubert "Hue" Bowers of Berryville, Ark., was born July 22, 1929, in Conrad, Iowa, to Alva and Ada (Bockes) Bowers. Hue passed away Jan. 19, 2026, in Berryville at the age of 96.

Hue was a Navy veteran who served in the Korean War. He was a dedicated Boy Scout leader, and he found joy in the simple rhythms of gardening. A track athlete in high school, he loved being outdoors golfing or fishing on quiet mornings. Hue was also a gifted painter and an avid collector. For several years, he worked at the Passion Play, a mission he deeply believed in. Above all, Hue leaves behind a legacy of kindness, craftsmanship and steady dedication.

Hue was married to Dorothy Lee Litchfield, the love of his life, on June 30, 1951.

He is preceded in death

by his parents Alva and Ada Bowers; wife Dorothy Bowers; and sisters Luella Jane Nordhagen and Bonnie Tesdall.

He is survived by his children Trent Bowers, Jamie Dickelman and husband Bryan; grandson Hunter Dickelman; brother Lavern "Butch" Bowers; along with other family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Nelson Funeral Service. Online condolences may be sent to [nelson@nelson-funeral.com](mailto:nelson@nelson-funeral.com).

**PAID OBITUARY**



**RANDALL EDWARD BASS**

Randall Edward Bass, age 67, of Seligman, Missouri passed away surrounded by the love of his family on February 17, 2026.

Born and raised in Branson, Randall proudly

graduated from Branson High School and carried his small-town roots with him throughout his life.

Randall was born to Harold and Etta Bass, who preceded him in death, along with his brother, Roger Bass.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Bass, whom he married on April 3, 2015. He also leaves behind his sons, Clayton Bass and wife Alanna, and their sons, Ayden and Cooper, and Lonnie Bass. Randall is further survived by his brother, Curtis and wife MaryAnn; his sister, Denise Bass Henry and husband Dean; six step-children as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, and grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Randall was known for his strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit. He worked for Springfield Coca-Cola, worked livestock, owned and operated a convenience store, and served as a branch manager of a fastener supplier. No matter the role, he took pride in providing for his family and serving his community. Randall found joy in working on the farm, taking motorcycle rides, and "piddling" with anything and everything he could get his hands on. Whether fixing, building, or tinkering, he was happiest when he was busy and outdoors.

He will be remembered for his dedication to family, his steady presence, and the love he gave so freely. His memory will live on in the heart of all who knew and loved him.

Graveside services was held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, February 20, 2026 at Washburn Prairie Cemetery in Washburn, Missouri, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Ryan Pendergraft conducted the services.

The family received friends from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

**PAID OBITUARY**

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**SHIRLEY ANN BUCHANAN**

Shirley Ann Buchanan, 83, of Springfield, Mo. passed away Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at The Maples Health and Rehabilitation in Springfield.

She was born February

21, 1942, in Purdy, Mo., the daughter of Walden and Ruby (Savage) Buchanan, who preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death were her brother and sister-in-law, Ulias and Anna May Buchanan; sister, Betty Copeland, infant sister, Arlene

Buchanan; nephews, Kenny Buchanan and Ricky Buchanan and her beloved dog, Nikki.

Survivors include her brother, Carl Buchanan and wife Patty of Golden, Mo.; brother-in-law, Ira Copeland and wife Marie of Branson, Mo. and several nieces and nephews.

She grew up and attended school in Cassville, Mo. graduating from Cassville High School with the class of 1961. After graduating she was employed by Litho Printers. Upon moving to Overland Park, Kan., she worked at Herald and Banner Press for several years from

where she retired. She was very active with her church, South Park Church of God Holiness. After retiring, she moved to Springfield.

Graveside services were held Friday, February 20, 2026, at Sparks Cemetery in Butterfield, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend Don Englund conducted the services. Contributions may be made to South Park Church of God Holiness or The Gideons International in memory of Shirley.

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**MAHLON DENNIS HUSTON**

Mahlon Dennis Huston, 84, of Rocky Comfort, Mo. passed away Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

He was born September 8, 1941, in Wyman, Iowa the son of Harold Leslie and Helen (See) Huston, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife, Marge Ellison; son, Christopher Huston and brothers, Melvin Huston and Gary Huston.

Survivors include his sons, Ned Huston and wife Gayla of Goodman, Mo. and Billy McCully and wife Janice of Stella, Mo.; daughters, Christie Bowers and partner Randy Sattler of Iowa and Cathy Canfield and husband Steve of Springdale, Ark.; brother, Kirk Huston and wife Michelle of Pella, Iowa; ten grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren with one on the way and numerous nieces and nephews.

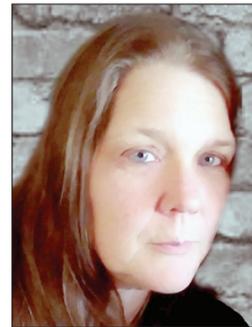
He attended school in Winfield, Iowa, graduating from Winfield High School. In 1977, he made Rocky Comfort his home after moving from Iowa. He owned and operated

Huston and Sons Trucking for many years before retiring. He was a member of Living Word Mission Church in Simco.

Graveside services were held Monday, February 23, 2026 at Rocky Comfort Cemetery in Rocky Comfort, Mo., under direction of McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Reverend Billy Joe Gentry conducted the services.

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**NADINE MARIE RONNFELDT**

Nadine Marie Ronnfeldt, 56, of Granby, Mo. passed away Saturday, February 14, 2026, at her home.

She was born on May 20, 1969, in San Diego, Calif., the daughter of Larry and Martha (Powell) Hickman.

Preceding her in death was her father, Larry Hickman and son, Ryan Ronnfeldt.

Survivors include her mother, Martha Hickman of Granby, Mo.; sons, Nathan Hickman of Ill., and Michael Schmid of Granby, Mo.; daughters, Brittany Hickman of Aurora, Mo. and Hailey Schmid of Neosho, Mo.; brother, Bruce Hickman of Joplin, Mo., and sisters, Kristina Ronnfeldt of Colorado., and Jennefer Hartung and husband Michael of Granby, Mo.

She attended school in Minden, Neb., graduating from Minden High School. Fifteen years ago, she moved to Granby, coming from Ill. She was employed by Butterball Turkey in Carthage, Mo. for eight years before becoming disabled. No services are scheduled at this time.

Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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**DONNALD SHELLEY**

Donnald Shelley, 70, of Purdy, Mo. passed away Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield,

Mo. He was born August 23, 1955, in Purdy, Mo. the son of Virgil and Donna (Stone) Shelley, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was a son, Brandon Sabart; life partner, Lora Bruton and sister, Virginia Baldwin. Survivors include his sons, Lesley Carter of Eagle Rock, Stanley Andrus of Monett and Bryan Davis and wife Alexandria of Verona; daughters, Crystal Magers of Shell Knob, Danna Shelley of Monett, Chandra Carnes and husband Jeremy of Rogers, Ark., and Gena Sowell of Rogers, Ark.; brother, Doyle Shelley of Purdy; sister, Vonda Brown and husband Terre of Purdy; 25 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

He grew up and attended school in Purdy. He was employed by Chapman Construction as a supervisor for 40 years from where he retired.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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**JESSIE MAE "CHUBBY" STARNES**

Jessie Mae "Chubby" Starnes, age 80, of Rogers, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on February 19, 2026.

She passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Circle of Life in Bentonville, Arkansas.

She was born on July 29, 1945, in Rogers, Arkansas, to Manuel and Hattie (McCombs) Cotton. On July 31, 1971, in Exeter, Missouri, she was united in marriage to James Starnes, who preceded her in death. Also, preceding her in death were her parents; infant brother, Lazern Cotton; brothers, George Cotton, Ted Cotton, and Charlie Cotton; sisters, Hazel Bean, Margie Johnson, Gracie Pace, and Barbara Roberts. Though her departure leaves a void in her family, Jessie's memory will be forever cherished by the numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews who survive her.

Jessie spent her early years in Rogers, where she attended local public schools. In 1971 she married James and moved to Exeter, Missouri, a place that would become a significant chapter in her life. For over 32 years, Jessie worked for Tyson Foods in Monett, Missouri, before retiring. In 2021, she moved back to Rogers. She had a passion for the excitement of casinos, the comfort of family gatherings, and the simple pleasures of talking on the phone and playing on her tablet. Her nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews were the light of her life, and she treated each one as if they were her own children, showering them with love and attention. Jessie was a member of the Church of Christ in Exeter.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Missouri. Pastor Perry Morgan will conduct the services. Burial will be held at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter, Missouri.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Fohn Funeral

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

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**REV. JOHN  
MESSENGER  
SWATOSH**

Rev. John Messenger Swatosh, age 82, entered eternal rest on February 15, 2026, at 4:26 p.m., surrounded by his loving family.

John was born in 1943 to Frank and Echo (Messenger) Swatosh in Minnesota, the ninth of ten children. By the age of 13, John endured the loss of both parents. He was welcomed into the home of his eldest sister, Elyse, and her husband, Bob Baier, of Austin, Minnesota.

John met Priscilla Calvert at a Church of Christ hayride while they were in high school. Both were active in church and youth group. After graduating high-school, John in 1962 and Priscilla in 1963, continued their shared calling by attend-

ing Minnesota Bible College. They were united in marriage on December 18, 1964, beginning a partnership that would last 61 years.

John earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Literature in 1967, and later a Bachelor of Science in education from Milligan College in Tennessee. In 1970, shortly after the birth of their first son, Christopher, John entered the ministry while serving the Church of Christ in Rapid City, Michigan. Their second son, Aaron, was born in Michigan in 1973. During this period John completed ordination with the Church of Christ in Millwood, Minnesota, beginning what would become nearly five decades of pastoral ministry.

In 1974, John and Priscilla moved to Brooklyn, Indiana, where John pursued graduate studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, while serving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation in Brooklyn and raising their growing family. Their daughter, Sarah, was born in 1977, completing their family of five. John received his Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in 1978.

John subsequently served congregations in Alliance, Nebraska, and Smithville, Missouri. Sensing a call to the United Methodist traditions, John completed the denominations candidacy and credentialing process and was ordained a Elder in the United Methodist Church in 1983, a lifetime

calling to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice.

John's call to ministry was not casual or sentimental. He was serious about Scripture-deeply serious. He was not merely a reader of the Bible; he was a relentless student of it. He read voraciously—history, scholarship, theology—anything that would illuminate the text. He approached Scripture with intellectual rigor and reverence. His sermons were never trite stories wrapped in easy instructions. He did not hand parishioners a list of "to-dos" and "thou shalt." Instead, he explained the text carefully and invited people to wrestle with it—to consider how its meaning transcended time and bore on their lives, their families, and their daily choices.

Over the course of his ministry, John pastored thousands and conducted hundreds of weddings and funerals. None of them were performances. None were templates. He sought to know the people before him—their stories, their griefs, their hopes—and to meet them where they stood. He believed his role was not to stand as a gatekeeper of faith, but as a guide toward it.

John's first United Methodist appointment was in Willow Springs, Missouri. There he embodied his calling through both church and community leadership. He helped establish the local M.U.N.C.H. (Missourians United to Combat Hunger) ministry, which continues today to provide food, clothing, scholarships and home-bound delivery to hun-

dreds of families annually. He also served on the local library board and participated enthusiastically in local community theater. Though unable to read sheet music, John possessed a natural musical ear and beautiful voice, often directing church choir, a joy he cherished throughout his life.

Over more than three decades in the United Methodist church, John faithfully served congregations in Willow Springs, Viburnum, Thayer and Koshkonong, Jasper, Wheaton, Sheldon and Linn, Missouri. He retired after more than 30 years of ministry, but his pastoral calling remained strong. In 2009, he returned to service at the United Methodist congregation in Desloge, Missouri, where he ministered another 7 years before retiring a second time.

John and Priscilla made their home in Fenton, Missouri, until 2025, when they moved to Aberdeen Heights in Kirkwood, Missouri. There John quickly formed friendships, enjoyed chess, and sang in the choir and bell choir. Yet his greatness remained welcoming his children and grandchildren for meals and gatherings.

Of all his roles as a pastor, teacher, musician and community servant, he one he relished most was a parent and grandparent. His deepest joy was his family, and he was endlessly proud of all three children and five grandchildren, drawing pure happiness from their lives, accomplishments and time together.

John's Language of

Love was Acts of Service. His devotion to family was unwavering and unconditional. His love was not merely spoken, it showed up. He took the calls, made the drive, brought the tools, and stayed until the repair or worry was resolved. He offered guidance, generosity, and patient listening in equal measures. Whether repairing a sink, offering counsel in difficult moments, babysitting grandchildren, attending milestones, cheering from the sidelines, or simply listening, John made everyone feel loved, valued and secure. His calm strength assured his children that whenever they needed him, he would be there.

John is survived by his wife, Priscilla Swatosh, of Kirkwood, Missouri; his children Christopher (Marcella) of Ava, Missouri; Aaron (Michelle) of St Louis, Missouri; Sarah (Laura), of Warson Woods, Missouri; and his five grandchildren, Reagan (Ben Walker) Wentzville, Brock and Grant, Ava, Missouri; Ben, St Louis, Missouri; Eli, Warson Woods, Missouri; he is also survived by his brothers Dwight Thomas (Judy) and James (Diane) of Minnesota; and his sister Linda (Robert) Distad, California, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Echo Swatosh; his siblings Elyse, Delbert, Katherine, Jean, Frank and Tim.

Services: Visitation was held at Fenton United Methodist

Church, Fenton, Missouri, Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until the service at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon in the church that followed. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Willow Springs M.U.N.C.H. ministry or the American Red Cross.

As a service of the SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory, friends may sign the family's on-line guestbook at [Schrader.com](http://Schrader.com).



**MAI KUE YANG**

Mai Kue Yang, 52, of Purdy, Mo. passed away Monday, February 9, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield, Mo.

Services will be held from 8:00 A.M. Saturday, February 28, 2026 through Monday, March 2, 2026 at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Burial will be at 11:00 A.M. Monday, March 2, 2026 at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Butterfield, Mo.

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FFA WEEK

# CASSVILLE FFA



Top Left to Bottom Right: Zach Boyd, Elizabeth Fohn, Lukis Harris, Rykon Beck, Evan Cates, Travis Rodgers, Carson Hutchens, Spencer Drollinger, Brayden Ashwell, Brayden Ennis, Owen England, Payton Anderson, Adreanna Alden, Isabelle Castleberry, Lyndsie Vanderhoef, Remington Anderson-Rockwell, Jack Chapple, Cooper Phillips, Zayden Hall, Logan Parsons, Kellen Weldy, Cashis Smith, Kanaan Madison, Hayden Jereczek, Walon Austin, Saun Lee, Mathew Sanders, Shayley Hodge, Elijah Madsen, Kason Craig, Myah Dunfee, AJ Dever, McKenna Willson, Katie Tucker, Mason Long, Kamile Tucker, Tyler Hodge, Mace Bredeson, Wyatt Hollingsworth, Hale Cox, Mason Maralas, Darren Birchfield, Gunner Bowling, Kaden Boile, Dalton Farris, Jesse Baxter, Trevor Brooks, Tyson Bohmke, Chance Freed, Chaney Kelley, Kyle Brown, Rylan Holman, Micheal Winchel, Roper Taylor, Cyrus Genoung, Joshua Stanley, Emily Gray, Emma Ronney, Molly Pickett, Kenzie Davis, Payton Ray, Hopelyne Thompson, Kailey Atnip, Callie Whitcomb, Anahleigh Winchel, Alexis Lopez, Dominic Reed, Chase Reson, Andon Goutney, Baxton Cornell, Sami Stockton, Ariana Greathouse, Raegan Ducet, Riley Harrison, Jewels Oakley, Tyra Sturgell, Ellis Hobbs, Dylan Bohmke, Lawton England, Wesley Lowery, Stormy Tanner, Cope Buckner, Colton Brooks, Emma Bowling, Isaiah Crouch, Zach cheely, Owen Johnston, Alex Holycross, Tomi Blankenship, Lili Naugle, Lucas Hudson, Dennis Craig, Corbin Rhodes, Grant Varner, Daniel Fraser, Jeremiah Blankenship, Devon Hickman, Gunner Knight, Easton Stone, Brendan Flynn, Mason Smith, Victor Ortega, Luke McNeal, Abbi Yarnall, Gracie Maher, Madi Yockey, Taylor Yarnall, Will Brooks, Joei Blankenship, Carlee Mitchell, Bri Still, Izaak Henbest, Aubrie Atkinson, Eli Anders. Contributed photo

## Cassville enjoying FFA Week events

Every year in February, traditionally the week following George Washington's birthday, the National FFA organization holds what is called "FFA Week."

National FFA Week, which is scheduled for Feb. 21-28, 2026, is underway. The first National FFA Week was celebrated in 1948, 76 years after the organization's founding in 1928, to honor Washington's birthday. Before 1948, the organization held a "National FFA Day"

starting in 1935, which was later aligned with the National FFA Convention in 1938. In July 1947, the Board of Trustees approved changing this to a full week-long celebration.

The week is designed for members to share the story of agriculture, promote the FFA organization, and advocate for agricultural education. Historically, FFA Week has been a time to come together as a chapter, participate in fellowship, community service, the Olympics, and vari-

ous other activities as a chapter. Today, we still honor those traditions and host a week of fun and exciting events.

The celebration continues to grow, with over 735,000 members in 8,817 chapters celebrating the week to raise awareness of the role of agriculture in the U.S.

This year, Cassville FFA is celebrating this week by having kicked off with church on Sunday morning at First Baptist Church in Cassville. Members met at the Family Life Center

at 10:30 a.m. in official dress, and then walked into church together.

On Monday during the school day the chapter hosted FFA Boot Camp for each member. This was followed by our first ever FFA Morning meet and greet where we will be greeting young Wildcats as they walk in their school building. High School FFA members were stationed at the Primary, Intermediate, and Middle schools on Tuesday Morning.

Wednesday is be drive your tractor to school day. Members will parade their tractors to school in support of the American Farmer and the continued tradition of agriculture in our rural community. Once members park in their designated "tractor spots" we will celebrate our first year FFA members also known as Greenhands. In the FFA world this is fondly known as Greenhand Day.

To wrap up the week Cassville FFA will

host the annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast. FFA members will meet at 6 a.m. in the Ag Shop and cook breakfast for the staff members at Cassville High School who would like some. There will be biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon, and FFA SAE home-grown eggs.

Cassville FFA is proud to come together for a week of fun and meaningful activities as we celebrate our organization and the opportunities FFA provides our members.

## FFA competition season: Embracing the chaos

In the realm of FFA, few times are as wonderfully chaotic as competition season. The term alone triggers memories — late nights, pencils scratching on scantrons and urgently refreshing JudgingCard. While the minutia of FFA competition season varies from state to state, the overall themes are the same: learning, bonding and unforgettable memories.

**Sectors of Competition Season**

In the state of Missouri, FFA competitions are particularly rigorous. From the months of February to April, FFA members pour over their notes and clipboards, dreaming of advancing to compete at the National FFA Convention & Expo. Competition season is comprised of two main sectors: career development events (CDEs) and

leadership development events (LDEs).

**CDEs**

CDEs, which include food science, forestry, dairy cattle and more, are opportunities for students to apply hands-on learning in agricultural industries. Livestock judging, floriculture and agronomy are among the most popular and competitive in the state of Missouri.

Successful CDE coach, Palmyra FFA advisor and agriculture educator Amanda Haerberlin appreciates CDEs for their competitive nature and application to ag-related fields. "My favorite part of CDEs is the opportunity to work with students in smaller focused groups and get to know who they really are," she says. Haerberlin enjoys watching her students grow and learn through CDEs.

In her 20 years of coaching CDEs, Haerberlin has

won state six times, and placed first in the nation with her 2021 floriculture team. Timothy Wellman, who placed fourth in the nation in 2021, shared his experience in the competition.

"Floriculture was a fantastic experience that taught me a considerable amount about FFA, flowers (of course) and myself," he says. "It was a surreal feeling to be able to stand onstage with my best friends and mentor, and win something so big for our small town."

Wellman is now a teacher at Palmyra High School and serves Palmyra FFA as a alumni CDE coach.

Ava Fohey, a four-year member of Palmyra FFA, shared her experiences winning the 2024 state food science CDE. Through competing, Fohey says she "built lifelong friendships and gained leadership, communication and pre-

sentation skills."

**LDEs**

Along with CDEs, LDEs provide FFA members the opportunity to polish their public speaking, job interview skills and more. With a wide range of competitions, including extemporaneous public speaking, prepared public speaking, employment skills and more, FFA members have the chance to master a variety of invaluable skills.

**Upcoming Opportunities**

Though competition season can be hectic, FFA chapters across the nation have learned to embrace the noise. CDEs strengthen members' critical thinking skills and teamwork capabilities while providing exposure to age-related careers. Similarly, LDEs are invaluable for young adults to master their public speaking and

communication skills.

This competition season, FFA chapters across the globe will be vying for

titles — and with it, gaining invaluable knowledge, peer connections and beloved memories.



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FFA WEEK

# WHEATON FFA



## Missouri FFA From 2025 Members' Perspectives

"This year did not slow down for us, but our members did not slow down either," said Missouri FFA State Officer Kolton Stolba when reflecting on 2025. "They found what brought them joy, learned along the way and had fun doing it. To us, that is what is most important and what made this year so special."

### HYMAX Academy

From June 13-15, 2025 the Missouri Helping Youth Maximize their Agricultural eXperience (HYMAX) Academy welcomed 100 of the state's top incoming high school sophomores to Camp Rising Sun. This leadership experience focused on agricultural advocacy and strengthening Supervised Agricultural Experiences. Participants not only expanded their knowledge, but also built lasting friendships and deepened their commitment to shaping the future of agriculture.

"My favorite part of HYMAX Academy was learning about the Grain Belt and performing a skit explaining the topic," says Orrick FFA member Coy Honeycutt. Attendees also toured agricultural businesses and engaged in dynamic leadership sessions designed to inspire and prepare them for success.

### HYPE Academy

The Missouri Helping Youth Prepare for Excellence (HYPE) Academy brings together 30 outstanding upcoming seniors in FFA to spark career interests. Through interactive workshops, participants enhance their communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of critical agricultural issues. HYPE Academy also provides valuable tools to help chapters effectively share the FFA story.

During HYPE Academy, members got the opportunity to tour agriculture businesses and facilities to help further their knowledge in this industry.

"At HYPE, I really enjoyed seeing another side of agriculture that I have never experienced," says Nevada FFA member Rhett Forkner. "Getting to see how legislation and government impact agriculture was such an eye-opening experience." Members return equipped with resources and strategies to lead and inspire within their communities.

HYPE Academy helps build and strengthen the future of agriculture and prepares them for the real world.

### Public Speaking

### Institute

Public Speaking Institute (PSI) is a day-long hands-on workshop designed to help members sharpen their public speaking abilities and prepare for leadership development events (LDEs). "At PSI, I learned the different ways to walk around the room with body language," says Union FFA member Aurora Hilknerbaumer.

Members learned how to be an advocate for the agriculture industry and had fun doing so.

Former National FFA officer and public speaking expert Andrew McCrae also attended PSI, offering valuable insight and guidance to all participants.

FFA members learned skills that will also help in their everyday life. Some of these include introducing yourself and the ability to hold and start a conversation.

### Agribusiness Academy

The Missouri Agribusiness Academy (MABA) provides 30 high school sophomores who are active in 4-H, FFA or come from a farming background with an outstanding opportunity for growth and leadership. Participants engage with industry professionals, explore a wide range of agricultural careers and gain valuable insights into the business side of agri-

culture.

"My favorite part of the Missouri Agribusiness Academy was connecting with fellow FFA members who share my passion for agriculture," says Higginsville FFA member Wyatt Copenhaver. "The most memorable thing I learned was the incredible opportunities available in agricultural technology."

This program not only builds leadership skills, but also opens doors to future career pathways in the ever-evolving agriculture industry.

The Missouri Agribusiness Academy gives youth the opportunity to see and explore many different sides of agriculture.

### Drive to Feed Kids

FFA chapters, 4-H clubs and other youth organizations joined forces at the 2025 Missouri State Fair to combat food insecurity. Through food drives and meal-packing initiatives, these groups demonstrated the power of agricultural leadership in addressing community needs.

"I have attended Drive to Feed Kids for the past three summers while I've been in FFA through my local chapter," says Norborne FFA member Kristen Waters. "My experience originally was to get more community service hours toward my state degree, but the activ-

ity quickly became a way that I could help individuals who aren't as fortunate as I am, socialize with FFA members from across the state and contribute to something greater than myself."

Their efforts highlight the importance of service and advocacy in building a stronger, more resilient food system.

Drive to Feed Kids is a compelling experience to help people in need.

### FFA Camp

Missouri FFA Camp takes place at Camp Rising Sun and is designed to

support the growth of FFA members from across Missouri. Throughout camp, members participated in a variety of leadership workshops that encouraged them to step outside their comfort zones and work effectively with others. In addition to these sessions, members enjoyed a wide range of recreational activities that allowed them to build friendships, relax, and experience the fun side of camp life.

Members listened to leadership sessions that were run by state officers.

"My favorite memory

from FFA Camp was trying trapshooting for the first time," says FFA member Miles Brockmeier. "I also enjoyed playing volleyball with old and new friends."

By the end of the week, participants had gained valuable team-building skills, created lasting memories and enjoyed an exciting, meaningful experience that brought FFA members together from all over the state.

Those in attendance got the opportunity to participate in team-building and leadership activities.

**Thank You, FFA!**

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# PURDY FFA



## Purdy excelling in growth, leadership, volunteerism

Throughout the course of the year, Purdy FFA members have excelled in leadership, personal growth and helping the community.

To start the year, FFA officers and members held an annual "Food for America" event at the school's livestock barn for elementary students to learn where their food

comes from.

Later, 12 members attended the National FFA Convention, held in Indianapolis in October 2025.

At the "Open Season" themed Barnwarming, the chapter hosted the community for a Chili support and to crown the Barnwarming King and Queen.

Members committed over 200 hours of community service by participating in community cleanup events. The Adopt-A-Highway program along Highway C in Purdy, and the Cemetery Cleanup program at the Purdy Cemetery.

Seven members will be receiving the Missouri State FFA Degree this Spring, the

highest award given to FFA members on the state level.

For FFA Week, members are celebrating by having attended a Sunday church service, having a visit from State Officer Annie Neely, hosting a Staff Breakfast for the school employees, hearing from industry professionals and universities on Speaker

Day to learn about Career opportunities, and attending a Farm/Industry Tour around Southwest Missouri.

After FFA Week, students will spend time studying for contests throughout March, and compete at Districts at Missouri State University for a chance to compete at the State FFA Convention in April.

## FFA members should join CDE/LDE Team

Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs/LDEs) are among the best opportunities for FFA members to get involved, as they help connect what members learn in the classroom to real-life situations.

Instead of just reading about agriculture, CDEs and LDEs allow members to practice skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and decision-making. According to

the National FFA Organization, CDEs and LDEs are designed to help members learn by doing and build career-ready skills that prepare them for college and future jobs. This hands-on experience helps FFA members gain a deeper understanding of agriculture and feel more confident in their learning.

CDE and LDE teams also help members explore different career paths within agriculture.

There are many different events, such as livestock evaluation, veterinary science, agribusiness and agricultural communications, which allow members to find their areas of interest.

The Texas FFA Association explains that CDEs and LDEs expose members to industry knowledge and professional expectations, helping them gain confidence and learn how careers in agriculture work in

the real world. Being involved can also strengthen college and scholarship applications by showing dedication, leadership and commitment.

Besides helping with school and future careers, CDEs and LDEs also make FFA more fun and rewarding. Being on a team allows members to form close friendships, learn responsibility and feel proud when representing their chapter at competi-

tions. National FFA also states that involvement in activities like CDEs and LDEs helps members grow personally and professionally by developing leadership and collaboration skills.

Overall, joining a CDE or LDE team allows members to challenge themselves, gain valuable life skills and get the most out of their FFA experience while preparing for success after high school.

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FFA WEEK

# EXETER FFA



## Exeter ranked 15th in state

Exeter FFA chapter was ranked as the 15th place chapter in the state for their National Chapter application.

Students attended the National FFA Convention where the chapter was recognized as a two star National Chapter. During

National Convention, members also attended leadership sessions, toured the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and spent the evening at a trampoline park.

Exeter FFA had three members receive their

American Degrees as well. These students were Haillie Eaton, Natalie Crumpler, and Emilia Hatfield.

FFA members showed at Barry County Youth Fair and Ozark Empire fair, where students won many first place, grand champion, and special sponsor-

ship awards.

Greenhand members were able to learn about opportunities in FFA during the area and district Greenhand conferences. Juniors and Seniors also

toured Crowder College. Exeter FFA host-

ed many of their yearly events such as flag placing, banquet, Smokey Bear, and Veteran's Day celebrations.

The chapter hosted their annual Angel

Tree where the community helped students with gifts for Christmas. Upcoming events include CDE's, barnyard day, State Convention, and 8th grade recruitment.

### FFA WEEK

#### Sunday

FFA Church at First Baptist Church in Exeter

#### Monday

Dress up day: Camo Day

#### Tuesday

Dress up day: America Day



(wear red, white, and blue)

#### Wednesday

Thank a farmer appreciation breakfast at Exeter schools and dress up day: Dress like a farmer

#### Thursday

Dress up day: Tractor day (green- John Deere, Red-

Case IH, Orange-Kabota)

#### Friday

Dress up day: Wear Blue and Gold

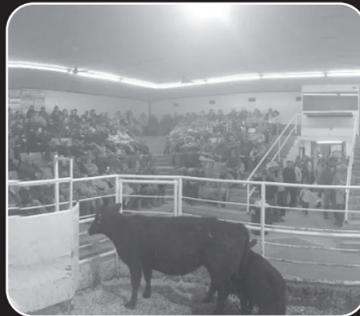
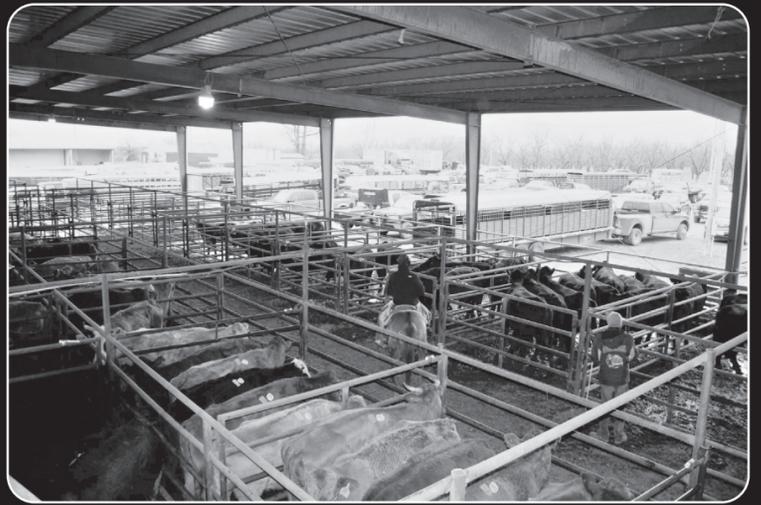
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## 5 tips for great speeches

Public speaking is a core component of the National FFA Organization. Regardless of what career you choose, being able to speak confidently will help set you up for success.

However, this requires extensive preparation and practice. Just ask Kade Lawrence of Canyon FFA in Texas. He won the 2023 National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event, which is sponsored by Elanco, Rabo AgriFinance Nationwide and Tractor Supply Co., and believes effective communication is an invaluable life skill everyone should strive for.

Read on for Lawrence's five P's of public speaking so you can also write and present an award-winning speech that leaves a lasting impression.

#### 1. Be positive.

Listeners prefer to hear about an enjoyable experience with a happy ending. Keep your mannerisms light, positive and upbeat.

#### 2. Be passionate.

Choose a topic you feel enthusiastic about and express your passions through your presentation. After all, if you find a topic dull, imagine how it'll feel to your audience.

#### 3. Be particular.

A well-developed speech is not shy of specifics, but rather attentive to details. Use information, evidence and facts to support your topic and keep the audience engaged from start to finish.

#### 4. Be poised.

It's advantageous to practice your speech exactly how you'll deliver it. A composed, dignified and self-assured speaker has the confidence to deliver a captivating speech.

#### 5. Be presentable.

A neat and professional appearance makes all the difference. In addition to establishing a strong first

impression, it conveys your seriousness and professionalism.

#### Learn From the Best

As you refine your speaking skills, find additional inspiration from talented speakers who've graced the National FFA Convention & Expo stage. Access a full collection of past convention keynotes and retiring addresses here.

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## CASSVILLE WRESTLING

**What:** Eight boys qualify for Class 2 state wrestling tournament  
**Who:** Boni Lopez, Rylen Holman, Kole Fry, Tyler Hodge, Tristan Thompson, Colton Roark, Zachary Myers and Ethan Sizemore  
**More:** Team ties most qualifiers in program history

## Another 8 to state

Cassville ties program mark, produces 3 district champs

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

For the second straight season, the Cassville boys wrestling team is sending eight athletes to the Class 2 MSHSAA Boys Wrestling Championships.

The Wildcats tied the program record for qualifiers at the Class 2, District 3 tournament in Seneca Friday and Saturday, and they will take a balanced lineup into the state competition, today (Wednesday) and Thursday.

Cassville put seven wrestlers into championship matches at districts and finished with eight state qualifiers overall.

"We wrestled great," said Nathan Fortner, Cassville boys wrestling coach. "Top to bottom, we wrestled really well. We had just one little lull in one round. We were in the number one spot about 75% of the tournament."

The Wildcats opened strong at the lighter weights.

"Boni Lopez, at 106 pounds, was the three seed going into the tournament," Fortner said. "In the semis, he knocked off a kid that beat us twice this season and pinned him. Then he pinned a top-ranked kid from Logan-Rogersville in the finals. He was our first district champion."

At 126 pounds, Rylen Holman also entered as a No. 3 seed.

"He ended up pinning the two seed in the semis," Fortner said. "He was winning his finals match before he got caught and pinned. Those two wrestled so hard this tournament."

At the next weight of 132 pounds, Kole Fry followed suit.

"He lost to that kid from Monett three or four times this season and ended up beating him in sudden victory in overtime to go to the finals," Fortner said. "Our first three up punched right to the finals, which secured their state spot."

Cassville's depth showed throughout the tournament, though three Wildcats fell one win shy of qualification with losses in the "blood round."

"Kellen Weldy looked great Friday and the entire tournament," Fortner said. "He just had one bad match. It was a bad time to have a bad match. Still, it was a great season for that young man. I expect big things from him moving forward."

Logan Parsons, at 144 pounds, delivered one of the most electric moments of the weekend.

"He had the number two seed, a returning state medalist, in the quarterfinals," Fortner said. "Logan cradled him up and pinned him. The place went crazy."

Parsons reached the semifinals before dropping his final two matches and being eliminated.

Braydyn Sizemore, at 150 pounds, also came up just short.

"He had a great season," Fortner said. "It was just a bad weekend for him. He dropped two matches to kids we beat."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

## BASKETBRAWL ROUND 3 SET



Southwest's Jacob Pierce finger rolls a ball toward the hoop in a Southwest Holiday Tournament game this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Boys district tournaments underway this week

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Boys district basketball tournaments are underway, with four county schools seeing action this week and round three of an in-county rivalry tipping off next week.

At the Class 4, District 12 tournament in Nevada, Cassville (10-14) landed the No. 5 seed and will take on the No. 4 seed — Barry County rival Monett (9-16) — on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. The squads split contests in the regular season, with the Cubs winning, 62-51, on Jan. 12 at the Crane tournament and the Wildcats recording a 63-45 victory at Monett on Feb. 3.

The winner will face No. 1 seed and host Nevada (20-3) in the semifinals on

### DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

**Who:** Cassville, Exeter, Purdy, Southwest, Wheaton

**What:** District brackets set

**More:** Wildcats, Cubs to square off for third time this season having split first two games

March 5 at 5:30 p.m.

In the bottom half of the bracket, No. 3 Mt. Vernon (13-10) faces No. 6 Seneca (1-21) on March 3 at 7 p.m., with the winner facing No. 2 East Newton (17-6) on March 5 at 7 p.m.

The championship is slated for March 7 at 1 p.m.

The Wildcats hold two wins over Seneca this season, and they have losses

against East Newton, 49-45, at home, and Mt. Vernon, 54-35, on the road. Cassville hosted Nevada on Friday, falling by a score of 50-32.

In Class 3, District 11, with games being played at New Heights Christian in Joplin, Southwest (8-16) also took the No. 5 seed and will open against No. 4 Marionville (10-15) on Tuesday, with the result not available at presstime. The winner takes on No. 1 New Heights (20-6) on Thursday at 6 p.m.

Also on Tuesday were the matchups between No. 2 Pierce City (15-10) and No. 7 New Covenant (7-19), as well as No. 3 Diamond (12-12) and No. 6 Sarcoxie (9-16). Winners of those bouts face off in a semifinal on Thursday at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

## Lady Wildcats lock in No. 2 seed

Southwest, Purdy, Wheaton, Exeter girls in postseason action this week

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

As district basketball tournaments ramp up, Barry County girls hoops squads will put their seasons on the line this week and next.

Cassville's girls (17-7) earned the No. 2 seed in Class 4, District 12, receiving a bye into the semifinals on March 4 at 7 p.m., awaiting the winner of the No. 3 Mt. Vernon (7-15) versus No. 6 Seneca (10-15) contest being played on March 2 at 7 p.m.

At the top of the bracket, No. 1 Nevada (19-3) awaits the winner of No. 4 East Newton (14-10) and No. 5 Monett (17-8). The Lady Patriots and Lady Cubs play on March 4 at 5:30 p.m., and the semifinal with

Nevada is on March 4 at 5:30 p.m. The championship contest is on March 6 at 6 p.m. All games are being played in Nevada.

Cassville has a home win over East Newton, 61-46, an away win over Monett, 57-47, a home win over Seneca, 57-25, and an away win over Mt. Vernon, 56-38. Cassville's only loss to the field is a 54-40 contest against Nevada at home.

In the Class 1, District 4 tournament in Verona, two local teams played on Monday. No. 5 Exeter (9-15) faced No. 4 Thomas Jefferson (10-14), and No. 3 Wheaton (12-13) battled No. 6 Sheldon (8-16). Also on Monday was No. 2 McAuley (10-16) against No. 7 Verona (6-19). Results of those games were not available at presstime. The Thomas Jefferson-Exeter winner faces No. 1 Liberal (12-13) today (Wednesday) at 5:30 p.m., and the McAuley-Verona and Wheaton-Sheldon winners play in the other semifinal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B



Exeter's Bobbi Hall puts up a shot in a contest at Purdy this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## SCOREBOARD

### Lady Wildcats downed by Nevada, go 6-2 in Big 8

The Cassville girls basketball team welcomed the Nevada Tigers to town on Friday night in a double header with the boys team and celebrating senior night. Cassville struggled on both sides of the ball in the first half, trailing

by 5 after one quarter and down 15 at the half. The Lady Wildcats continued to fight in the second half and ended up dropping the game, 54-40. With the loss, Cassville moved to 17-7 on the year and finished Big 8 play with a 6-2 record with losses to McDonald County and Nevada, who will match up with each other later

this week to determine the conference champion.

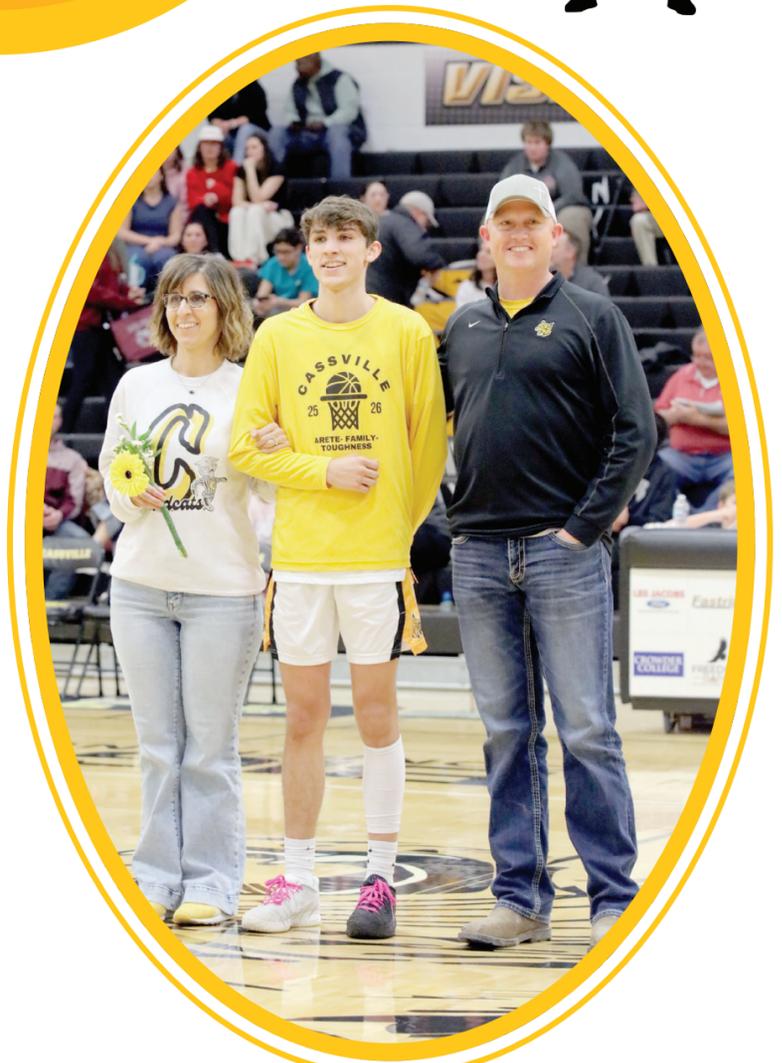
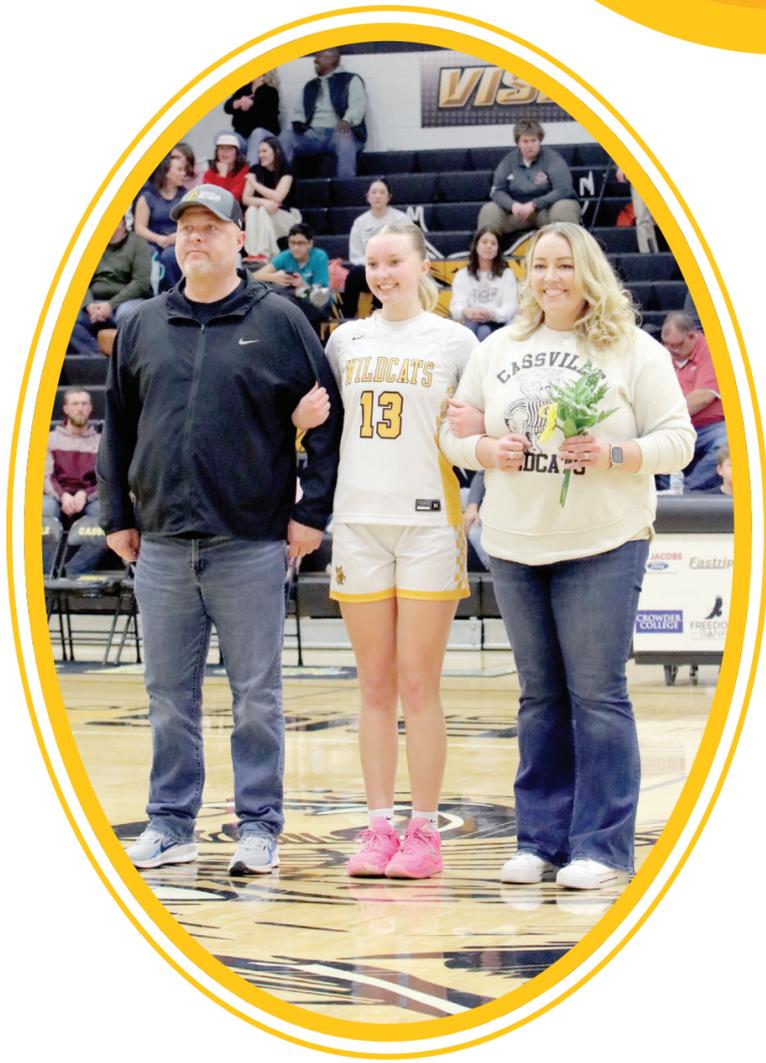
### 7th grade wins Big 8; 8th grade takes second

Cassville's seventh- and eighth-grade teams had a great showing in the Big 8 Tournament to close out the season.

The seventh-grade put together an outstanding run, defeating Monett (47-10), Mt. Vernon (39-12), and McDonald County (38-32) to finish the tournament 3-0 and earn the title of Big 8 Champions. The team played outstanding defense throughout the tournament and finished conference play undefeated, ending the

season with an overall record of 14-3. The eighth-grade also had an impressive tournament run, earning wins over Nevada (51-19) and McDonald County (38-26) to advance to the championship game. They battled hard in a tightly contested final but came up just short, falling to Monett, 45-43, in a heartbreaker

to finish as Big 8 runner-up. The eighth grade closed the season with an overall record of 15-2. "Both groups represented our program with great effort, toughness and teamwork," said Coach Trey Dalton. "We are very proud of the way our players competed and the success they achieved this season."



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# CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

## Make a stand for God

First, live in the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 14:26-27: "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death."

To walk in the "Fear of the Lord" is obedience, it is trust, it is complete confidence, it is comfort and a place of safety.

Second, live in, sincerity and truth.

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:37: "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is



**DONNIE SPEARS**

from the evil one."

We all know it's our choice how we live our life, so are the choices we're making for God or for us?

Joshua 24:13-24: "The people were called to make a choice and they chose to serve the Lord."

Third, live unashamed, bold and strong.

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of

Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

We are called to live a life for Jesus to be bold, strong and unashamed of our savior Jesus Christ, are we? 1 Kings 18:17-21: "Elijah stood alone for God brave, bold, and loud for His Lord."

Fourth, live despite the pressures of this world.

Hebrews 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be con-

formed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Today the world is pushing the followers of Jesus to be open and accepting of every religion or belief out there but we are called to tell the world Jesus is the only way and He does not change.

Fifth, live on guard because the traps are set.

1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

There are so many ways for us to fall, for Christians to do things that may seem good but the end will bring sorrow, destruction, and death.

Daniel 6:5-28: "Daniel did not change His life or his worship of God even though the trap had been set, Daniel stayed true to the Lord."

Living in the fear of the Lord, in sincerity and truth, unashamed, bold and strong, despite the pressures and the traps of this life takes one thing and that is, to follow the Bible; the written word of God.

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

### BIBLE VERSE:

"Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved."

— EPHESIANS 2:4-5

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ANGLICAN</b> ST. MARY MAGDALENE 205 Commercial St., Exeter 835-2102</p>	<p>847-2965 <b>FIRST BAPTIST</b> Wheaton <b>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> Exeter, 835-5433 <b>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> 104 W. Hwy. J, Golden 271-3605 <b>FIRST BAPTIST WASHBURN</b> 2nd St. North 618, Washburn 826-5000 <b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 14970 FR. 1150, Cassville, Mo. <b>GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP</b> PO. Box 352, Shell Knob 858-6868 <b>GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> 1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 &amp; 1150, Cassville; 847-4691 <b>HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP</b> Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield 847-9289 <b>MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST</b> HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115 <b>MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> RR 1, Washburn 826-5232 <b>MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> FR. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245 <b>MT. ZION BAPTIST</b> Hwy. 37 S., Washburn 826-5840 <b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST</b> 3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy. then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter 652-3885 <b>OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST</b> 16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville Pastor: 501-538-6261 Local: 417-847-4597 <b>PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST</b> RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn 435-2319 <b>PURDY FIRST BAPTIST</b> 3rd &amp; Washington St., Purdy 442-7435 <b>SHILOH BAPTIST</b> Hwy. 248, Jenkins 574-6466 <b>PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rocky Comfort <b>PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST</b> RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn 826-5158 <b>RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter 652-7884</p>	<p><b>ROARING RIVER BAPTIST</b> HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-3142 <b>ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST</b> RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770 <b>SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592 <b>VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Business 37 N., Cassville 826-5295 <b>VIOLA BAPTIST</b> Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-2597 <b>WAYMARK CHURCH</b> 2581 State Hwy 37 235-7466 <b>WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST</b> Hwy. 86 &amp; Hwy. A, Wheaton 652-3898 <b>WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b> 11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton PO Box 175, 652-3186</p>	<p><b>SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP</b> Hwy. 112, Cassville 846-6339 <b>EPISCOPAL</b> ST. THOMAS Á BECKET Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville 846-2155 <b>LUTHERAN</b> COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-4383 <b>PEACE LUTHERAN</b> N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-3900 <b>METHODIST</b> ALL FAITH UNITED METHODIST Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-3737 <b>CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST</b> 7th &amp; Gravel, Cassville 847-2328 <b>UNITED METHODIST</b> Hwy. YY, Shell Knob 858-6707 <b>WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST</b> Washburn Corner of 1st and North, Washburn <b>WHEATON UNITED METHODIST</b> 101 Santee St., Wheaton 652-3858 <b>LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS N. Business Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-4873 <b>NAZARENE</b> CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville 417-619-1498 <b>PENTECOSTAL</b> LIGHTHOUSE PENTECOSTAL Hwy. 86 &amp; P St., Eagle Rock 271-4929 <b>NEW LIFE TEMPLE</b> Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville 847-3106 <b>GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP</b></p>	<p>Washburn Community Building 479-366-2561 <b>NEW LIFE TABERNACLE</b> 30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman 662-0076 <b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-3902 <b>WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN</b> 1 mi. S. of Monett 235-3337 <b>OTHER</b> <b>BELIEVERS FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b> 1st. &amp; South St., Washburn 826-5875 <b>BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER</b> 1107 Farm Rd., Cassville 847-4061 <b>CASSVILLE SDA</b> Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-3622 <b>BODY OF CHRIST</b> Wheaton, 417-652-3709 <b>COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL</b> 13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville 847-4643 <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b> Seligman, 662-3118 <b>EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 342-0516 <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b> Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-8200 <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b> Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-2460 <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b> Seligman, 662-3118 <b>LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> 22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob 278-6674 <b>OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy 442-3361 <b>REAL LIFE WORSHIP CENTER</b> 709 W. 10th St., Cassville</p>
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# Opening

## 2026 Special Events

**Fishing Times:**  
6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

This is a time-honored tradition dating back to 1928, when Roaring River became a state park. Join us on this historic day and catch your daily limit of four fish. All anglers age 16 and older must have a state fishing permit. All anglers must purchase a \$5 daily trout tag at the Roaring River Park Store.

Roaring River has three fishing zones with different regulations. A map and more information regarding fishing rules and regulations can be found at the park store.

In addition to premier trout fishing, visitors to Roaring River can enjoy miles of hiking trails, as well as lodging, camping and on-site dining facilities, and can see the deepest cave spring in the United States, with a current depth of 472 feet.

The park store will stay open until 7 p.m. March 1. The nature center will be open from 10 a.m. to noon on March 1.

- Opening Day  
March 1
- Easter Buffet  
April 5
- Mother's Day Buffet  
May 10
- Kids' Fishing Day  
May 16
- Trout Fest  
June 5
- Free Fishing Weekend  
June 6-7
- Father's Day Buffet  
June 21
- 4th of July Concert  
July 4

- Kids' Fishing Day  
August 15
- WOW School  
October 9-11
- Crafts & Campground  
Decoration Contest  
October 24
- Trunk or Treat  
October 25
- Christmas Open House  
November 14
- Vendor Showcase  
November 27
- Candlelight Dinner  
December 19
- Christmas Candlelight Stroll  
December 19



Scan the QR Code at right to visit Missouri State Parks' official website for Roaring River State Park



Scan the QR Code at left to visit Roaring River State Park's Official Facebook page

## GERALDI'S

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- Pizzas
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OPENING DAY

# Day 2026

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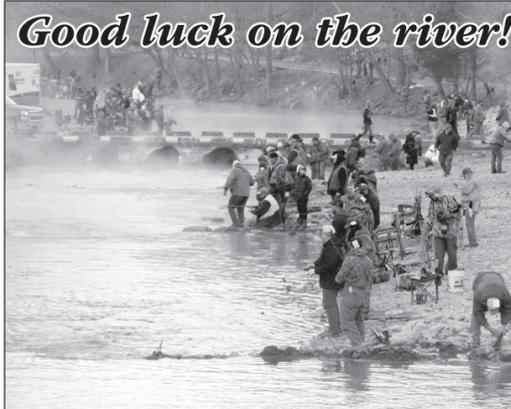
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*Good luck on the river!*



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 DINNER: Tuesday - Friday 3:30 pm to 8 pm / Friday close at 8:30 pm  
 SATURDAY: Open all day, 11 am to 8:30 pm.  
 CLOSED: Sunday & Monday

 Like us on Facebook

**Zone 4 Mini Golf & More Events**

**Mar & April 2026**

- Friday March 6 5:30pm FIRE ALCOHOL PAINT PARTY
- Sunday March 29 2:00pm EASTER EGG HUNT
- Saturday April 25 6:00pm TRIVIA NIGHT ON THE PATIO

**May 2026**

- Saturday May 16 7:00pm MAGIC SHOW by CARLOS DAVID
- Saturday May 23 7:00pm BINGO ON THE PATIO
- Saturday May 30 7:00pm TRIVIA NIGHT ON THE PATIO

**June 2026**

- Every Wednesday 7:00pm HUMP DAY HANGOUT (CORNHOLE)
- Friday June 12 7:00pm NEXT GENERATION BAND
- Sunday June 21 2:00pm CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
- Saturday June 20 7:00pm BINGO ON THE PATIO
- Saturday June 27 7:00Ppm TRIVIA NIGHT ON THE PATIO

**July 2026**

- Every Wednesday 7:00pm HUMP DAY HANGOUT (CORNHOLE)
- Saturday July 11 7:00pm KARAOKE ON THE PATIO
- Saturday July 18 7:00pm BINGO ON THE PATIO
- Saturday July 25 7:00pm TRIVIA NIGHT ON THE PATIO

16007 St Hwy 76 Cassville MO 417-846-8954 [www.zone4minigolf.com](http://www.zone4minigolf.com)

Call 847-2610 to subscribe to the **Cassville Democrat**  
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# 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.

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**YARD SALES**  
**GARAGE SALE:** 160 Glenwood Circle, Cassville. Thursday, Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 26, 27, and 28. Lots of everything.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
**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**  
 BRIAN L. O'NEILL, and  
 KIMBERLY L. O'NEILL, and  
 TRENTON LEE WHITTINGTON, Petitioners,  
 vs.  
 SCOTT WHITTINGTON, Respondent.  
 Case No. 25BR-JU00090

**NOTICE UPON ORDER**  
**FOR SERVICE BY**  
**PUBLICATION**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT**  
**OF BARRY COUNTY,**  
**MISSOURI**

**INDOOR MOVING SALE**  
 Big! Big! Big! Indoor moving sale at The Gathering Place in Purdy, March 13-14. Homeschoolers and DIYers dream sale. Homeschool kits, appliances, workout equipment, baby items, tools, home repair supplies, gardening and chicken raising supplies. \$5 & \$10 tables, free stuff and so much more!

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 Income Limits Apply  
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The State of Missouri to  
**SCOTT WHITTINGTON**  
 You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is adoption **TRENTON LEE WHITTINGTON**.  
 The names of all parties in this action are  
 BRIAN L. O'NEILL, KIMBERLY L. O'NEILL, and  
**TRENTON LEE WHITTINGTON**, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioners is  
 J. Michael Richn, 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 FEBRUARY 04, 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 his 27th day of JANUARY 2026.  
 by Katie Correia/DC  
 Craig Williams  
 Circuit Clerk  
 First publication:  
 FEBRUARY 04, 2026  
 Second Publication:  
 FEBRUARY 11, 2026  
 Third Publication:  
 FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
 Fourth Publication:  
 FEBRUARY 25, 2026  
 1st Insertion 02/04/28  
 4-7

**NOTICE: ACCEPTING BIDS**  
 The Shell Knob-Viola Special Road District #9, will be accepting bids for the following services: Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay; Single and Double Coat Chip and Seal; Quarry products to include bids on various size rock, 1" base, clean rock, cold mix, etc; Tree Trimming and cutting; mower operator; mower right-of-ways, and General Machine work. Chip and Seal work should be bid by the mile at 18 feet wide. Hot Mix Overlay should be bid by the ton of material laid in place. Quarry product of various size rock and cold mix should be bid by the ton. All other work would be bid at hourly rates. A description of the equipment and labor charges will be required on all hourly bids. All successful bidders will have to provide proof of insurance. Bids will be opened and read beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 12, 2026, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Shell Knob-Viola Special Road District. The meeting will be held at the headquarters of

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of executions issued by the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Barry County, Missouri, arising out of a judgment entered by the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, in Case No. 25BR-CC00012, and to me, as sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of the plaintiff Servbank SB, and against the defendants  
 Cory R. Lebow;  
 Elizabeth A. Smith;  
 Midland Credit Management;  
 John Doe (Tenant/Occupant);  
 and Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant),  
 I have levied upon and seized all of the right, title, interest, and estate of the defendants  
 Cory R. Lebow and Elizabeth A. Smith  
 in and to the following described real estate, situated in Barry County, Missouri, to wit:  
 Beginning at the Northeast corner of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 24, Range 26, Barry County, Missouri, thence West 265 feet, thence South 325 feet, thence Northeasterly approximately 290 feet to a point that is 190 feet South of the point of beginning, said point being on the West right-of-way line of C Highway, thence North along said West right-of-way line 190 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to an ingress & egress easement along the North 40 feet thereof commonly known as 20027 State Highway C, Cassville, MO 65625  
 which I shall expose at public sale to the highest bidder for cash on the 16th day of March, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, to satisfy said judgment and costs.  
 Date: January 30, 2026  
 Danny Boyd, Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri  
 Newspaper:  
 The Cassville Democrat  
 Advertising:  
 February 18, 2026,  
 February 25, 2026,  
 March 4, 2026 and  
 March 11, 2026  
 (dates for 4 weeks of publication)  
 1st insertion 02/18/26  
 6-9

**MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**  
 A Division of the Department of Public Safety Water Patrol Division  
 PO Box 568 – Jefferson City, MO 65102  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
 For further information please contact: Water Patrol Division (573) 751-5071 02/23/2026  
 EMPHASIS: Water Patrol Division Schedules Buoy Hearing  
 The Missouri State Highway Patrol, Water Patrol Division announces the following information pursuant to Section 306.124 RSMo.  
 The Water Patrol Division is conducting a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Osage

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the Central Crossing Fire Protection Association in Shell Knob. All bids must be received before 9:30 a.m. March 12th by hand delivery or mail or email; to Shell Knob-Viola Special Road District, PO BOX 594, Shell Knob, MO 65747 prior to the meeting. Bid will be reviewed and winning bids will be contacted by phone and/or mail following the meeting. The Shell Knob Road District reserves the right to review, accept and reject any or all bids.  
 You may contact the commissioners with any questions by email at shellknobroaddistrict@yahoo.com  
 or Cell Merl Haubein 417-847-7294, Brad Baird 417-840-0575, Mark Welch 417-300-2898, Tom Bromwell 620-271-2610.  
 1st insertion 02/18/26  
 6-7

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of executions issued by the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Barry County, Missouri, arising out of a judgment entered by the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, in Case No. 25BR-CC00012, and to me, as sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of the plaintiff Servbank SB, and against the defendants  
 Cory R. Lebow;  
 Elizabeth A. Smith;  
 Midland Credit Management;  
 John Doe (Tenant/Occupant);  
 and Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant),  
 I have levied upon and seized all of the right, title, interest, and estate of the defendants  
 Cory R. Lebow and Elizabeth A. Smith  
 in and to the following described real estate, situated in Barry County, Missouri, to wit:  
 Beginning at the Northeast corner of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 24, Range 26, Barry County, Missouri, thence West 265 feet, thence South 325 feet, thence Northeasterly approximately 290 feet to a point that is 190 feet South of the point of beginning, said point being on the West right-of-way line of C Highway, thence North along said West right-of-way line 190 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to an ingress & egress easement along the North 40 feet thereof commonly known as 20027 State Highway C, Cassville, MO 65625  
 which I shall expose at public sale to the highest bidder for cash on the 16th day of March, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, to satisfy said judgment and costs.  
 Date: January 30, 2026  
 Danny Boyd, Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri  
 Newspaper:  
 The Cassville Democrat  
 Advertising:  
 February 18, 2026,  
 February 25, 2026,  
 March 4, 2026 and  
 March 11, 2026  
 (dates for 4 weeks of publication)  
 1st insertion 02/18/26  
 6-9

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 The Water Patrol Division is conducting a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Osage

**MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**  
 A Division of the Department of Public Safety Water Patrol Division  
 PO Box 568 – Jefferson City, MO 65102  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
 For further information please contact: Water Patrol Division (573) 751-5071 02/23/2026  
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Beach City Hall, 1000 City Parkway, Osage Beach, Missouri, for the purpose of hearing testimony relating to uniform marking of water areas on Table Rock Lake in Barry County. All person having submitted requests will be notified of time and place.  
 The public is invited to attend the hearing. If assistance is required due to a hearing or physical disability, please notify the Water Patrol Division, at 573-751-5071, so accommodations may be made. Additional details on the exact location of applications may be obtained from the Water Patrol Division's website.  
 Buoy applications for individual docks and/or commercial docks will be heard for the following property owners:  
 Nelson Tucker  
 Only insertion 02/25/26  
 7

**PROBATE**  
**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:  
 26BR-PR00002  
 In the Estate of  
 LILY ANN PETERSEN,  
 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 personal representative of the estate of JAMES JOHN TONNIES, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is:  
 DAVID TONNIES, 3257 HIDDEN BROOKE COURT, NEW CASTLE, PA 16105  
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734  
 The personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734

**IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL**  
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 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734  
 The personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734

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:  
 DAVID MAYER, 7146 S. UKRAINE ST. AURORA, CO 80016  
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:  
 FARES MASRI, 405 BROADWAY P.O. BOX 151 MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688  
 The non-resident personal representative's designated agent'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 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:  
 29-DEC-2025  
 Date of first publication:  
 February 11, 2026  
 Date of second publication:  
 February 18, 2026  
 Date of third publication:  
 February 25, 2026  
 Date of fourth publication:  
 March 4, 2026  
 BARRY COUNTY  
 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 02/11/26  
 5-8

**IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL**  
**CIRCUIT, BARRY**  
**COUNTY, MISSOURI**  
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 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734  
 The personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:  
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 DAVID TONNIES, 3257 HIDDEN BROOKE COURT, NEW CASTLE, PA 16105  
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734  
 The personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:  
 HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734

supervised administration is made to and granted by the court. The name and business address is:  
 JARRELL DAVID RHEA, 236 S

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6B

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-JAN-2026

Date of first publication: February 18, 2026

Date of second publication: February 25, 2026

Date of third publication: March 4, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 11, 2026

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, 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 02/18/26 6-9

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

In the Estate of LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, Decedent. Case Number: 26BR-PR00018

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, Decedent: On February 17, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, decedent,

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

The personal representative's business address is:

LESLIE GRYDER JR, 25655 FARM ROAD 2260, GOLDEN, MO 65658.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: MARC EDMONDSON, PO Box 491, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-846-0022.

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 MIO 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 Decedents 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: 26-FEB-2025

Date of first publication: February 25, 2026

Date of second publication: March 4, 2026

Date of third publication: March 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 18, 2026

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, 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

Dec 18, 2025

Date of first publication: February 25, 2026

Date of second publication: March 4, 2026

Date of third publication: March 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 18, 2026

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, 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 02/25/26 7-10

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

In the Estate of WILLIAM VERNON NICHOLS JR, Decedent. Case Number: 26BR-PR00017

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of WILLIAM VERNON NICHOLS JR, Decedent:

On February 10, 2026, the following individuals was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

WILLIAM VERNON NICHOLS JR, decedent,

by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is:

PATRICIA NICHOLS, 26888 AIRCRAFT LN., SHELL KNOB, MO 65747

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 personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: MEGAN ALFANO, 200 NE MISSOURI RD., SUITE 00, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64086, 816-774-1107.

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: 26-FEB-2025

Date of first publication: February 25, 2026

Date of second publication: March 4, 2026

Date of third publication: March 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 18, 2026

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, 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 02/25/26 7-10

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

In the Estate of: TIMOTHY S. PETERS, Deceased Estate No. 25BR-PR00095

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY S. PETERS, 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 after April 8, 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.

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ, Attorney RUBIE EUBANKS Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative P. O. Box 276 Cassville, MO 65625 (417)847-2734

Dates of Publication - 2/25/26, 3/4/26, 3/11/26, 3/18/26

TRUSTEE'S SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

FOR DEFAULT in the payment of debt secured by a Deed of Trust executed by Julie Franklin and Braxton Franklin, formerly husband and wife, dated May 24, 2016 and recorded on in Book 1 6, at Page 2709, in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri the undersigned Trustee will on March 17 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., specifically at 10:00 a.m. at the East Front Court House Door in the City of Cassville, County of Barry, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate located in Barry County, Missouri, to-wit:

Address: 17655 Farm Road 1090 Cassville, MO 65625

Beginning at a point 723 feet South of the Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter, Section 25, Township 23, Range 28, Barry County, Missouri; hence South 259 feet to the centerline of a 20 foot roadway; thence West along said centerline 208 Feet west of the point of beginning; thence East 208 feet to the of beginning.

ALSO at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of Southwest Quarter Section 25, Township 23, Range 20, Barry County Missouri; thence South 982 feet centerline of a 20 foot roadway; thence West along said centerline 208 feet to the point of beginning; thence North to a point on the South right of way line of another existing roadway, which said point is 208

feet West and 515 feet South of Northeast corner of said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, thence West along the South line of said roadway 497 Feet; thence South to the centerline of the 20 foot roadway first referred to herein above; thence Easterly along the centerline of said roadway to the point of beginning.

LESS EXCEPT: Beginning at a point on the South right of way of an existing roadway which is 398 feet west and 515 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 25 Township 23, Range 28; thence West along said road right of way 165 feet, thence South 281 feet, thence East 165 feet; thence North 281 feet to the point of beginning.

EXCEPT: Beginning at a point 515 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 25, Township 23, Range 28, being South of Private Road 2175 thence West 208 feet to the point of beginning, thence South 208 feet, thence Southwesterly 74 degrees 250 feet, thence North 281 feet to Private Road 2175, thence East 200 feet to the point of beginning Barry County Missouri.

ALSO EXCEPT Benning at a point 515 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter Township 23, Range 28, South of the Private Road 2175, thence West 550 feet for a point of beginning, thence South 281 feet thence West 135 thence North 281 feet, thence East 135 feet to the point of beginning Barry County, Missouri.

EXCEPT: Beginning at a point 982 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter Section 25, Township 23, Range 28, Barry County, Missouri to the centerline of Private Road 2176, thence West along said roadway to the Southeast corner of property owned by Patick and Nikki Caddell Recorded in the Recorders Office of Barry County Missouri, filed in Book14 at Page 2629 thence North 180 feet, thence East 144 feet, thence South 160 feet to the centerline Private Road 2176, thence Northwesterly along said road to the point of beginning.

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of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Trustee will on March 17,2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., specifically at 10:00 a.m, at the Bast Front Court House Door in the City of Cassville, County of Barry, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate located in Barry County, Missouri, to-wit:

THE SOUTH HALF OF LOTS ONE (11, TWO (2), THREE (3), AND FOUR (4), IN BLOCK TWO (2) LUCKY BEASLEY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF EXETER, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

To satisfy said debt and trust.

Jon Horner, 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

Please publish: February 4, 2026 February 11, 2026 February 18, 2026 February 25, 2026 1st insertion 02/04/28 4-7

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Reva M. Burke, dated March 29, 2024, and recorded on March 29, 2024, Document No. 202401513, in Book No. 24, at Page 1476 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on March 18, 2026, at 11:00 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash:

Lot Fifty (50), Fairway Heights Subdivision to the City of Monett, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof, commonly known as 213 Miller Way, Monett, MO, 65708 subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.

SouthLaw, P.C. Successor Trustee First Publication: February 18, 2026. For more information, visit www.southlaw.com

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 (Casefile No. 257189-1083611). 1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Default having been made in the payment of that certain note secured by Deed of Trust executed by Brenden Hall and Alanis Hall, husband and wife, dated October 28, 2022 and recorded on October 28, 2022 in Book 22, Page 6725, as Document No. 202206843, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri. The Successor Trustee will on March 16, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 5:00 P.M. more particularly at 12:00PM, at the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main, East Front door, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate:

ALL OF LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2), BLOCK TEN (10) IN MONETT TOWN COMPANY'S

FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

For the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

S&W Foreclosure Corporation Successor Trustee Pub Commences February 18, 2026 LLG File No.25-041329 By: LOGS Legal Group LLP

www.LOGS.com Servicelink Purported address: 201 North Elm Street, Monett, MO 65708 Publication Dates: 02/18/26, 02/25/26, 03/04/26, 03/11/26 1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

TRUSTEE'S SALE IN RE: James W King, a married person Trustee's Sale: For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by James W King, a married person dated November 16, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 22, Page 7057 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, March 17, 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: LOT FOUR (4), BLOCK SEVEN (7), GRANDVIEW PLACE ADDITION TO MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS AND COVENANTS OF RECORD OR FACT. to satisfy said debt and cost. MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C., Successor Trustee 612 Spirit Drive St. Louis, MO 63005 (636) 537-0110 File No: 231035.031726.464733 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 18, 2026 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026, 03/11/2026 1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

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# LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B  
 debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction. Purchasers take property as is, without warranty. Lots 1, 2, 3 And Lot 4, Except The East Half (12.5 Feet) Of Lot 4 All In Block 20 In The Original Town Of Wheaton, Barry County, Missouri. Subject To Any Easements, Rights Of Way Or Restrictions Of Record Or In Fact.  
 More commonly known

as: 118 W Main St Wheaton, MO 64874 Notice To Bidders: Please be advised that the Trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information

must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfers. These federal regulations will require reporting if a trustee's deed is issued on or after March 1, 2026, even if the foreclosure sale is conducted prior to March 1, 2026. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and [https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D\\_5.Nestor](https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5.Nestor)  
 Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115  
 1st insertion 02/18/26  
 6-9

### TRUSTEE'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To all persons interested in the estate of RICHARD L. OTT, deceased:  
 The undersigned, BRENDA K. DEVANEY, is acting as Trustee under a Trust, the terms of which provide that the debts of the Decedent may be paid by the Trustee upon receipt of proper proof thereof.  
 The address of the Trustee is as follows:  
 Brenda K. Devaney, Trustee  
 80 S. Reindeer Rd.  
 Surfside Beach, SC 29575

All creditors of the decedent are notified to present their claims to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred pursuant to Section 456.5-50S, RSMo.  
 Date of first publication is: 02/18/26  
 Brenda K. Devaney, Trustee  
 By: Carnahan Evans PC  
 2805S. Ingram Mill Road  
 Springfield, MO 65804  
 6-9

## Boys: 3 teams play in C2, D12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B  
 7:30 p.m. The championship is Saturday at 6 p.m.  
 The Trojans hold a win over Sarcoxie and split a pair of contests with Diamond. Losses came to Pierce City and Marionville, and they have not faced New Heights or New Covenant this season.  
 Three local teams are among the seven in the Class 2, District 12 tournament, which is being played in Purdy. Wheaton earned the best seed of the trio, taking the No. 2 spot and opening against No. 7 Exeter on Tuesday, with the result not available at presstime. No. 5 Purdy also played No. 4 Jasper on Tuesday, and No. 3 Thomas Jefferson played No. 6 Verona.  
 The Purdy-Jasper winner will face No. 1 Lockwood at 6 p.m.



**Purdy's Dalton Redshaw goes for a rebound in Southeast Holiday Tournament action this season.** Kyle Troutman/ ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Thursday, and the Wheaton-Exeter and Thomas Jefferson-Verona winners will play at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. The championship is slated for 6 p.m. on Saturday.

## Girls: Multiple teams played Monday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B  
 today at 7 p.m. The championship is on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Also on Monday was the first round of the Class 2, District 12 tournament in Marionville. No. 7 Purdy (3-19) took on the No. 2-ranked hosts Marionville (21-5), No. 4 Jasper (15-11) played No. 5 New Heights Christian (14-11), and No. 3 Greenfield/Golden City (16-10) faced No. 6 Billings/Hurley (8-17). The Jasper-New Heights winner takes on No. 1 Miller (23-3) today at 6 p.m., and the Purdy-Marionville and Greenfield/Golden City-Billings/Hurley winners play today at 7:30 p.m. The championship is on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Finally, Southwest (19-7) sees its first postseason



**Purdy's Kenzi Postlewait launches a three-pointer in action against Exeter this season.** Kyle Troutman/ ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

action today at Diamond. The No. 3 Lady Trojans take on No. 2 Pierce City (19-7) at 7:30 p.m. No. 4 Sarcoxie (9-14) and No. 5 Diamond (7-19) played on Monday night, with the winner taking on No. 1 Ash Grove (18-8) today at 6 p.m. The championship is at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27.

## Wrestling: Senior Riley James suffers knee injury in district semifinals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B  
 He made it to the blood round but didn't quite finish the job."  
 At 157 pounds, freshman Tyler Hodge authored a comeback that secured his state berth.  
 "He lost his quarterfinal and had to battle all the way back," Fortner said. "In the blood round, he was down 10-1 and ended up pinning the kid to go to state. That was a really big moment for that kid."  
 Tristan Thompson — now a four-time state qualifier — returned to the mat after missing the second half of the season due to injury, and he made a statement.  
 "He pinned his first kid, then pinned the second kid in the semis," Fortner said. "In the finals, he beat a kid who was ranked number two in the state and beat us last year. Tristan was hungry for that match all year. He was our second district champion."  
 At 175 pounds, returning state champion Colton Roark, who will also be attending his fourth consecutive state tournament looking for his fourth consecutive medal, dominated.  
 "He pinned his way through the tournament," Fortner said. "He dominated that tournament, which he's done all year."  
 Fortner said his upperweights provided leadership throughout the event.  
 "They were mat-side picking up their teammates, and it showed," he said. "We put together some of the best wrestling I've seen since I've been here in a day and a half of phenomenal wrestling."  
 At 190 pounds, Zachary Myers continued his late-season surge.  
 "He wrestled really good and has had a great two weeks of practice, and it showed," Fortner said. "He took out a kid that was undefeated in the semis to make it to the finals. He's gaining more confidence, and it's starting to show."  
 The tournament's most difficult moment came at 215 pounds, when senior Riley James suffered a devastating knee injury in the semifinals.  
 "He was in his semifinal match against the number two kid in the state," Fortner said. "It was a tight match. His knee bent the wrong way

and popped loud. They think he tore his ACL, MCL and LCL and completely blew out his knee. That ended his career."  
 A three-time state placer, James was forced to medically forfeit out of the tournament.  
 "Bad things happen sometimes," Fortner said. "There were a lot of tears. It was a heartbreaker."  
 Despite the injury and three blood-round losses, Cassville finished with eight qualifiers after Ethan Sizemore punched his ticket at 285 pounds. As a team, the Wildcats took second place behind the state's No. 1-ranked program, Seneca.  
 "That's wrestling in a nutshell for a district tournament," Fortner said. "There's going to be crazy stuff that happens. We kept wrestling tough, and we got eight through."  
 Looking ahead to the state tournament, Fortner said the Wildcats' approach will not change.  
 "Our goals stay the same," he said. "We're going to wrestle as hard as we can, one match at a time, and hopefully bring back a team trophy."  
 Fortner believes James' absence will impact the team race but not eliminate Cassville's opportunity.  
 "He's a three-time state placer, and I expected him to get to the state finals," Fortner said. "Now we're losing out on a lot of those points. We still have a shot to bring back a trophy. We'll go one match at a time."  
 Half of Cassville's qualifiers will be wrestling on the state stage for the first time, but Fortner has confidence in his younger athletes.  
 "They are tough wrestlers," he said. "If another team is overlooking them, that's a mistake."  
 Fortner pointed to Lopez, Holman and Frye as juniors who have been close before and broke through with strong district performances.  
 "I'm anxious to see what they do at the state level," he said. "I think they can do something special."  
 Veteran leadership will also be key.  
 "Tristan is a four-time qualifier, Colton is a four-time qualifier, and this is nothing new to them," Fortner said. "Zach's back. Hopefully they can lead the way."

Beyond results, Fortner said the team's chemistry has stood out all season.  
 "It's been a fun group," he said. "I love this team atmosphere. I love the chemistry they have. They were all together rooting each other on all weekend. You can definitely tell Cassville's pretty close."  
 With momentum from districts and a full lineup of eight, Fortner is optimistic.  
 "We should bring back some hardware," he said.  
 Full results from the district tournament include:  
 106: Boni Lopez (38-10) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.  
 • Quarterfinal - Boni Lopez 38-10 won by fall over Kyler Allerton (Reeds Spring) 32-13 (Fall 1:49)  
 • Semifinal - Boni Lopez 38-10 won by fall over Koda Neilson (Seneca) 23-7 (Fall 5:01)  
 • 1st Place Match - Boni Lopez 38-10 won by fall over Dawson Ritter (Logan-Rogersville) 34-7 (Fall 4:25)  
 126: Rylen Holman (36-10) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Rylen Holman 36-10 won by fall over Aiden Gray (Buffalo) 11-27 (Fall 1:02)  
 • Quarterfinal - Rylen Holman 36-10 won by fall over Kayden Shepherd (Nevada) 28-23 (Fall 0:59)  
 • Semifinal - Rylen Holman 36-10 won by fall over Camden Henderson (Sullivan) 29-12 (Fall 3:46)  
 • 1st Place Match - Zion Hibbert (Logan-Rogersville) 33-9 won by fall over Rylen Holman 36-10 (Fall 2:54)  
 132: Kole Fry (32-22) placed 2nd and scored 19.5 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Kole Fry 32-22 won by fall over Gavin Siliipino (Buffalo) 4-35 (Fall 1:07)  
 • Quarterfinal - Kole Fry 32-22 won by tech fall over Payton Bond (Nevada) 24-21 (TF-1.5 6:00 (18-3))  
 • Semifinal - Kole Fry 32-22 won in sudden victory - 1 over Kade Adams (Monett) 40-7 (SV-1 11-5)  
 • 1st Place Match - Caden Groom (Seneca) 39-3 won by fall over Kole Fry 32-22 (Fall 2:36)  
 138: Kellen Weldy (34-18) place is unknown and scored 7.5 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Kellen Weldy 34-18 won by fall over Landon Green (Eldon) 14-26 (Fall 0:46)  
 • Quarterfinal - Kellen Weldy 34-18 won by tech fall over Finnley Mcdermitt (Logan-Rogersville) 19-16 (TF-1.5 2:26 (15-0))  
 • Semifinal - Eli Manley (Seneca) 40-1 won by fall over Kellen Weldy 34-18 (Fall 0:53)  
 • Cons. Semi - Chris Spears (Monett) 28-23 won by decision over Kellen Weldy 34-18 (Dec 9-2)  
 144: Logan Parsons (27-25) place is unknown and scored 6.0 team points.

• Quarterfinal - Logan Parsons 27-25 won by fall over Nolan Schepers (Osage) 5-2 (Fall 3:56)  
 • Semifinal - Connor Bramell (Clinton) 36-8 won by fall over Logan Parsons 27-25 (Fall 3:51)  
 • Cons. Semi - Philip Gann (Logan-Rogersville) 21-24 won by major decision over Logan Parsons 27-25 (MD 16-4)  
 150: Braydyn Sizemore (42-13) place is unknown and scored 9.5 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Braydyn Sizemore 42-13 won by fall over Lane Rogers (Nevada) 17-21 (Fall 1:08)  
 • Quarterfinal - Dylan Gonzalez (Buffalo) 37-16 won by decision over Braydyn Sizemore 42-13 (Dec 11-5)  
 • Cons. Round 2 - Braydyn Sizemore 42-13 won by fall over Blake Watson (Sullivan) 12-20 (Fall 0:47)  
 • Cons. Round 3 - Braydyn Sizemore 42-13 won by tech fall over Cody Parnell (Aurora) 19-14 (TF-1.5 4:56 (21-3))  
 • Cons. Semi - Cole Escobar (Hollister) 32-13 won by major decision over Braydyn Sizemore 42-13 (MD 11-1)  
 157: Tyler Hodge (30-19) placed 4th and scored 17.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Tyler Hodge 30-19 won by fall over Hunter Choate (Strafford) 13-16 (Fall 3:01)  
 • Quarterfinal - Brody Barnhart (Clinton) 34-9 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 30-19 (Fall 1:32)  
 • Cons. Round 2 - Tyler Hodge 30-19 won by fall over Wyatt Reed (Monett) 11-29 (Fall 1:51)  
 • Cons. Round 3 - Tyler Hodge 30-19 won by fall over Peyton Pohlmann (Owensville) 23-15 (Fall 1:58)  
 • Cons. Semi - Tyler Hodge 30-19 won by fall over Tyler Valma (Buffalo) 21-12 (Fall 2:01)  
 • 3rd Place Match - Brayden Morgan (Nevada) 30-12 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 30-19 (Fall 2:39)  
 165: Tristan Thompson (23-1) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.  
 • Quarterfinal - Tristan Thompson 23-1 won by fall over Jalen Thorndyke (Strafford) 15-24 (Fall 2:47)  
 • Semifinal - Tristan Thompson 23-1 won by fall over Fisher Pack (Clinton) 26-13 (Fall 1:05)  
 • 1st Place Match - Tristan Thompson 23-1 won by decision over Bryson Whitman (Hollister) 44-1 (Dec 8-3)  
 175: Colton Roark (52-2) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Colton Roark 52-2 won by fall over Ronald Goodhart (Osage) 6-13 (Fall 0:23)  
 • Quarterfinal - Colton Roark 52-2 won by fall over Lucas White (St. James) 10-9 (Fall 0:59)  
 • Semifinal - Colton Roark 52-2 won by fall over Canon Copeland (Eldon) 24-15 (Fall 0:37)  
 • 1st Place Match - Colton Roark 52-2 won by fall over Payton Goth (Clinton) 37-6 (Fall 0:52)  
 190: Zachary Myers (43-9) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Zachary Myers 43-9 won by fall over Gage

Hanks (Clinton) 4-18 (Fall 1:00)  
 • Quarterfinal - Zachary Myers 43-9 won by fall over Brendan Wilson (Eldon) 24-14 (Fall 3:55)  
 • Semifinal - Zachary Myers 43-9 won by fall over Zane Achterberg (St. James) 32-2 (Fall 2:43)  
 • 1st Place Match - Jace Renfro (Seneca) 34-1 won by fall over Zachary Myers 43-9 (Fall 2:26)  
 215: Riley James (21-6) place is unknown and scored 8.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Riley James 21-6 won by fall over Houston Jackson (Logan-Rogersville) 18-23 (Fall 0:44)  
 • Quarterfinal - Riley James 21-6 won by fall over Aiden Crane (Seneca) 1-2 (Fall 1:48)  
 • Semifinal - Joshua Carpenter

(St. James) 25-1 won by fall over Riley James 21-6 (Fall 3:51)  
 • Cons. Semi - Mason Shumate (Clinton) 33-13 won by medical forfeit over Riley James 21-6 (M. For.)  
 285: Ethan Sizemore (25-4) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.  
 • Champ. Round 1 - Ethan Sizemore 25-4 won by fall over Ezekiel Norris (Hollister) 7-26 (Fall 0:55)  
 • Quarterfinal - Ethan Sizemore 25-4 won by fall over Xander Loyd (Sullivan) 9-24 (Fall 0:53)  
 • Semifinal - Ethan Sizemore 25-4 won by fall over Cayden Mentzer (Clinton) 16-8 (Fall 5:01)  
 • 1st Place Match - Taylor Barwick (Seneca) 30-13 won by decision over Ethan Sizemore 25-4 (Dec 2-1)

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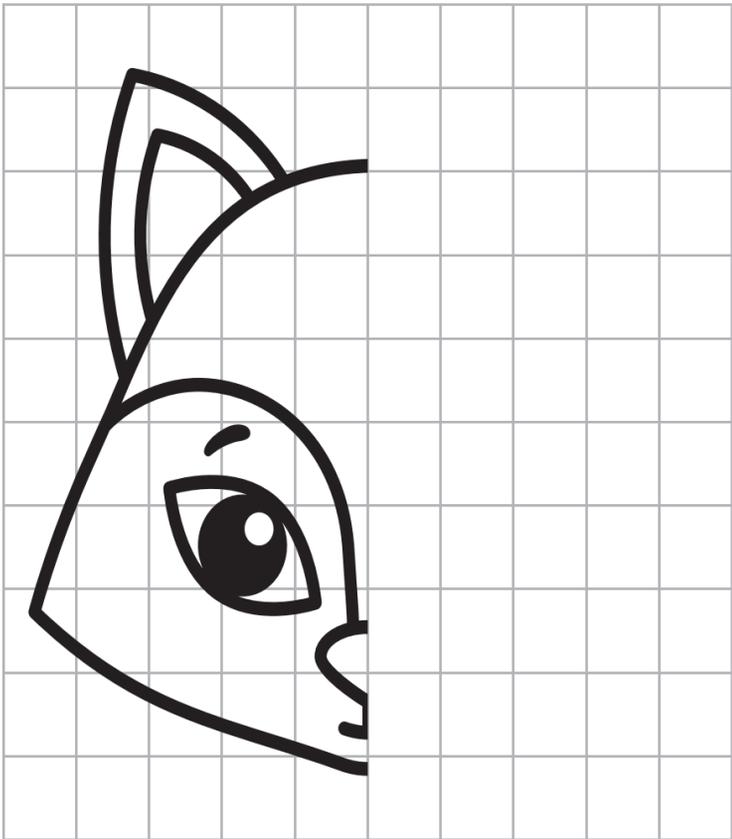
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**WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

<b>Estrella Garcia</b> 	<b>Caiden Edie</b> 
<b>Colton Roark</b> 	<b>Addy Ramaeker</b> 

# MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



## JUST kidding

**Q:** What should you do if you see a spaceman?

**A:** Park your car, man!



## JUST kidding

**Q:** What do you call a train that carries gum?

**A:** A chew-chew train.



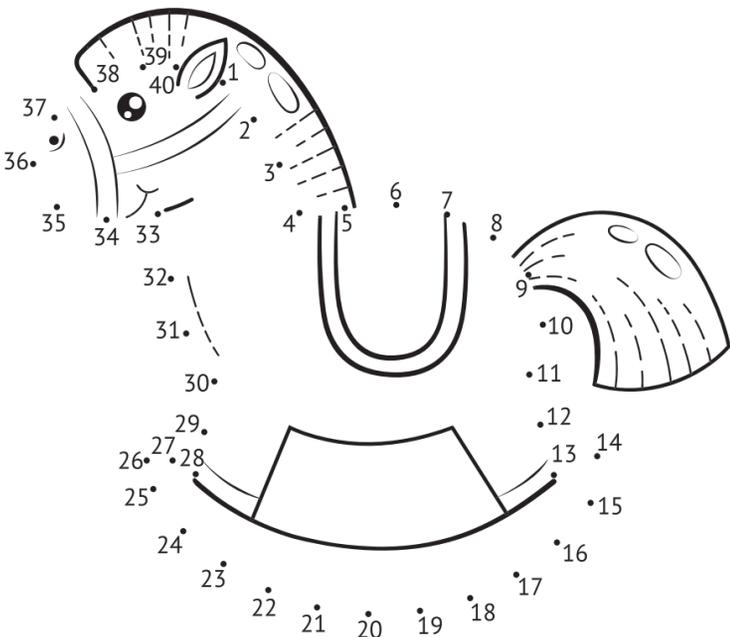
## JUST kidding

**Q:** What did the mama toolbox say to the baby toolbox?

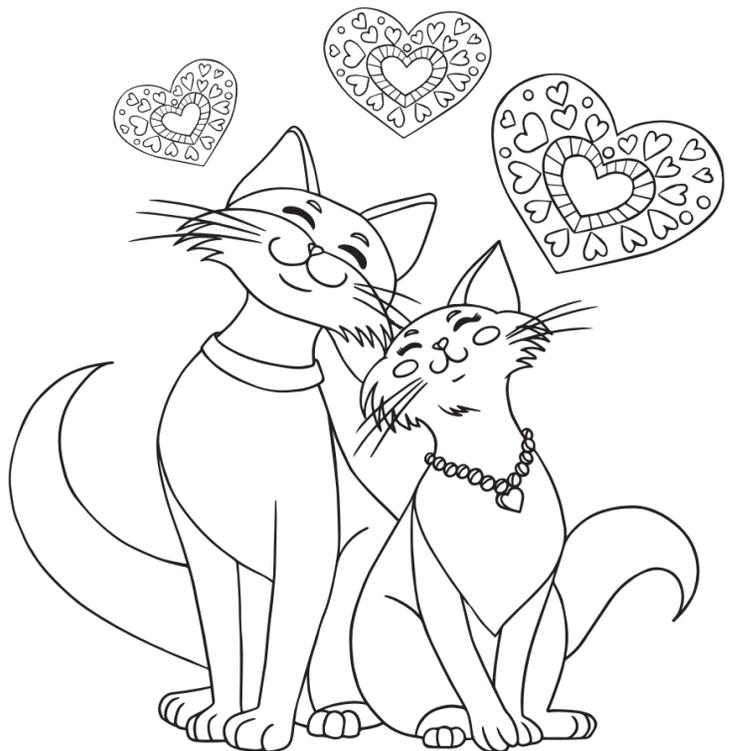
**A:** Don't bite your nails!



# DOT TO DOT



For the up-and-coming artist



# Sudoku 6 x 6

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

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

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

# White Funeral Home and Crematory

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# 12 gifted Quilts of Valor



Robert Belzing, right, of Cassville, receives a Quilt of Valor from Vickie Ginn at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Wesley Stephens, of Washburn, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17, draped over his shoulders by Vickie Ginn. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Dr. Vincent Tichenor, of Branson, has a Quilt of Valor draped over his shoulders by Vickie Ginn. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Quilts of Valor presented a dozen quilts to area veterans via the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Receiving the first quilt was Dave Wilson, right, of Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Lester Newell, right, of Cassville was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



James Savage, middle, of Exeter, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Draping the quilt over Savage was Vickie Ginn. Larry Ginn, not pictured, also assisted displaying the quilts, and Claudia Colleran, right, announced the recipients. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Merle Rogers, of Cassville, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Gary Ogle, of Golden, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Harry Stephens, of Exeter, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Elaine Boles, of Eagle Rock, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Wesley "Rich" Stevson received a Quilt of Valor at his home in Clinton on Feb. 22. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



John Wiley, of Cassville, was one of the dozen recipients of a Quilt of Valor at the Cassville Senior Center on Feb. 17. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Arkansas teen dies in crash

Vehicle goes off Hwy. 76, hits tree

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**  
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com  
A Rogers, Ark., teenager died on Saturday in a wreck at 10:25 a.m. on Highway 76, four miles east of Cassville.

The driver suffered minor injuries and was transported to Mercy Hospital in Springfield. A passenger in the vehicle, a 17-year-old female, of Rogers, Ark., was pronounced dead on the scene by Coroner Gary Swearingen at 11 a.m. Her body was returned to Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Both individuals were wearing safety devices, and the vehicle was totaled.

This is the 10th fatal crash of the year for Troop D of the Patrol, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri, including Barry.

## Captain Jack's opening storefront



Captain Jack's, a food truck owned by Michael and Nemia Goade, has opened a storefront location at 494 Highway 76 in Cassville. The restaurant held a soft opening Monday and will be fully open on Friday. Hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays will feature brisket burgers, Wednesdays and Thursdays will feature fish, and Fridays will include the whole menu. More information may be found at the Captain Jack's page on Facebook. Pictured, from left, are RG Edmondson, Roy Edmondson and Catie Edmondson ordering burgers at the Monday soft opening. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com