



<<< **LADY TROJANS ENTER FINAL STRETCH**
Southwest girls at 14 wins, have chance at conference hardware. — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

FEBRUARY 4, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

New airport runway coming

Upgrade has life of 30 years, changes from asphalt to concrete

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
The Cassville Municipal Airport is set to undergo a runway replacement aimed at addressing long-term infrastructure needs while positioning the facility for future growth. “The project is a runway

CASSVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
What: Runway project
Goal: New concrete runway instead of asphalt
Cost: \$5.1 million total, with city covering \$250,000 of cost

replacement project, and it will also include the approaches on the east and west ends that are needed for planes after they land or get ready to take off,” said Richard Asbill, Cassville

city administrator. The existing asphalt runway has reached the end of its usable life, according to Asbill, despite years of maintenance. “The long and short is we have an asphalt runway,” Asbill said. “It has served the city well; however, it is in need of a lot of major repairs.” Asbill said asphalt runways naturally deteriorate over time and eventually require full replacement. “Black asphalt cracks, and we’ve filled those cracks and

maintained it,” he said. “But it has reached the end of life for an airport runway.” Because the airport is a municipal facility regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration through the Missouri Department of Transportation, inspections and compliance requirements limit renovation options. The project includes removing the asphalt surface entirely and replacing it with concrete, a move Asbill believes will reduce long-term

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A

WILDCAT STADIUM

What: New lights incoming
Why: Current lights pulling too many amps, causing safety concern
More: Cost is \$212,000

Friday night brights

Safety concerns force Cassville to upgrade Wildcat Stadium lighting

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
Cassville High School is moving forward with plans to upgrade stadium lighting, replacing the current system with LED fixtures to improve safety, efficiency, and long-term usability. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville superintendent, said the move was the result of safety concerns, as the current lighting system was pulling more electricity than it was designed for, creating a fire or safety hazard. “Each side of the stadium has its own transformer and breaker box,” said Dusty Reid, director of facilities and operations for the Cassville School District. “The breaker box is designed for a 200-amp service. Over the years, the lights have been pulling a lot more electricity than they did when they were new.” Reid said the aging lights were beginning to strain the electrical system. “It’s just getting old and it doesn’t work like it was designed,” he said. “There are lots of parts and pieces in the light with the capacitors and the transistors and all those components that start to get old.” Testing by Barry Electric revealed the lights were pulling significantly more power than the system was built to handle. “Our current lights were pulling about 275 amps, which is way more than what the system was designed for,” Reid said. “Barry Electric said we have two choices: upgrade the amount of electricity coming to the stadium, or decrease the amount of electricity we are using.” Johnson said the district had planned to replace the lights with LED fixtures as part of its capital projects planning, aiming to put it in a bond issue to voters next year. “We just determined we couldn’t wait that long,” Reid said. “The breakers were getting hot, and there was a concern about power going out in the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Commentary.....	Page 4A
Through the Years.....	Page 5A
Obituaries.....	Page 6A
Kids’ Columns.....	Page 7A
Church Page.....	Page 8A
Sports Schedule.....	Page 2B
Classifieds/Legals....	Pages 5-6B



Vol. 155, No. 4
February 4, 2026
©2026 Cassville Democrat

Soaring over the snow at the river



Bald eagles wintering near Roaring River State Park made a display of flight on Thursday. The best time to spot eagles in the park is early mornings, before 9 a.m., near campground three or by the Roaring River Hatchery. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Barry County sees sales tax surge in January

Another interest disbursement boosts local receipts

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat
Sales tax revenues disbursed to Barry County cities and county government entities took a sharp rebound in January, wiping out almost all the red ink seen in December. In addition, recipients took in

two years worth of interest from the Department of Revenue, a traunch generated from tax received from July 2023 to June of 2025. It was an unprecedented second month of consecutive interest payments, compared to once or twice a year, adding \$54,171.36 to 35 different taxes collected in that two-year period, some of which have sunsetted. The seven Barry County cities took in \$910,864.66 in January. Not counting the new police sales tax in Seligman, that represented a gain of 27%, besting the pandemic January peak of almost

\$794,000. Wheaton, Washburn, and Exeter fell short of last January’s totals, two by slight margins. Cassville hit a new January record for its 1% tax payment general bills, in part because the city also received its first disbursement of the sales tax on marijuana sales, also going into the general fund. The city received \$145,840.34, including interest, up \$40,603.64 from a year ago, breaking the old record of \$114,482.23 from January 2024 even without the additional marijuana sales

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

33rd Annual Share a Heart campaign underway

Fundraiser helps local families of ill and injured children

The annual Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks Share a Heart Campaign kicked off its 33rd year on Jan. 29 at 70 McDonald’s Restaurants in the Ozarks. Customers are encouraged to support their local families by adopting paper hearts

SHARE A HEART

What: Fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House
When: Began Jan. 29, runs through end of February
More: Cassville, Rocky Comfort families have used Ronald McDonald House in last year

for \$1, \$5 or \$20. Supporters may enter a social media contest by posting a selfie with their heart(s) on Facebook, @RMHC.Ozarks, for a chance to win one of four \$250 Great Southern Bank MasterCard gift cards.

For 31 days, through the end of February, 100% of Share a Heart proceeds will support families of seriously ill and injured children supported by Ronald McDonald House. To recognize the impact of the Houses on their community members, more than 40 mayors — including Cassville Mayor Jon Horner — in the participating region are being asked to support the campaign by proclaiming February 9-15 “Ronald McDonald House Week” in their towns. McDonald’s of

Cassville will proudly participate in the Share a Heart Campaign. It’s hard to imagine receiving the devastating news of a child’s serious illness or injury. The Ronald McDonald House was built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child. Families stay together, near the hospital, and are fully supported during the most difficult times of their lives.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Democratic Central Committee meeting scheduled

The Barry County Democratic Central Committee will meet on Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Fire Station, located at 30625 St. Hwy 86 in Eagle Rock. Sheriff Danny Boyd is the special guest.

Book collection now at Bayless-Salyer house

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

Corsicana Road District to meet

The Corsicana Special Road District will meet in regular session on Tuesday at 7 p.m., at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

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 can go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561, opt: 3, or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

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

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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



Staycurrent.

Call 847-2610 to subscribe to
The Cassville Democrat.
www.cassville-democrat.com



A CONNECTION YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON.

Say 'I do' to a connection that never lets you down.

Say "I do" to goBEC.

 www.gobec.net  **417.847.2131**  **goBEC**
FIBER NETWORK



The family of Wyatt Reece, pictured, of Rocky Comfort, stayed in the Ronald McDonald House after he was in an accident that left him on life support for eight days, resulted in a below-the-knee amputation and caused multiple fractures in his leg and back. Kyle Troutman/kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Heart: Cassville, Rocky Comfort families benefit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Worries about where to sleep and eat disappear and a huge financial burden is lifted. On-site staff is available 24/7.

On any given night, up to 24 families are staying at Springfield's two Ronald McDonald Houses, most traveling far from home for medical treatment. The Ronald McDonald House near Cox South Hospital has 14 bedrooms and has welcomed families for over 37 years, and the 10-bedroom Ronald McDonald House at Mercy Kids has helped families for 13 years.

Houseguests receive meals and snacks, laundry facilities, transportation to hospitals, and support from volunteers and staff who truly care. The most needed and appreciated benefit is families sharing hope, comfort and a true understanding of having an ill or injured child.

More than 17,400 families have benefited from Springfield's Ronald McDonald Houses, including 882 Barry County families, 207 of which are residents of Cassville. Profiles of families that stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in the past year will be displayed at the local McDonald's Restaurants, including Cassville's, owned and operated by Daphne Simpson. For a video tour of both Houses, family testimonials, and more information, visit <https://rmhcozarks.org>.

Local families' testimonies

The Verde family is one of many from Cassville that has utilized the Ronald McDonald House.

Elizabeth Rose was born in November of 2023, she was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker malformation and hydrocephalus and needed life-saving medical intervention. When she was born, she was taken straight to the NICU, where the doctors and nurses were wonderful in caring for her.

Elizabeth was on and off life support. battling

seizures, and required multiple medications. With so much uncertainty surrounding how long she would need major medical care, the NICU team helped get the Verde family set up at the Ronald McDonald House.

"The NICU nurses and doctors were absolutely wonderful," the family's testimony said. "We ended up staying for almost two months, including all three holidays. Our family is so thankful to have had the Ronald McDonald House as our home away from home. They helped us celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, all while never having to Leave our sweet baby alone-providing for our every need. During such hard and uncertain times, they created comfort, kindness, and joyful spaces for our children.

"Our family will never forget what the Ronald McDonald House did for us, and we will forever be thankful."

Another are family benefitting from the Ronald McDonald House is the Reece family, of Rocky Comfort.

Jindy Reece's son, Wyatt, was in an accident that left him on life support for eight days, resulted in a below-the-knee amputation and caused multiple fractures in his leg and back.

"The first three days, we stayed at the hospital in a waiting room," Jindy Reece said. "We had our other two children with us, along with a host of family and friends. A social worker stepped out and asked if we had thought about staying at the Ronald McDonald House. That was honestly the last thing on our minds. Our social worker helped us apply, and it took us less than an hour to be approved.

"When we walked into the Ronald McDonald House, we were met with smiling faces. Our children were given gifts, and we were given a change of clothes and new socks. It may seem small, but we hadn't planned any of this. We



The family of Elizabeth Rose Verde stayed in the Ronald McDonald House after she was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker malformation and hydrocephalus and needed life-saving medical intervention. Kyle Troutman/kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com

didn't have time to pack. When your child could exit this world at any given moment, you aren't going to travel anywhere to get extra clothes."

Reece said the family was shown to their room, and it was extremely comfortable.

"We were given extra blankets, pillows and toiletries," she said. "We could actually shower! The next week, we were provided with an amazing dinner every night, along with snacks for our kiddos. In between visiting hours, our younger children could play on the playground or watch movies."

Reece said the family woke up Easter morning preparing for yet another surgery for Wyatt, not even remembering that it was, in fact, Easter Sunday.

"When we opened the door to leave, we came face to face with two Easter baskets full of

candy, games and bunny rabbits for our two children," Reece said. "They wouldn't have had an Easter if it had not been for the Ronald McDonald House. We will forever be grateful to every donor who has helped our family and families like ours. The darkest times of your life are spent there in those hallways. RMH is like a shining light. Thank you so much, Ronald McDonald House, for making the worst days of our lives so much easier."

The Share a Heart Campaign raised over \$116,000 in 2025, helping support 775 families through the Ronald McDonald House program. Donations from the private sector provide 100% of the Ronald McDonald House operating expenses, which exceed \$1 million annually.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 28 edition, two event dates were incorrect. The Valentine Shop & Hop in Cassville is on Thursday, Feb. 5, and the Purdy High School Homecoming ceremony is on Friday, Feb. 6. The *Cassville Democrat* corrects factual errors or clarifies information promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please email Publisher Kyle Troutman at kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com.



CASSVILLE Democrat
COVERING BARRY COUNTY LIKE THE MORNING DEW

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

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

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

STAFF

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

CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT

February 4, 2026
Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five
Number 4

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

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

Taxes: Seligman January return up nearly \$1K

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

tax. Cassville's use tax also inched up, receiving \$27,936.51, up almost \$2,000 from a year earlier, after going up more than \$700 from 2024. Monett showed a similar gain without the addition of a new tax. Monett's two taxes supporting the general fund at 1% generated \$216,523.35, including interest. That was up \$35,577.46 from a year ago, but not quite over the pandemic peak of almost \$221,000 in 2023. It was the first gain in three months and enough to wipe out any drops in the second half of 2025. Both the retired sales taxes paying off the city swimming pool and the police station combined brought in almost \$1,000 in interest. Monett's use tax in January brought in a hefty \$54,590.83 in interest, down \$2,436.19

from last January. Seligman's 1% tax supporting its general fund produced \$11,990.27, up \$988.81 from last January. That was also a January record, up more than \$400 over the 2023 pandemic peak, the first gain in three months and enough to wipe away the December dip. Seligman's use tax produced another \$6,718.15 with interest, up \$2,148.01, or 47%, from a year ago. Purdy's 1% tax for its general fund yielded \$4,362.90 with interest, a gain of \$1,033.16 from last January. It was the fourth consecutive monthly gain for Purdy, still well below the \$8,380 sum receiving in January 2023. Wheaton saw its 1% general fund tax generate \$4,297.10 with interest, a drop of a mere \$12.45 from last

January. Wheaton's half-cent transportation tax was back to its old tricks, yielding only 46% of the one-cent tax instead of 50%, incurring a \$340.61 decline. Wheaton's use tax, with interest, added another \$949.46 to city coffers, down \$724.95 from a year ago. Washburn's 1% general fund tax produced \$2,226.42 with interest, a drop of \$267.28, the fourth consecutive monthly drop. Washburn's use tax, with interest, added \$3,278.72 to city funds, up \$825.01 from last January, a gain big enough to erase drops in all three Washburn sales taxes. Exeter's 1% tax paying general bills received \$1,852.59 in January, down \$1,468.32 from a year ago, the fourth drop in five months.

Barry County's four countywide taxes all logged significant gains for the month. The two older half-cent taxes supporting the general fund and road maintenance each generated about \$231,080 with interest, up by more than \$27,000, or 13%, from a year ago. That topped the pandemic peak in 2023 of more than \$229,000. Barry County's use tax revenue was almost identical to last year, receiving \$177,525.10 with interest. Not counting interest, that was a gain of a little over \$300. The separate .375% tax supporting 911 and central dispatching received \$178,558.77 with interest. That was up \$20,258.76 from a year ago and over the pandemic peak from 2023 by more than \$6,000.

Lights: Brightness on field to be NCAA standard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

middle of an event." Reid emphasized the long-term benefits of switching to LED. "I'm glad we're going to LED," he said. "It's the future of stadium lighting. Within 5-10 years, we will not be able to get a light bulb for our football field. Metal halide bulbs with mercury vapor are no longer being shipped overseas because of tariffs." Cassville awarded the LED project to Qualite, a company recommended by other school districts in the region, at a price tag of \$212,557. "Joplin High School has used Qualite and has always been very pleased with the product and the customer service," Reid said. "We were comfortable using them after we heard that as well." The project comes at a reduced cost, with a 25-year warranty on the new fixtures. "The bid was \$217,000, but we got a \$5,000 discount right off the bat," Reid said. "We get better lighting, a better warranty and a better price." Two other bids came from Musco, at \$240,000, and Geotech, at \$266,850. Once installed, the LED system is expected to meet higher standards of field illumination. "High school football usually recommends 30 candlefoot," Reid said. "NCAA football is 50

"High school football usually recommends 30 candlefoot. NCAA football is 50 candlefoot. We are going with 50 candlefoot lights to make sure there are no dark spots or shadows. We want it to look like we made a good decision."


DUSTY REID, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

On lighting changes coming soon to Wildcat Stadium

candlefoot. We are going with 50 candlefoot lights to make sure there are no dark spots or shadows. We want it to look like we made a good decision." The upgrade includes the practice field as well as the main stadium and parking lot, using the existing four light poles. "This is called a retrofit project," Reid said. "We're not adding any new poles. We're using the existing poles for the field, parking lot and practice field." Reid said the change will also reduce energy use significantly. "I expect it to be well over half," he said. "We may drop down to 35-40% of what we're using right now. That will also lower our bill." The district anticipates approximately 300 hours of use per year per fixture, though final energy savings will be determined after installation. The old lights will be retained for parts or possible use on the baseball field, Reid said.

free programmable light shows. "When the home team scores a touchdown or players run out on the field, the lights can do different things," Reid said. "We stuck with the free eight and did not choose to spend extra on different colors — just going white. With only four poles, the light shows will all look the same." Reid said the upgrade will modernize the stadium while keeping the project cost-effective. "With the new LED lights, we're addressing a safety concern, reducing energy use and preparing for the future," he said.

Barry County Health Corner



Safe sleep program available

The Barry County Health Department hosts free safe sleep education sessions for new and expecting parents and caregivers. These events provide hands-on demonstrations, expert guidance, and even free portable cribs for families in need that meet certain requirements.

Every year, thousands of infants in the U.S. lose their lives due to sleep-related incidents, including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and accidental suffocation. However, by following safe sleep recommendations, these risks can be significantly reduced.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends placing babies on their backs for both naps and nighttime. Infants should sleep alone on a firm, flat surface, such as a crib or bassinet with a fitted sheet, and without soft bedding, pillows, or stuffed toys. By keeping the baby's sleep area in the same room as caregivers for at least the first six months can also lower the risk of sleep-related deaths.

If you have any questions regarding the Barry County Health Departments Safe Sleep program please give us a call at 417-847-2114.

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

You don't buy life insurance for yourself





Ask me how life insurance can be a valuable resource for your kids and grandkids!

Terri DeGraffenreid Brattin
AGENT

Kamala Harris
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

500 Mill St.
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-2100
(Call or Text)


Shelter Life Insurance Company
Columbia, Missouri

You will love

SHELL KNOB

The biggest little town in southwest Missouri

SHELL KNOB DENTAL CENTER
Brian K. Leach, D.D.S.



TimbeRoc Village
Shell Knob, MO
417.858.6527

HOURS
Mon. Tue. Thur. | 8am - 5pm
Fri. | 8am - 2pm

BARRY COUNTY READY MIX LLC

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

AREA BUSINESSES SERVING YOU!

BARRY COUNTY FARMERS COOP
Exeter, Missouri

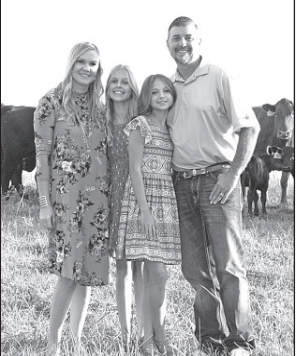
PROPANE DIESEL FEED FERTILIZER




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

PLACE YOUR AD HERE
\$10 per week!

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



If you're in Barry County, I'm for you.
Chad Yarnall - Agent
(417) 847-3399
chad.yarnall@mofb.com


We've got Missouri covered.
AUTO HOME LIFE

BARRY COUNTY READY-MIX

3 Locations To Serve You
Cassville: 417-847-3200 • Eagle Rock: 417-271-3200
Shell Knob: 417-858-3200

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
NOW OFFERING...

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

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



Four State Stockyards

Serving the Four State-area since 2019
Exeter, MO
Feeder calf sale every Tuesday 10am, slaughter cows to follow
Bred cows/pairs every Tuesday 6pm
Special Cow Sale — April 18, 5 p.m.

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

INSURANCE DESIGNED WITH YOU AND YOUR DREAMS IN MIND.
CALL ME TODAY AT (417) 847-3128.



Burl Mitchell, Agent
58 Main St, Cassville
Alt: (417) 858-2561
bmitche2@amfam.com
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00


American Family Mutual Insurance Company,
51 & 56 Operating Companies,
5500 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53703
©2015 000441 - Rev. 5/23 - 24080533

**MFA AGRI SERVICES**

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

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


GRAFTED IN Cabinetry

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

Robert Bergeron — 417-323-5250

COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Lighting update long overdue

It's only February, but I'm excited for the fall. The Cassville school district is moving forward with a lighting update at Wildcat Stadium — a long overdue one in my opinion.

I've been shooting Cassville football games every year since 2014, and though the scoreboard has been updated since then, the lights have been the same for more than a dozen years.

The district had planned to upgrade the lights in two years, as they were included in the list of projects in a bond issue being developed for voters in April 2027. However, the school board members' hands were slightly forced by safety concerns.

The age of the lights was beginning to show, as they were pulling more electricity than the breaker boxes were designed to carry. This resulted in the boxes getting hot, which could present a potential fire hazard.

Barry Electric assessed the situation and advised the district to act "sooner rather than later." Avoiding a potential fire, or the lights failing in the middle of a football game, is a wise decision given the circumstances.

Cassville awarded the LED project to Qualite, a company recommended by other school districts in the region, including Joplin High School, at a price tag of \$212,557.

The switch from metal halide and mercury vapor to LED will serve a couple purposes. First, the current light bulbs are tied up in tariff issues, making them difficult to obtain. Second, LED lights will give an energy savings, hopefully cutting the district's electric use by more than half.

The old lights may also be reused, as the baseball field uses the same type of bulbs.

With the change to LED, lighting on the football field should see a boost, as the purchase will give 50 candlefoot, which is NCAA football stadium standard lighting. A term I had never come across to my knowledge, a foot-candle is a unit of light intensity measuring illuminance cast on a surface, defined as one lumen per square foot. It represents the brightness on a surface on foot away from a candle source.

I don't actually own a light meter, but I do know the aperture and shutter speed settings on my camera and will be able to tell instantly if the new lights make a significant difference.

The middle of a football field is always the brightest, but I hope this change will illuminate the end zone a little bit more. Even on my best setting, with the Wildcats wearing black at home, the corners of the end zones can be so dark it's hard to get a good late-game touchdown shot that's not terribly dark.

I have shot football at countless stadiums across the region and state. If I'm being honest, Monett is the best place to shoot lighting-wise, but the reflectivity of the turf in Monett also gives an unfair advantage.

When I was editor at The Monett Times from 2014-2022, I usually shot at least one Piece City game each year. Lighting on that field was probably better measured in candletoes. It was incredibly tough to get non-blurry photos with how dark that stadium was.

I'm hoping the upgrade at Cassville will give me more to work with, which will result in crisper photos under the Friday Night Lights, and better quality shots in the printed edition of the paper.

While the field is a focus, the new lights will also illuminate the parking lot, as well as a whole new area — the practice field. I am curious to see if there will be more youth playing in that area during games, as it was exceptionally dark down there with no lighting before.

Finally, the new lights come with a series of eight light shows. Since we only have four light poles, the light shows will all look the same. Still, it is a new feature that will add an air of excitement to when the Wildcats bust through the banner and when they score touchdowns.

Though the district had to make the change earlier than planned, I can't wait to get that first celebration photo and video under the new lights on Friday nights!.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Feeling blue in the bleak mid-winter? Try a mini-gratitude moment

By the time February settles into our Ozark hills, winter has a way of leaning on us.

The sky turns a dependable shade of gray, the roads look tired, and even our coffee seems to need encouragement. It is the season when motivation can tend to hibernate. Frigid weather shows up abruptly on our doorsteps with force and a will of its own in the form of snow. It might be light and lovely, or potentially heavy and icy enough to keep us tucked inside our homes for days at a time.

And yet, during this cold season I am reminded that we do not have to wait for spring to feel alive again. Sometimes, all it takes is a mini-gratitude moment, which is essentially a deliberate pause to notice something good, small, and right there in front of us.

A mini-gratitude moment might be as simple as stepping outside on a clear night and letting the stars interrupt your worries. Bundle up, tuck your hands into your coat pockets, and look up. The sky is extravagant in winter. It offers quiet proof that beauty still exists even when the ground looks frozen and uninviting. Maybe your mini-gratitude moment comes from flipping through seed catalogs and visualizing a garden that could emerge next summer. Winter does not have to be about hibernation. It can be about gentle activation.

In my own small winter ritual, I fill the bird feeders. I enjoy the few seconds of silence before the flutter begins. Then, as if they have been standing in a line I cannot see, the birds arrive. They are eager, grateful and unashamed of their need. Winter has taken away their easy access to food, so when it appears, they do not hesitate. They come quickly, fully and with purpose. Watching the birds can echo a reminder of the way I think about hunger, not just for birds, but for people.

Feeding the birds is, in many ways, like feeding the hungry. There are multiple reasons that our neighbors may be facing obstacles to having access to adequate nutrition. Some causes can include unemploy-



JANET MILLS

ment, illness, loss of income, rising prices or caregiving for young children when daycare is not affordable. The consequence of these challenges can make having enough food to eat an obstacle instead of a given.

Hunger comes as an unannounced quiet voice of suffering. It usually whispers through skipped meals, watered-down soup, or a parent who insists they are "not that hungry" so their child can eat. Like the birds in winter, many families have fewer easy options than we imagine to source their dinner tables.

As the director of Cassville Pantry, I witness in the lives of our neighbors how foundational food truly is. Being fed is not a luxury. Having a full stomach, starting with something to eat for breakfast is the first brick in the building of one's day. Without it, productivity, learning, healing, and hope all struggle to emerge. When someone has enough to eat, they have energy to work, patience to parent, focus to learn, and strength to recover. A box of groceries is never just groceries. It is a quiet restoration of purpose and possibility.

This is where mini-gratitude moments turn outward. One might consider making a pot of chili or soup and delivering it to someone who is elderly, recovering from illness or simply unable to get out easily in winter. Another outreach could include making a phone call, writing a handwritten note, or offering to pick up someone's groceries. Gratitude grows best when it is shared.

Winter invites us to cultivate even while the ground sleeps. We can cultivate projects, friendships, and compassion. We can activate instead of isolate. We can remember that community is not built only in sunshine, but in how we show up for one another when the days feel heavy and the nights feel long. Feeding the birds reminds me that kindness does not have to be complicated. It just has to be consistent.

There is a quiet joy in helping someone survive a winter day. Not in a dramatic, headline-worthy way, but in the ordinary miracle of a meal or through a supportive conversation. By touching our neighbors in small ways, we are taking baby steps in strengthening a whole community. When one person is seen, acknowledged and supported, we all stand a little steadier.

As I watch the birds scatter seeds across the frigid ground, I am reminded of simple truths and an invitation calling out to care for our neighbors in ways that are practical and heartfelt. Giving works best when it flows from an authentic, heartfelt desire rather than from obligation.

Scripture puts it this way: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

In Colossians 3:12 we are encouraged, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," and 3:14, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

If you are feeling blue in the bleak mid-winter, try a mini-gratitude moment. Look up. Plan ahead. Share a meal. Call a neighbor. Feed a bird. You may discover that winter did not steal your joy at all, it simply invited you to practice it more intentionally.

Janet Mills is the director of Cassville Pantry, located at 800 W. 10th St. in Cassville. She may be reached at cassvillepantry@gmail.com or 417-846-7871.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The NICU nurses and doctors were absolutely wonderful. We ended up staying for almost two months, including all three holidays. Our family is so thankful to have had the Ronald McDonald House as our home away from home. They helped us celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas. and New Year's, all while never having to Leave our sweet baby alone-providing for our every need. During such hard and uncertain times, they created comfort. kindness, and joyful spaces for our children. Our family will never forget what the Ronald McDonald House did for us. and we will forever be thankful."

— VERDE FAMILY ON THEIR STAY AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



Inogen® Portable Oxygen Concentrators

Leave the tanks at home.

Convert the air around you into medical-grade oxygen. At just under 3 lbs.*, Inogen® lightweight and compact portable oxygen concentrators easily deliver your prescription oxygen on-the-go.

CALL US NOW
1-888-356-0738

* Inogen Rove 4 weighs 2.9lbs. with a standard battery

SM250015 EN_EX_USA | Rx Only. © 2024 Inogen, Inc. 859 Ward Drive, Suite 200, Goleta, CA 93111
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

50 years ago

Feb. 11, 1976
— **CAMPBELL POINT DOCK SOLD TO IOWA FAMILY**

What was once known as Cassville’s Campbell Point Boat Dock on Table Rock Lake in the early days of the reservoir has been sold by Rex Halterman and sons Russ and Dan to an Iowa family. The new owners effective March 1 will be Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Williams and three sons. The Williams family, which has also purchased residential property in Crestwood West, were Iowa residents seven and one-half years, where he was a school administrator. They are natives of the Wichita, Kansas area. Mr. Halterman, a retired Jumping-Jacks Shoe Co. executive, and sons have announced no future plans. They all reside in Aurora. With the take-over date, the Williams will become operators of the 92-slip facility located about midway in the reservoir. Campbell Point is on Route YY east of Shell Knob. Also involved in the operation is a motor sales and service marina and office dock. Campbell Point was first developed in a sheltered cove off the main White River channel by Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hall of Cassville. The facility became operational in 1960. The Haltermans acquired the dock in 1963. Williams said this week the three sons, ages 17 to 22, would be associated in the business. He said two long-time employees, Denny Leach and Fred Roller, would also remain. The fishing, boating and recreation area is among the area’s leaders annually in Army Corps of Engineer accounting of tourist numbers.

— **TABLE ROCK LAKE HOLDS MOST POPULAR CORPS SPOT**

With an 11 percent attendance increase over 1974, Table Rock Lake again led Army Corps of Engineer reservoirs in the Little Rock, Ark., district. Corps figures had 6,188,100 visitors compared to 5,519,000, which represents a 597,100 increase in people. Of the reservoir total, six public use facilities in the Cassville area contributed nearly one-half million. Corps figures on the use areas are more accurate these days, since each is staffed during the season for collection of fees and regulation of the camping, picnicking, swimming and boating areas. Breakdowns furnished by Groves’ office had the Eagle Rock area in front with 135,273 visitors, with Campbell Point in second with 81,347. Others in this area included: Viola 69,176, Big M 68,889, Viney Creek 30,357 and Kings River 26,211. Boat dock facilities are located at the leading areas of Viola, Big M, Eagle Rock and Campbell Point. The remaining use areas have launching, camping, swimming and picnic facilities. Table Rock’s nearest rival for the leadership spot was Bull Shoals Lake with 4,385,700, but a larger percentage of increase, 19 percent. Next in line was Norfork Lake with 3,592,700 for a 12 percent increase. Both of these reservoirs are mainly in Arkansas. Beaver Reservoir, just south of the Missouri-Arkansas line, attracted 3,179,000 visitors, but had a decline of nine percent compared to 1974. Overall, projects in the Little Rock district attracted 29.3 million, for a nine percent increase over the 1974 figure of 26.9 million. “Table Rock, located in the heart of the Ozarks, has consistently led the district’s lakes in attendance,” said the report. The reservoir holds high ranking in southwest regional attractiveness each year. Groves notes attendance at Corps parks is determined by roadside interviews and from traffic counters at entrance roads. The

interviews also help in determining which recreation activities are participated in by visitors. In this department, fishing was the most popular recreation attraction last year, followed closely by sightseeing. Forty percent of the almost 29.3 million visitors came to the Corps parks primarily because of the reputation they enjoy as good fishing areas. Other activities in order of popularity included swimming, camping, boating and picnicking. After the 1975 recreation season, a number of parks were either partially or completely closed. Col. Edgar said the off-season cut-back allows the parks to revegetate and enabled the Corps to rehabilitate areas where overuse had worn ground cover and caused deterioration of other facilities. It also helped reduce operating costs and saved on the use of fuel and electricity. Scheduled spring dates for reopening the parks for the 1976 recreation season will be published later. Growth figures for the six areas over the past few years are as follows: Comparison year figures for the six areas previous to 1975, with 1971 through 1974 listed in this order, included: Campbell Point, 129,921, 135,709, 84,975, 67,501; Big M 97,857, 74,734, 58,727, 74,956; Eagle Rock 94,004, 158,841, 125,568, 117,046; Viola 83,278, 68,840, 58,202, 84,514; Viney Creek 34,736, 46,709, 40,361, 37,861; Kings River 4,805, 11,441, 9,432, 6,338.

40 years ago

Feb. 12, 1986
— **SELIGMAN BY-PASS, BRIDGE IN STATE HIGHWAY PROJECT LIST**

Seligman by-pass and bridge projects before the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission Friday were approved, district engineer Joseph Mickes said Monday. Processes on both projects would begin immediately, the district official in Joplin said. Elimination of a confining bridge on the present Highway 37 location in the city of Seligman will be made possible when the commission separated that project out of the overall plan to rebuild and relocate Highway 37. Mickes said once the city had secured right-of-way needs, fill requirements were met and other details, the project could be started this year. A September-October contract letting might be possible. Highway plans are to shift the curve approaches to the bridge, eliminating this unsafe condition. Both private and railroad easements on right-of-way will be necessary. Mickes said some private interests had indicated their approval of the project. It is not the policy of the department to pay for right-of-way in projects of this type. Mickes said the project was in the state’s plans since the route would remain in the Missouri system when a new Highway 37 was built. The bridge area will become part of Route DD. The by-pass of Seligman by Highway 37 in the future was also approved by the commission. The project will become part of an extensive improvement project on the route from Cassville to the Missouri-Arkansas line. The action is a reversal of action by the commission two years ago that eliminated the improvement from just north of Seligman to the state line. Original decisions by the commission came after opposition was expressed in public hearings. Later urgings by Seligman area petitions reversed the attitude of the community and ultimately the highway administrators. Mickes said a design hearing on the by-pass, expected to cost \$5 million including bridge requirements, would be



30 YEARS AGO: EXETER COWGIRL FINISHED SHOW YEAR WITH TOP HONORS — Kacy Harper, Exeter, finished the 1995 Sho-Me Horse Association show year with honors for herself and her three horses. Ma Solid Rock, pictured on the left, is a grand champion in walkin and a reserve champion in western pleasure. PoCo, middle, finished with a third in barrels and poles. Kacy’s pony, Ms. Cherry Ann, finished the year as high point pony, capturing first place in walk-trot, western pleasure, barrels and poles. Kacy is the 9-year-old daughter of Jerry and Sue Harper. She is a member of Barry County E-Z Riders. Democrat file photo

held probably in July or August. The highway official said the project would be at least three years in the future. “Final plans, acquiring right-of-way and other phases will come first,” Mickes said. North segments of the project, from the four-way stop west of Cassville to just north of Seligman, are scheduled to be under contract in 1986. Highway plans for making the bridge improvement in Seligman will be accomplished through private contractors. Mickes said a start in September was possible. The engineer said municipal officials and residents of Seligman had been extremely helpful in getting the by-pass of Highway 37 reconsidered by the commission. Citizen input was instrumental in having the bridge and curve project opened and planned by the state highway department.

— **SCHOOL DANCE ISSUE BEFORE PURDY BOARD**

The Purdy R-II board of education held its regular monthly meeting on Monday. After routine monthly board business, the board of education voted to certify the recent bond issue election results from County Clerk Rex Stumpff. Of 685 votes cast, there were 528 yes votes and 157 no votes. The percentage of yes votes in the election was 77. The board expressed their deep appreciation to the district patrons who overwhelmingly supported the proposed bond issue. The board is hopeful that construction can begin on the project by the middle of April. Under new business, the Board of Education heard a presentation by Mike Flummerfelt representing a group of district patrons who were requesting that the board of education change its existing policy which does not allow school sponsorship of dances. After an extensive question and answer session, the R-II Board of Education decided to take the matter under advisement and study the information provided to them by the group. In other action, Mrs. Joan Fox addressed the board of education and asked for a clarification of the duties of public school board members.

30 years ago

Feb. 7, 1996
— County places E-911 and half cent road tax on April ballot

On April 2, county voters will decide the future of a countywide Enhanced 911 system and will be asked to renew the county’s half cent sales tax for roads. Barry County Commissioners voted this week to place both issues on the April ballot. The county is proposing to establish the

emergency telephone service by imposing a telephone tax to finance the project. Voters will be asked to approve this tax, which would not exceed 15 percent of the local service rate charged by the telephone company. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said that telephone rate increases would vary for each exchange in the county. He added that the commission had previously stated that residents could expect an 80 cent increase per month, which was incorrect. Residents can determine individual cost by calculating 15 percent of basic phone rate. The county still plans to hold a series of informational meetings on the proposed E-911 system. Dates for these public meetings have not been set. Warren said Miller Management, Inc., with offices in Columbia, Marceline and Little Rock, Ark., has offered to help the county conduct the meetings and promote the issue at no cost. He said the company only asked that the county allow them to bid on mapping and addressing services if the issue passes. Miller has been involved in putting together 911 systems in 35 counties. Warren added that company representatives could help commissioners answer the public’s questions about 911. The county’s road tax is up for renewal following its initial approval in 1986 and subsequent passage in 1991. If voters approve the tax again in April, it will continue without interruption for another five years. Last year the tax generated \$1,157,567.53 for the county’s 25 special road districts and one common road district. That amount represented just over half (50.73 percent) of the road districts’

1995 revenue total of \$2,453,491.04. In 1994, the tax provided road districts with \$1,113,983.24, representing 53.01 percent of their total budget. “The road districts were in bad shape before the one half cent sales tax was voted on,” said Lois Lowe, county treasurer. “If we don’t renew it (the road tax), there’s no way we’ll be able to continue the progress we’re making on roads and bridges in the county,” said Warren. Special road district revenue has shown a consistent increase over the past five years.

— **P&Z approves Taco Bell site plan**

A site plan for a new Taco Bell restaurant in Cassville was approved Monday by members of the city’s planning and zoning commission. The restaurant will be constructed on a commercial lot at 84 S. Main St. by K-Mac Enterprises, a corporation owned by Ken McGruder of Cassville. An existing building, which once housed Hailey Tractor, was demolished last week to make room for the new restaurant. Initial site plans, designed by G. Oney & Associates Inc. of Branson, call for construction of a 2,890-square-foot restaurant with seating for 104. The site will include a single drive-thru lane and 45 parking spaces. K-Mac purchased the lot from Evelyn Halley of Cassville. McGruder said construction on the restaurant is scheduled to begin as soon as weather permits and should be completed by mid-May.

— **Purdy Ladies claim McAuley Classic title**

The Purdy Lady Eagles captured the McAuley Warrior Classic girls basketball title last weekend by defeating East Newton 56-50. Purdy turned

a 16-14 quarter lead to 28-22 by the half. In the second half, Purdy battled the Lady Patriots and held onto their six-point lead throughout the half. Purdy’s lead scorer was Darcy Scott with 18 points. Jennifer Freeman and Mandy Payne added 12 and 11 respectively. Others scoring for Purdy were: Jennifer Schallert 9 and Linda Sparkman 6. The Lady Bulldogs of Wheaton placed third in the tournament by beating Diamond 38-34. Wheaton led 15-8 at the half. Wheaton’s leaders were Christy Brown with 13 and Tracy Schad with 10. Other scorers were: Erisa Hines 4, Amy Tichenor 3 and Tracy Keel 8. To advance to the finals, Purdy beat Wheaton 64-60 in semifinal action. Purdy’s Payne tallied 16 points and Freeman and Scott added 14 each. Other Purdy scorers were: Jennifer Roller 6; Kim Redshaw 3; Angie Cole 4; Sparkman 4 and Schallert 3. Wheaton scorers were: Brown 22, Hines 7, Tichenor 7, Keel 9, Tracy Schad 8, Casey Bell 6 and Laura Wilson 1. In the boys round-robin division, Purdy beat McAuley 58-45. Leading 37-33 at the end of the third quarter, Purdy outscored McAuley 21-12 in the fourth to outdistance the Joplin team. Purdy point leaders were Neal Roller with 20 points and Tim Schlessman with 17. Others scoring for the Eagles were: Greg Redshaw 7, Heath Chitwood 3, Jake King 4, Heath Rickman 4 and Derek Conley 3. In an earlier tournament game, Purdy defeated Thomas Jefferson 50-37. Roller and Brandon Dodson scored 17 and 13 points to lead the Eagles to victory. Other scorers were: Redshaw 3, Schlessman 6, King 3, Chitwood 4 and Rickman 2.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Koda is an Australian Shepherd/Chow Chow mix. His date of birth is Dec. 30, 2017. He is smart, goofy and protective of the ones he loves. Koda would do best in an active home, and he would do better with older kiddos. He does have some food guarding tendencies. He has lived most of his life outside and will require a fence. He loves laying in his swimming pool and does well on a leash. He will require grooming and is accustomed to it. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheoark.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





BEVERLY JEAN BRANSTETTER

Beverly Jean Branstetter, 74, of Wheaton, Mo. passed away Sunday, January 25, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Springfield, in Springfield, Mo.

She was born February 17, 1951, in Berryville, Ark., the daughter of Shannon and Imogene (Bickford) Bridges, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband, Richard Branstetter, and stepson, Kenny Chandler.

Survivors include her sons, Chris Branstetter and wife Kayla of Wheaton, Mo. and Josh Branstetter and wife Melluckie of Oklahoma City, Okla.; stepsons, Rick Branstetter of Marionville, Mo., Randy Branstetter and wife Glenda of Marionville, Mo., Richie Hufft of Okla., Rocky Reed and wife Latricia of Hot Springs, Ark., and Skeeter

Lamp and wife Amanda of Granby, Mo.; step-daughter, Sherry Addy of Carthage, Mo.; brother, Allen Bridges of Kansas City, Mo.; sister, Barbara Freeman Donaldson and husband David of Purdy, Mo.; three grandchildren; step grandchildren, step great grandchildren, and step great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She grew up and attended school in Cassville, Mo., graduating from Cassville High School later attending Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., earning an associate of arts degree. She was employed by the Southwest School System in Washburn, Mo. as a paraprofessional from where she retired. She was a member of Chapel of Grace.

Services were held Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Chapel of Grace in Monett. Reverend Doug Williams, Pastor Jimmie Finch and Pastor David Donaldson conducted the services. Burial was at Hogeys Cemetery in Wheaton, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Crowder College Foundation in memory of Beverly.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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

WHITE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

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

Crematory on site

To view obituaries, go to www.whitefuneralhome.org

For those you love...



crafted by those who care.

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

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

- * The #1 Choice of area families
- * Custom Design by our Artist
- * Serving the Ozarks since 1954
- * Ship Anywhere in the U.S.
- * Recommended by Cemetery Officials
- * Missouri's Largest
- * Quality granite and bronze
- * Complete *written* guarantee
- * Solid Permanent Foundations
- * Personalized design and lettering

Wommack

Monument Company



FOHN FUNERAL HOME



- Traditional Funerals
- Memorial Funerals
- Graveside Ceremonies
- Basic & Full-Service Cremation
- Preplanned Funeral
- Monuments

Compassionate - Caring - Affordable

Fohn Funeral Home | McQueen Funeral Home
Cassville, Missouri | 417-847-2141 Wheaton, Missouri | 417-652-7268
www.fohnfuneralhome.com





LEONARD MEYREL COLLINS

Leonard Meyrel Collins, 82, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at his home.

He was born February 23, 1943, in Tulsa, Okla., the son of Clyde and Mable Cleo (Parris) Collins, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife Ruby Tunnell, and brothers, Bobby Collins and Carl "CL" Collins.

Survivors include his sons, Donnie Collins of Fla., and David Collins and wife Tracie of Broken Arrow, Okla.; seven grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

He grew up and attended school in Tulsa, Okla., graduating from Tulsa Central High School.

He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He moved to Cassville in 1985, coming from Collinsville, Okla. He enjoyed working in law enforcement. He was first employed by the Cassville Police Department before joining the Barry County Sheriff's Department where he was employed from May 15, 1995 until August 31, 2019 from where he retired as a major. He previously owned and operated Seven Valleys Motel in Cassville.

Private graveside services were held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



COY CUMMINS

Coy Cummins, 79, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Sunday, January 25, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Cassville.

He was born April 30, 1946, in Cordell, Okla., to Andrew and Ritta (Bruner) Cummins, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wives, Phyllis Cline and Terry Boucher; two brothers; and four sisters.

Survivors include his wife Linda Hayden; one son, Casey Cummins of Cassville, Mo.; two daughters, Leslie Owens and her husband Jim of Joplin, Mo. and Jocelyn Cummins-Goodrich and her husband Bubba of Omaha, Neb.; seven grandchildren; one brother, Frank Cummins of Douglas, Ariz.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army, and he was the longtime owner of Anita's Pizza, which he operated for 25 years.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 1:00 pm at White Funeral Home and Crematory, a visitation will be held two hours prior to service time.

Memorials may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

Arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory.

White Funeral Home and Crematory

Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org

417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400

LOIS ENGELSMEIER

Lois Engelsmeier was born on June 11, 1947 to Henry and Ruth Jones in Rural Greene County Mo.

She married her husband David on September 4, 1976, in Joplin, Mo. They settled in their home in Shell Knob, Missouri in June of 1999.

Survivors include her daughters Linda, Elizabeth, and Daina and their children, her Husband David, his Son Daniel and his children.

Services are still pending. An announcement will be published at a later date.



DR. KENNETH LAVERNE HALL

Dr. Kenneth Laverne Hall, born on November 10, 1945, in Purdy, Mo., to Hershel and Marjorie (Douthitt) Hall, peacefully passed away on January 29, 2026. He was a beloved husband, brother, uncle, and friend to many.

A distinguished individual, Kenneth graduated from Purdy High School in 1963 and continued his academic pursuits at Drury University before earning his Doctorate from UMKC Dental School in 1982. Throughout his life, Ken had a passion for flying and was an accomplished pilot who took joy in the skies whenever he could.

During his professional career, Ken dedicated his talents to various endeavors. He worked at G&R Machine during the Vietnam era, contributing to the manufacturing of parts for space shut-

tles and helicopters. He also shared his knowledge as a Science teacher at Southwest School in Washburn, Mo. In 1982, Dr. Hall embarked on a remarkable thirty-two-year journey running his own successful dental practice in Cassville, Mo.

A devout member of Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church, Kenneth was deeply involved in the community as a Trustee and member of the Building and Grounds Committee. After retiring, he delved into his passion for craftsmanship, showcasing his skills in creating jewelry and refinishing furniture. Additionally, his love for music led him to be a part of the singing quartet, The Messengers.

On July 3, 1965, Kenneth married Ann Jackson, and together they shared over sixty memorable years. His legacy lives on through his cherished wife, Ann; his sister, Rebecca Parrett (Jerry); nieces and nephews, Doug Clifton (Leslea), Tracy Rhea (Ed), Jeff Hall, Janet Wimsatt (Paul), Debi Gollhofer (Mike), Tonya Marsh (Lynn), Brad Davis (April), Meghan Clark (Billy), David Thomas (Ashley) and Sean Thomas (Cheyenne Andrews); and one sister-in-law, Pat Hall. He also leaves behind a host of extended family and friends.

Dr. Kenneth Laverne Hall is preceded in death by his parents, Hershel and Marjorie Hall, his brother Jerry Hall, and his sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Loren Clifton. His life was a testament to dedication, compassion, and creativity, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the privilege to know him. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at Buchanan Funeral Home with Reverend Jesse Cole officiating. Interment followed at Bethel Cemetery. Memorial contributions have been suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Haven of the Ozarks. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, Mo.

PAID OBITUARY

BUCHANAN
Funeral Home

301 Euclid Monett
(417) 235-3188
www.buchananfuneralhomemonett.com



RONNIE STRICKLIN

Ronnie Stricklin, 75, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born May 24,

1950, in Lebanon, Mo., to Raymond and Flora (Lowery) Stricklin, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was one daughter, Rhonda Kay Adamson and one grandson.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie Stricklin; one daughter, Tammy Reidlinger and her husband William, of Rogersville, Mo.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, William Stricklin, of Webb City; and two sisters, Ethel Devers, of Pittsburgh, Kan., and Beulah Scott, of Mano, Mo.; and two special friends, Mike Mundy and Tommy Atkinson.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy, and

was also a dedicated member of Central Crossing Masonic Lodge No. 674 and a proud Shriner.

Memorials may be made to the Shrine Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, Mo.

White Funeral Home and Crematory

Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org

417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400



MARY ELIZABETH WILLETT

Mary Elizabeth Willett, 89, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Friday, January 30, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Aurora, Mo.

She was born on September 17, 1936, in Jonesboro, Ark., the daughter of Theodore Franklin and Eunice Emery (Bushong) Spence, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband,

Foster Willett; her son, Bobby Dean Martin; her granddaughter, Jennifer Hopkins; her brother, Johnny Spence and her sisters, Lucille Hall, Ann VanWinkle, and Francis Foreman.

Survivors include her daughter, Sharon Hopkins and husband Jimmy of Cassville, Mo.; two grandsons; one granddaughter; four great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She attended and graduated from Nettleton High School in Jonesboro, Ark.

She worked as a Licensed Hearing Specialist for 32 years. She was a founding member of the Arkansas Hearing Society and served as the secretary and president.

She began her career at Beltone of Jonesboro and Jonesboro Hearing Service before venturing out and starting her own business. In 1974, she opened NW Arkansas Hearing Service in Rogers, Ark. She eventually expanded to Bentonville Ark., Bella Vista Ark., Noel, Mo. and Grove, Okla.

She also worked in real estate. She was a member of Poplar Baptist Church in Rogers, Arkansas.

A memorial service will be held later in April. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Mo.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



WHITE FUNERAL HOME
Local Death Notices

Coy Cummins • Cassville • April 30, 1946 — Jan. 25, 2026
Kelly Towles • Cassville • Sept. 26, 1966 — Jan. 28, 2026
Robert Hughes • Seligman • May 17, 1937 — Jan. 30, 2026

196 Sale Barn Rd., Cassville, MO • 417-847-8400
Shell Knob — 417-858-8400

To view obituaries, go to www.whitefuneralhome.org

MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE

KIDS' COLUMNS

A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

JUST kidding

Q: Why is basketball such a messy sport?

A: Because you dribble on the floor.

JUST kidding

Q: How do you catch a squirrel?

A: Climb up a tree and act like a nut.

JUST kidding

Q: What do you call six ducks in a box?

A: A box of quackers.

Amazing maze

Help the cupcake find it's way to Candyland

Private eye

Which shadow matches the raccoon? Find the right one.

ANSWER: 5

Sudoku 6x6

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

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

3	4	9	2	1	5
2	5	1	4	3	6
1	9	4	3	5	2
5	2	3	6	4	1
6	3	5	1	2	4
4	1	2	5	6	3

White Funeral Home and Crematory

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

WE HAVE THE ONLY PET CREMATORY IN THE AREA.

196 Sale Barn Road
Cassville, Missouri • 417-847-8400
Shell Knob residents call 417-858-8400

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

Soul and Spirit

Soul and spirit are not the same. The common tendency is to use the terms interchangeably as if they were the same, but they are not. More specifically there is a profound difference or distinction to be made between the soul of man and the Spirit of God. The soul is a vital part of how humans are put together. We are created body, mind, and soul. All three parts indivisibly together makes us into the persons we are. All parts are born together and die together. Just as no human body is the same as any other body and no other mind thinks exactly like any other mind, so no human soul is like any other human

soul. Every soul is distinctive, different and separate from every other soul, which immediately rules out the possibility that every soul is simply a part of God or God's Spirit which by nature has been embedded within us. The soul is distinctively human. It is a part of our original equipment-standard issue. Everyone has one. Like the body and mind, the soul can grow and change over time. It can also regress and deteriorate. However, time has little to do with that. Some of the best souls are "good old souls," while the souls of those much younger can unfortunately be damaged or misused. The soul then is a part of who we are and conversely

not a part of who God is, namely a Spirit. The soul of man is our inner being when we are operating at our very best. Our bodies give us our form, our minds our intellect and our souls our personality and character. All three, body, mind, and soul are the work of the creator which gives us a body that is not His body but one that can act, a mind which is less than His mind but one that can reason, and a soul which is not His Spirit but one that can distinguish between good and evil. The soul can sometimes act like a conscience, though that is not its main function. The soul is a part of the image of God in us. It is the source of creativity, compassion, com-

munity and every other good characteristic we attribute to God. Of course, just as we can misuse our bodies and corrupt our minds so we can ignore the good urgings of the soul within us. It is wrong to reason that God's Spirit could lead us to do wrong. The soul of man within us is the source of good and evil. Evil is the result of a wayward soul. While everyone has a soul not everyone possesses God's Spirit. The Spirit is the gift of God's presence around us and within us. The gift is offered to many, but unfortunately, fully accepted and utilized by too few. To the extent that God's Spirit is incorporated into our being, our souls can be nourished and even healed when broken.

There is then a real connection between the human soul and God's Spirit. God's Spirit not only breaths life into our bodies, mind, and souls, it also nourishes and repairs them. But the Spirit is not the soul. The Spirit is a gift to the soul. The soul is human, the Spirit is of God. The Spirit brings life to the soul. The soul honors the Spirit by making room for the Spirit of God to live within us. The Spirit can enter the soul any time at the will of the Father and specifically at baptism by the promise of Christ.

Rev. Raymond Ticknor is a retired Christian church (Disciple of Christ) pastor living in Monett. He may be reached at judith.ticknor@yahoo.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

“As it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived — what God has prepared for those who love him...”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

ANGLICAN ST. MARY MAGDALENE 205 Commercial St., Exeter 835-2102	117 W. Garber St., Fairview FIRST BAPTIST 602 West. St., Cassville 847-2965 FIRST BAPTIST Wheaton FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST Exeter, 835-5433 FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST 104 W. Hwy. J, Golden 271-3605 FIRST BAPTIST WASHBURN 2nd St. North 618, Washburn 826-5000 GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 14970 FR. 1150, Cassville, Mo. GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP P.O. Box 352, Shell Knob 858-6868 GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST 1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 & 1150, Cassville; 847-4691 HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield 847-9289 MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115 MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST RR 1, Washburn 826-5232 MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST FR. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245 MT. ZION BAPTIST Hwy. 37 S., Washburn 826-5840 NEW HOPE BAPTIST 3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy. then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter 652-3885 OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST 16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville Pastor: 501-538-6261 Local: 417-847-4597 PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn 435-2319 PURDY FIRST BAPTIST 3rd & Washington St., Purdy 442-7435 SHILOH BAPTIST Hwy. 248, Jenkins 574-6466 PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH Rocky Comfort PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn 826-5158	RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter 652-7884 ROARING RIVER BAPTIST HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-3142 ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770 SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592 VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH Business 37 N., Cassville 826-5295 VIOLA BAPTIST Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-2597 WAYMARK CHURCH 2581 State Hwy 37 235-7466 WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST Hwy. 86 & Hwy. A, Wheaton 652-3898 WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST 11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton PO Box 175, 652-3186	GOLDEN CHURCH OF GOD Hwy. 86, Golden 271-3134 SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP Hwy. 112, Cassville 846-6339	EPISCOPAL ST. THOMAS A BECKET Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville 846-2155	LUTHERAN COMMUNITY LUTHERAN Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 271-4383 PEACE LUTHERAN N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob 858-3900	Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville 847-3106 GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP Washburn Community Building 479-366-2561 NEW LIFE TABERNACLE 30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman 662-0076	PRESBYTERIAN TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-3902 WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN 1 mi. S. of Monett 235-3337	OTHER BELIEVERS FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP 1st. & South St., Washburn 826-5875 BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER 1107 Farm Rd., Cassville 847-4061 CASSVILLE SDA Old Exeter Rd. & Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-3622 BODY OF CHRIST Wheaton, 417-652-3709 COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL 13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville 847-4643 GOD'S HEALING CENTER Seligman, 662-3118 EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock 342-0516 FIRST CHRISTIAN Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob 858-8200 FIRST CHRISTIAN Old Exeter Rd. & Hwy. 37, Cassville 847-2460 GOD'S HEALING CENTER Seligman, 662-3118 LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH 22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob 278-6674 OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy 442-3361 REAL LIFE WORSHIP CENTER 709 W. 10th St., Cassville
--	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	---



Tyson Foods, Inc.

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



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



THE BIG NEW YORKER
LIMITED TIME **\$10**
34 Main St., Cassville • www.pizzahut.com
417-847-5503



Ken's Collision Center
THE AREA'S FINEST COLLISION REPAIR FACILITY

712 W. 10th St.
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-1200
www.kenscollisioncenter.com



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



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




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

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

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



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



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

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

Shelter scholarship available to Cassville, Wheaton seniors

Two \$1,500 scholarships to be awarded

Recognizing academic achievement in local communities is one of the main goals of the Shelter Insurance Foundation, and this spring, the Foundation will award two \$1,500 scholarships to graduates of Cassville High School and Wheaton High School.

Shelter Agent Terri Lynn DeGraffenreid Brattin sponsors and partially funds this scholarship.

Students may apply the scholarship funds toward tuition, fees or campus housing for any course of study beginning the fall after the recipient's high school graduation and leading to an academic degree at any college, university or

trade school, whether public or private, that is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. The Foundation makes the payment directly to the school the recipient selects.

To determine who receives a scholarship, a committee of local high school officials and community leaders will consider each applicant's scholastic achievements, educational goals, citizenship, moral character and participation and leadership in school and community activities. The scholarship is given without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, veteran status, genetic information or any other classification protected by federal, state or local law. The name of the recipient will be announced at the close of

the school year.

Applications and additional information about the Shelter Foundation Scholarship are now available and should be completed and returned to the school official serving on the selection committee by March 31. For more information, interested seniors should contact their high school counselor, principal or Shelter Insurance Agent Terri Lynn DeGraffenreid Brattin.

The Shelter Insurance Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes. It is sponsored by the Shelter Insurance Companies — offering auto, home, life, farm and business insurance services to customers in 14 states via a network of local insurance agents. The Shelter Insurance® Foundation is headquartered in Columbia.

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 417-530-6033 to schedule your free quote!

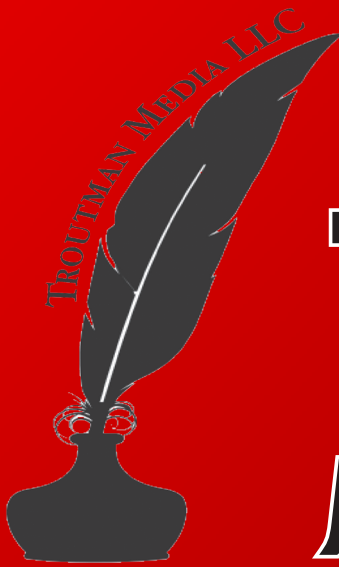
GENERAC®

*Terms and Conditions apply.

PHOTO ALERT!



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



New offerings from...

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC

JOB PRINTING SERVICES

Business Cards • Promotional Items
Booklets • Signs • Posters • Envelopes
Letterhead • Business Checks
Greeting Cards • Stickers • Brochures

AND MUCH MORE!

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

LOCALLY FOCUSED, FAMILY OWNED

We'll work to meet any supply or promotional needs at a price that fits your budget. Call Kyle today to see how much you can save!

417-847-2610

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F

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

Soaring over the snow at the river



Bald eagles wintering near Roaring River State Park made a display of flight on Thursday. The best time to spot eagles in the park is early mornings, before 9 a.m., near campground three or by the Roaring River Hatchery. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Airport: Plays important role

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

maintenance costs and support future expansion.

“The bid was for the complete tear out and replacement of the asphalt runway with a concrete runway,” Asbill said. “We really wanted to move forward with concrete strictly for maintenance and longevity.”

Concrete also provides flexibility for runway extensions in the coming years.

“We would like to in the future extend the runway,” he said. “More on the east end than the west end, but it would require a little extension on the west.”

The project also includes new runway lighting and navigational aids.

“The runway will also include the lights on the approach, both ends, side, and a beacon light that actually gets replaced,” Asbill said. “It will make our airport more attractive to tourism traffic.”

Asbill said the airport’s status as a public municipal facility allows Cassville to access state and federal funding.

“It is a city municipal airport, which allows us access to certain state and federal funds,” he said. “You work with your airport master plan and look at a specific need.”

The runway replacement was made possible by rolling over federal allocations across multiple years with approval from FAA and MoDOT.

“When we’ve been able to combine those funds for several years, it’s given us more funds toward a larger project,” Asbill said. “You just don’t go and replace a runway at a small cost. The total bid award is \$5,143,937, and our portion of that is \$258,000.”

Emery Sapp & Sons was awarded the project as the low bidder. Two other companies submitted higher bids, and the winning bid closely matched the engineer’s estimate. Koss Construction bid \$5,446,132.80, and RL Persons Construction bid \$7,847,999.

“The engineering estimate on the project was \$5,106,500,” he said. “Emery Sapp & Sons came pretty close to that.”

Asbill said Cassville’s airport plays a quiet but important role in the local economy.

“I think people forget that we have the airport,” he said. “It has been an economic piece for us. We do get a lot of recreational traffic from Kansas and Oklahoma that come in for the lake.”

Interest in hangar space has increased, particularly from pilots relocating from larger airports.

“Pilots are relocating from northwest Arkansas and Springfield who want a smaller airport more conducive to their budget,” Asbill said.

The airport typically houses about 14-15 aircraft, with additional transient traffic during peak times. Asbill said competitive fuel prices also draw visiting pilots.

“That happens with airports,” he said. “We may be 10 or 15 cents cheaper than another place.”

Recent airport improvements also include a new terminal building handled in-house by the city.

“We just replaced the airport terminal last year,” Asbill said. “The old terminal was in the landing zone and was listed as a problematic structure.”

The new terminal has received positive feedback from pilots.

“So far it’s been reviewed very nice,” he said. “It’s heated and air conditioned, and we’ve gotten really good

response.”

Asbill said the terminal provides basic amenities for pilots waiting out weather or planning their next leg.

“They can sit and work on a laptop, use the restroom, and weather here before they go on,” he said.

The airport also recently added a courtesy car, a feature Asbill said pilots value highly.

“We are very fortunate now that we do have a courtesy car,” he said. “I was very positively surprised about how many pilots look at that.”

Runway construction is expected to take place during the spring and summer months, though timing may vary depending on other Emery Sapp & Sons projects.

“We’re supposed to be in a construction window of April, May, June, July,” Asbill said. “But it could actually be May, June, July, August.”

Asbill said pilots and hangar tenants have been notified in advance to make alternate arrangements during the closure.

“We’ve tried to give everybody notice,” he said. “Some pilots will move their planes, and some will just not fly during that time.”

Looking ahead, Asbill said the runway project lays the groundwork for continued airport development.

“This gives us some life, gives us the opportunity to expand, and sets us up for future air traffic,” he said.

Visit us online at: cassville-democrat.com

YOKOHAMA
FRIENDLY TIRE

We do Pick-up & Delivery Services!

So YOU can keep working (or even relaxing) without the hassle!

FEBRUARY SPECIAL!
BUY 4 YOKOHAMAS GET \$100 INSTANT REBATE!
(Valid 2/1/26-2/28/26)

- New Tires
- Alignments
- Oil Changes
- Brake Work
- Engine Diagnostic
- Routine Maintenance
- Flat Repair
- Exhaust Work
- A/C Repair

(417) 235-6777

CALL OR COME IN

703 W. Hwy. 60 Monett, MO

Pro glass repair - done by the Professionals at KEN'S!
WE DO GLASS!

712 W. 10th St. • Cassville, MO 65625 • 417-847-1200

LIVE ON facebook

www.kenscollisioncenter.com

LADY TROJANS ENTER FINAL STRETCH



Southwest's Jaretsi Quintanilla looks for room to put a shot up during a Southwest Tournament matchup this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

14-win squad has shot at conference title

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

With 14 wins and seven games left on the regular-season slate, the Southwest girls basketball team is setting its sights on a conference title and making some noise in a district with two more teams with as many wins.

Shawn Johnson, Southwest girls basketball coach, said steady growth and balanced contributions have helped his team put together a strong season — on a seven game win streak as of Monday and having just won the Lady Bear Classic title. He said one of the biggest factors has been the play of his leading scorer and rebounder.

“You have [senior] Jaretsi [Quintanilla] — that does help us a little bit,” Johnson said. “She’s averaging around 27 points a game and around 14 rebounds, and she’s getting around 6 blocks a game, so that helps us a lot.”

Johnson said another positive this season has been the team’s balance beyond its leading scorer.

“It’s been nice because you don’t really know who’s going to put up 10-15 points on a given night,” Johnson said. “We’ve had all four of the other starters do that at different times. Gracie [Swanepoel] put up 10 against Sarcoxie, Addyson [Payne]



Southwest's Olivia Hnem controls the pace of play during a Southwest Tournament matchup this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

put up 13, Olivia [Hnem] hit some threes and put up 15, and Sidney [Roe] had 13 against Verona,” he n said.

That kind of production has been encouraging.

“It’s been great to see different kids step up,” Johnson said. “We’re starting

to shoot better, and if we can time it right going into districts, it’ll be interesting to see.”

Johnson said the team has also made progress shooting from the outside, which has changed how opponents

CONTINUED ON PAGE XX

WILDCATS WRESTLING

What: 63rd People’s Bank of Seneca Tournament
Results: Team takes second place behind Seneca
Individuals: One champion, multiple second and third-place finishes

Wildcats take 2nd in Seneca

Roark brings home lone gold, multiple silver and bronze finishes

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville’s returning state champion was the lone champion for the Wildcats at the 63rd People’s Bank of Seneca Tournament on Saturday, leading the squad to a second-place team finish in the 24-team tournament.

Colton Roark, at 175 pounds, pinned his first three opponents in the first round, then delivered a major decision over Southern Boone’s Owen Britton to take first place in the tournament.

Runner-up finishes went to Boni Lopez at 113 pounds, Rylen Holman at 126 pounds and Braydyn Sizemore at 150 pounds. In third place and finishing the tournament with a win was Michael Winchell at 120 pounds, Kole Fry at 132 pounds, Zachary Myers at 190 pounds and Riley James at 215 pounds.

Kellen Weldy took fourth at 138 pounds, Logan Parsons finished sixth at 144 pounds, Tyler Hodge took ninth at 157 pounds and Dylan Sorenson claimed eighth at 165 pounds.

Full results from the tournament include:

113: Boni Lopez (30-9) placed 2nd and scored 30.0 team points.

• Quarterfinal - Boni Lopez 30-9 won by fall over Alejandro Doty (Strafford) 13-18 (Fall 2:30)

• Semifinal - Boni Lopez 30-9 won by fall over Kapono Ehsa (Wyandotte) 5-2 (Fall 5:41)

• 1st Place Match - Peter Heyen (Southern Boone) 28-1 won by tech fall over Boni Lopez 30-9 (TF-1.5 3:18 (15-0))

120: Michael Winchell (22-23) placed 3rd and scored 26.0 team points.

• Champ. Round 1 - Jaden Beuthen (Southern Boone) 23-14 won by fall over Michael Winchell 22-23 (Fall 2:51)

• Cons. Round 2 - Michael Winchell 22-23 won by fall over Jaxson Garcia (Seneca) 8-12 (Fall 2:40)

• Cons. Round 3 - Michael Winchell 22-23 won by fall over Carson Keefe (Versailles) 1-10 (Fall 2:57)

• Cons. Semi - Michael Winchell 22-23 won by fall over Jaden Beuthen (Southern Boone) 23-14 (Fall 1:40)

• 3rd Place Match - Michael Winchell 22-23 won by decision over Evan Dubina (Clinton) 27-9 (Dec 6-4)

126: Rylen Holman (26-9) placed 2nd and scored 29.5 team points.

• Champ. Round 1 - Rylen Holman 26-9 won by fall over Jayston Hoover (Wyandotte) 1-5 (Fall 1:06)

• Quarterfinal - Rylen Holman 26-9 won by tech fall over John Brown (Logan County High School) 5-17 (TF-1.5 1:46 (19-1))

• Semifinal - Rylen Holman 26-9 won in tie breaker - 1 over Blaine Berghold (Southern Boone) 19-7 (TB-1 11-5)

• 1st Place Match - Brandon Brewer (Versailles) 25-2 won by major decision over Rylen Holman 26-9 (MD 11-1)

132: Kole Fry (26-17) placed 3rd and scored 28.5 team points.

• Champ. Round 1 - Kole Fry 26-17 won by fall over Ryan Southern (Hollister) 14-20 (Fall 2:46)

• Quarterfinal - Kole Fry 26-17 won by fall over Cole Hamrick (Versailles) 22-14 (Fall 3:03)

• Semifinal - Caden Groom (Seneca) 31-3 won by tech fall over Kole Fry 26-17 (TF-1.5

CONTINUED ON PAGE XX

SCOREBOARD

Lady Wildcats double up on Seneca

The Cassville girls basketball team (13-5) had a one-game week last week due to weather and returned to Big 8 Conference play Thursday night with Seneca coming to town. The Lady Cats led throughout the game and came away with the 57-25 victory to move their conference record to 2-1 on the season and 13-5 overall. Scoring for Cassville included: Audrey Kennedy, 16; Briley Artherton, 12; Taylor Kennedy, 9; Alex Holycross, 7; Aubrey Stoufer, 5; Aubrie Atkinson, 4; Briley Gross, 2; and Sammi Stockton, 2. The junior varsity team traveled to Branson Friday and Saturday and came away with a 2-1

record. The JV Lady Wildcats bested Reeds Spring, 28-23, and Clever, 37-19, before falling to Branson, 33-25. Cassville has three games this week. The Lady Wildcats played on Monday at Monett Monday, will a makeup game at home today (Wednesday) against Lamar, and travel to Ash Grove Thursday.

Wildcats dial up -game week after win Friday

The Cassville boys basketball team (8-10) hosted Seneca on Friday. The C team won by a score of 26-16, followed by the junior varsity team winning 61-30. The varsity squad capped off night with a 61-39 victory. In the varsity game, the

Wildcats were led in scoring by Tyson Bohmke with 22 points, and Aiden Whittington added 14. Spencer Drollinger led the team with 10 rebounds, with Whittington adding 7 boards. This week, the Wildcats were at Monett on Tuesday night and ill play Lamar at home on Thursday and Skyline at home on Friday.

Middle school teams go 1-1 against Cherokee

The Cassville Middle School boys basketball teams saw a shortened schedule last week due to weather-related cancellations, as games against Pershing and Monett were postponed. Both teams were still able to compete in

a matchup against a talented Cherokee squad. The eighth-grade Wildcats earned a hard-fought, 48-43 victory, showing poise and toughness down the stretch against a strong opponent. Cassville’s effort on both ends of the floor proved to be the difference in a competitive contest. The seventh-grade team also faced Cherokee and competed well early, matching the Warriors’ intensity before ultimately falling, 46-19. Despite the loss, the Wildcats showed effort and growth against a very talented team. Following last week’s action, the eighth-grade team improves to 8-1 on the season, while the seventh-grade team moves to 6-3. Cassville will return to conference play next week.



Girls Wrestling

2/5	Rogersville/Bolivar	Away	5:00 pm
2/20-21	Class 1, District 3 Tournament	Buffalo High School	

Girls Basketball

2/5	Ash Grove	Away	7:15 pm
2/9	East Newton	Home	7:00 pm
2/12	Mt. Vernon	Away	7:00 pm
2/20	Nevada	Home	7:00 pm
2/24	Neosho	Away	7:00 pm
2/26	Carl Junction	Home	7:30 pm

Boys Basketball

2/6	Skyline	Home	6:00 pm
2/10	East Newton	Home	7:15 pm
2/13	Mt. Vernon	Away	7:15 pm
2/17	Southwest	Home	7:15 pm
2/20	Nevada	Home	7:15 pm
2/26	Forsyth	Away	7:00 pm

Boys Wrestling

2/5	Rogersville/Bolivar	Away	5:00 pm
2/20-21	Class 2, District 6 Tournament	Buffalo High School	

Sater Pharmacy

Medicare, Medicaid
& Most Insurance
Accepted

417-847-2315

705 Main St., Cassville, MO 65625

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

\$11.50 per week!
Call our office at
417-847-2610 to get
started!

SBSECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

417-847-4794
www.sbswmo.com

CASSVILLE
EXETER
WHEATON

T. Terry Mowing
Serving the Cassville area

417-896-0261

Leaf mulching and more!
Affordable pricing!

Willis Insurance, Inc.
Since 1887

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

Bridgeway Plaza
Shell Knob
417-858-3747

www.willisinsured.com
800-556-2393

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

\$11.50 per week!
Call our office at
417-847-2610 to get
started!

**LAW OFFICE
OF
JOHN A. LEWRIGHT**

903 Main St., Cassville
417-847-2177

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
[www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports](http://www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports).

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

**BARRY COUNTY
READY-MIX
LLC**

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

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
[www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports](http://www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports).

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

**AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE**

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

**JOHNSON
DJC
CHIROPRACTIC**
*Sports & Wellness
Clinic*

907 Main St., Cassville
417-847-0388

Cassville Democrat

For coverage of all our local
teams, and more, visit
[www.cassville-democrat.com/
category/sports](http://www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports).

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

CS BANK

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

**Law Office of
J. Michael Riehn**

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

Be a Lifelong Learner at
Crowder Cassville through a
Fiction Writing Class this
Spring 2026.
*First Novel? Memoir? Local
History? Open Enrollment!*
Call 417-847-1706 to speak
with an advisor about how
you can become a lifelong
learner at Crowder.
TerryHeld@Crowder.edu

BLAKE FIELDS
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

**SECURITY INSURANCE AGENCY
INSURANCE**

**AUTO • HOME
FARM • BUSINESS**
417-847-8384

Wrestling: Myers, James both take third place in respective weight classes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

3:29 (17-2))

- Cons. Semi - Kole Fry 26-17 won by tech fall over Tianta McNack (Clinton) 25-7 (TF-1.5 5:00 (23-7))
- 3rd Place Match - Kole Fry 26-17 won by fall over Logan Thompson (Seneca JV) 12-5 (Fall 2:07)
- 138: Kellen Weldy (28-14) placed 4th and scored 25.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Kellen Weldy 28-14 won by tech fall over Bentley Morris (Versailles) 7-17 (TF-1.5 0:56 (15-0))
- Quarterfinal - Kadyn Allerton (Reeds Spring) 27-4 won in the ultimate tie breaker over Kellen Weldy 28-14 (UTB 2-1)
- Cons. Round 2 - Kellen Weldy 28-14 won by fall over Hayden Tate (Wyandotte) 4-5 (Fall 1:50)
- Cons. Round 3 - Kellen Weldy 28-14 won by tech fall over Lucas Sumapang (Miami) 3-2 (TF-1.5 4:18 (21-5))
- Cons. Semi - Kellen Weldy 28-14 won by fall over Nicholas Perez (Logan County High School) 5-3 (Fall 1:23)
- 3rd Place Match - Kadyn Allerton (Reeds Spring) 27-4 won by fall over Kellen Weldy 28-14 (Fall 2:31)
- 144: Logan Parsons (24-18) placed 6th and scored 14.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Cody Parnell (Aurora) 16-11 won by major decision over Logan Parsons 24-18 (MD 12-3)
- Cons. Round 2 - Logan Parsons 24-18 won by fall over Mazime Many (Logan County High School) 5-10 (Fall 2:07)
- Cons. Round 3 - Logan Parsons 24-18 won by fall over Connor Anderson (Hollister) 6-14 (Fall 2:01)
- Cons. Semi - Jaxen Rhoades (Seneca JV) 20-8 won by decision over Logan Parsons 24-18 (Dec 3-0)
- 5th Place Match - Cody Parnell (Aurora) 16-11 won by fall over Logan Parsons 24-18 (Fall 2:06)
- 150: Braydyn Sizemore (32-10) placed 2nd and scored 30.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Braydyn Sizemore 32-10 won by fall over Louie Zepeda (Fairland)



Cassville's Zach Myers works against an opponent in the Monett Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

0-2 (Fall 1:45)

- Semifinal - Braydyn Sizemore 32-10 won by fall over Dylan Gonzalez (Buffalo) 31-12 (Fall 3:09)
- 1st Place Match - Dawson Manley (Seneca) 31-4 won by fall over Braydyn Sizemore 32-10 (Fall 0:58)
- 157: Tyler Hodge (24-13) placed 9th and scored 10.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Tyler Hodge 24-13 won by fall over Luke Averella (Buffalo) 0-3 (Fall 1:03)
- Quarterfinal - Lane Eitemiller (Seneca) 16-13 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 24-13 (Fall 1:56)
- Cons. Round 2 - Hunter Choate (Strafford) 8-13 won by fall over Tyler Hodge 24-13 (Fall 4:02)
- Cons. Round 3 - Tyler Hodge 24-13 won by fall over Xander Shofner (Hollister) 10-21 (Fall 2:32)
- 9th Place Match - Tyler Hodge 24-13 won by fall over Brock Crauthers (Reeds Spring) 5-18 (Fall 2:03)
- 165: Dylan Sorenson (5-19) placed 8th and scored 7.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Fisher Pack (Clinton) 14-9 won by fall over Dylan Sorenson 5-19 (Fall 1:05)
- Cons. Round 2 - Dylan Sorenson 5-19 won by fall over Hayden Woods (Aurora) 0-11 (Fall 3:14)

- Cons. Round 3 - Jalen Thorndyke (Strafford) 10-18 won by tech fall over Dylan Sorenson 5-19 (TF-1.5 2:36 (15-0))
- 7th Place Match - Dylan Holum (Fairland) 1-2 won by decision over Dylan Sorenson 5-19 (Dec 7-6)
- 175: Colton Roark (41-2) placed 1st and scored 38.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Colton Roark 41-2 won by fall over Bow Rush (Miami) 2-2 (Fall 0:44)
- Quarterfinal - Colton Roark 41-2 won by fall over Isaac Orozco (Hollister) 5-9 (Fall 1:35)
- Semifinal - Colton Roark 41-2 won by fall over Ethan Garber (Versailles) 24-12 (Fall 0:37)
- 1st Place Match - Colton Roark 41-2 won by major decision over Owen Britton (Southern Boone) 27-6 (MD 8-0)
- 190: Zachary Myers (36-6) placed 3rd and scored 28.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Zachary Myers 36-6 won by fall over Tommy Gracia (Versailles) 7-24 (Fall 0:56)
- Quarterfinal - Zachary Myers 36-6 won by fall over Jordan Gainous (Logan County High School) 6-9 (Fall 0:20)
- Semifinal - Mason O'Banion (Columbus) 33-2

won by fall over Zachary Myers 36-6 (Fall 0:40)

- Cons. Semi - Zachary Myers 36-6 won by tech fall over Marshall Loftin (Reeds Spring) 7-7 (TF-1.5 1:24 (17-0))
- 3rd Place Match - Zachary Myers 36-6 won by fall over Max Gabaladon (Southern Boone) 19-14 (Fall 2:57)
- 215: Riley James (14-3) placed 3rd and scored 29.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Riley James 14-3 won by fall over Witton Amos (Fairland) 3-2 (Fall 4:56)
- Quarterfinal - Riley James 14-3 won by fall over Kael Hickey (Seneca) 9-8 (Fall 0:31)
- Semifinal - Kash Smith (Columbus) 28-5 won by decision over Riley James 14-3 (Dec 9-2)
- Cons. Semi - Riley James 14-3 won by fall over Witton Amos (Fairland) 3-2 (Fall 0:50)
- 3rd Place Match - Riley James 14-3 won by fall over Mason Shumate (Clinton) 21-9 (Fall 2:08)
- Junior varsity results included:
- 138: Hayden Jereczek (5-17) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Ronnie Jo Clouse (Reeds Springs JV) 14-21 won by fall over Hayden Jereczek (Cassville JV) 5-17 (Fall 0:44)

- Cons. Round 1 - Hayden Tate (Wyandotte) 4-5 won by fall over Hayden Jereczek (Cassville JV) 5-17 (Fall 2:16)
- 144: Zaiden Hall (7-14) placed 8th and scored 7.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Connor Bramell (Clinton) 26-6 won by fall over Zaiden Hall (Cassville JV) 7-14 (Fall 0:35)
- Cons. Round 2 - Zaiden Hall (Cassville JV) 7-14 won by fall over Paxton Robertson (Versailles) 2-23 (Fall 0:22)
- Cons. Round 3 - Shade Schubert (Columbus) 28-10 won by fall over Zaiden Hall (Cassville JV) 7-14 (Fall 4:47)
- 7th Place Match - Connor Anderson (Hollister) 6-14 won by decision over Zaiden Hall (Cassville JV) 7-14 (Dec 9-4)
- 175: Carson Hutchins (13-4) placed 5th and scored 18.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Payton Goth (Clinton) 28-4 won by fall over Carson Hutchins (Cassville JV) 13-4 (Fall 1:57)
- Cons. Round 2 - Carson Hutchins (Cassville JV) 13-4 won by fall over Bow Rush (Miami) 2-2 (Fall 0:54)
- Cons. Round 3 - Carson Hutchins (Cassville JV) 13-4 won by decision over Journey Williams (Seneca) 10-15 (Dec 10-3)
- Cons. Semi - Ethan Garber (Versailles) 24-12 won by decision over Carson Hutchins (Cassville JV) 13-4 (Dec 11-10)
- 5th Place Match - Carson Hutchins (Cassville JV) 13-4 won by fall over Gabe Robison (Columbus) 2-3 (Fall 4:06)
- 215: Brylar Berank (20-21) placed 9th and scored 7.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Mason Shumate (Clinton) 21-9 won by fall over Brylar Berank (Cassville JV) 20-21 (Fall 0:51)
- Cons. Round 2 - James Maughan (Strafford) 11-19 won by fall over Brylar Berank (Cassville JV) 20-21 (Fall 2:04)
- Cons. Round 3 - Brylar Berank (Cassville JV) 20-21 won by fall over Kael Hickey (Seneca) 9-8 (Fall 2:00)
- 9th Place Match - Brylar Berank (Cassville JV) 20-21 won by fall over Tyler Annecharico (Cassville JV2) 10-18 (Fall 1:15)



Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service

LIMITED TIME OFFER

50% OFF

Installation

FREE ESTIMATE

SCHEDULE TODAY!

Call 1.888.382.2117

• \$0 Down Today

• Same Day Financing Available

• Premium Warranty Protection

Join over 400,000 satisfied homeowners with an ultra-durable roof from Erie Home.

CALL TODAY! 1.888.382.2117

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at erielicense.com/

Certified Remodeler 500

A+ BBB

MADE IN THE USA

EPA

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

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

STEP 1

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

STEP 2

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

STEP 3

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

Your caregiver gets paid same day!

• Over 5,000 5-star reviews

• 97% customer satisfaction

• 27,000+ patients getting care

• 9 states covered

• 350+ friendly care specialists to guide you

Find out if you are eligible today.

CALL 877.224.1811

FreedomCare

COMPASSION • INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE

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

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

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

PETS
PUPPIES: 4 female Frenchies for sale. 6 months old. \$500 each. Call 316-519-6316.

MISCELLANEOUS
NOTICE OF ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS SWCD BOARD ELECTIONS

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

The following qualified candidates will be considered for election:
Territory 2 - Christopher Cale Hammen
Territory 4 - Clay Hammen-Exeter Township
Territory 4 - Steven Mattingly-Exeter Township

Supervisors manage the administration of district policies and programs, as well as district personnel and funds. The district is supported by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soil and water sales tax. For additional information on the district election, contact the district office 417-847-2862 EXT: 3, stephanie.parsons@swcd.mo.gov and 3202 county Farm Rd Cassville, MO 65625
1st insertion 01/21/26 2-6

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE
JOSILYNE CREASON, Plaintiff,
VS.
JASON MAYBERRY d/b/a MAYBERRY CONSTRUCTION, INC., Defendant.
Case No. 25BR-CC00085

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to JASON MAYBERRY, d/b/a MAYBERRY CONSTRUCTION, LLC.
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced against you in

the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Petition in Damages.
The names of all parties in this action are Josilyne Creason, and the name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff is J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after January 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.
It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
A true copy from the record.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
by Kami Stanton
First Publication: January 28, 2026
Second Publication: February 4, 2026
Third Publication: February 11, 2026
Fourth Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT JUVENILE DIVISION AT BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI
In the Interest of: G. G. H. (M.)
DOB: 06/11/2024
Case No. 25BR-JU00079

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO Mackenzy Gail McCarley, Legal Mother of G.G. H. (M.):
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Termination of Parental Rights for the above-mentioned child under Chapter 211 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
The number assigned to said action is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Missouri Children's Division, is: Sheena Garvin, 601 Commercial Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, Telephone Number (417) 625-9924.
To be published in the newspaper that is circulated in Barry County, this being the *Cassville Democrat*.
You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Petition or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 28th day of January, 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action at the Barry County Judicial Center, 102 West Street #2, City of Cassville, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and Judgment Terminating Parental Rights will be entered.
The next hearing for this matter is scheduled to occur on March 06, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO Mackenzy Gail McCarley, Legal Mother of G.G. H. (M.):
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Termination of Parental Rights for the above-mentioned child under Chapter 211 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
The number assigned to said action is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Missouri Children's Division, is: Sheena Garvin, 601 Commercial Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, Telephone Number (417) 625-9924.
To be published in the newspaper that is circulated in Barry County, this being the *Cassville Democrat*.
You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Petition or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 28th day of January, 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action at the Barry County Judicial Center, 102 West Street #2, City of Cassville, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and Judgment Terminating Parental Rights will be entered.
The next hearing for this matter is scheduled to occur on March 06, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO Mackenzy Gail McCarley, Legal Mother of G.G. H. (M.):
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Termination of Parental Rights for the above-mentioned child under Chapter 211 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
The number assigned to said action is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Missouri Children's Division, is: Sheena Garvin, 601 Commercial Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, Telephone Number (417) 625-9924.
To be published in the newspaper that is circulated in Barry County, this being the *Cassville Democrat*.
You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Petition or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 28th day of January, 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action at the Barry County Judicial Center, 102 West Street #2, City of Cassville, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and Judgment Terminating Parental Rights will be entered.
The next hearing for this matter is scheduled to occur on March 06, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO Mackenzy Gail McCarley, Legal Mother of G.G. H. (M.):
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Termination of Parental Rights for the above-mentioned child under Chapter 211 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
The number assigned to said action is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Missouri Children's Division, is: Sheena Garvin, 601 Commercial Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, Telephone Number (417) 625-9924.
To be published in the newspaper that is circulated in Barry County, this being the *Cassville Democrat*.
You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Petition or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 28th day of January, 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action at the Barry County Judicial Center, 102 West Street #2, City of Cassville, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and Judgment Terminating Parental Rights will be entered.
The next hearing for this matter is scheduled to occur on March 06, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO Mackenzy Gail McCarley, Legal Mother of G.G. H. (M.):
You are hereby notified that an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Termination of Parental Rights for the above-mentioned child under Chapter 211 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
The number assigned to said action is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Missouri Children's Division, is: Sheena Garvin, 601 Commercial Avenue, Joplin, Missouri, 64801, Telephone Number (417) 625-9924.
To be published in the newspaper that is circulated in Barry County, this being the *Cassville Democrat*.
You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Petition or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 28th day of January, 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action at the Barry County Judicial Center, 102 West Street #2, City of Cassville, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and Judgment Terminating Parental Rights will be entered.
The next hearing for this matter is scheduled to occur on March 06, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
by Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

TIM REAL AND JUDY

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO: Defendants, Edwin L. Orem and Edna L. Orem if they shall be deceased, then their unknown heirs, grantees, consorts, spouses or successors of those of them who shall be deceased.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Barry, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to quiet title to the following described property in Barry County, Missouri: Lots 65 and 66, Elmo's Subdivision No. 2, Table Rock Lake, Barry County, Missouri as platted in Plat book 5, Page 200, Records' Office of Barry County, Missouri.
The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Harry D. Schwartz, P.O. Box 276, 702 West Street, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 28th day of January, 2026 judgment by default will be rendered against you.
IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
A true copy from the record.
WITNESS my hand and seal of the Circuit Court this 22nd day of January, 2026.
CRAIG WILLIAMS, Circuit Clerk
By: Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: January 28, 2026
2nd Publication: February 4, 2026
3rd Publication: February 11, 2026
4th Publication: February 18, 2026
1st insertion 01/28/26 3-6

DISTRICT COURT EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA
NICOLETTE JOY HAYES Plaintiff, VS. JOSHUA SHAWN HAYES Defendant.
CASE NO.: CV 2601-276
DEPT: District Court

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
Upon reading the Ex Part Motion for Publication and corresponding declarations, it appearing that a verified complaint has been filed and a summons was issued directed to the Defendant; that Defendant is a necessary party; that the Defendant cannot be found after due diligence, or by concealment seeks to avoid the service of summons and complaint, and that the Defendant cannot be served by other means:
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Defendant may be served by publication of the summons in the (name of newspaper) McDonald County Press, and *Cassville Democrat*
Publication shall run at least once a week for a period of 4 consecutive weeks.
1st insertion 02/04/28 4-7

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING CASSVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CASSVILLE, MISSOURI
Notice is hereby given that the Cassville Industrial Development Corporation will hold its Annual Stockholder Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm at the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce located at 504 Main Street, Cassville, MO. Business on the agenda will include a financial statement for the past year and the election of one director.
Only insertion 02/04/28 4 only

NOTICE
Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 310-foot guyed tower (320 ft w/appurtenances) located east of State Hwy 248, approx. 877 feet SW of the intersection of State Hwy 248 and FR 2165, Cassville, MO 65625. Structure coordinates are: (N36-41-20.8)/(W93-49-13.7). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E (dual medium intensity) lighting. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna

ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, February 7, 2026 — 10 a.m.

Location: Go West of Wheaton, MO on Hwy 76 to Bethlehem Feed Mill. Turn left at the Jct's of Hwy's 76 & JJ. On Hwy JJ go South 7/10 mile then turn right on Camell Rd. Go 1 mile to auction on left. (1016 Camell Rd, Rocky Comfort Mo)

REAL ESTATE (3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME ON 40 ACRES M/L WITH NICE SHOP & MORE – JOHN DEERE TRACTOR – DODGE RAM PICKUP – UTV KAWASAKI MULE – TRAILER – 1969 CAMERO (TO BE RESTORED) – TOOLS – CATTLE CORRAL PANELS & MISC FARM ITEMS – POOL TABLE – HOUSEHOLD & MORE



John Deere Tractor: 2021 John Deere 5075 E Cab tractor w/John Deere 512 front loader, only 655 hrs (nice). **Dodge Ram:** 2015 Dodge Ram, 2500, heavy duty, crew cab, 4x4, automatic, Hemi, 6.4 liter (only 26xxx miles). **UTV:** 2017 Kawasaki mule, Pro FXI, EPS, 4x4, good tires, hard top, also full canvas enclosure & heat, 1028 hrs. **Camero:** 1969 Camaro. This car was in the process of being restored. All kinds of parts to finish the restoration. 2 engines to pick from & much more. Car is stored inside garage. **Farm Items:** Approx (60) 5'x12' Priefert panels – Priefert head gate – misc gates & panels – misc galvanized stock water tanks. **Implements:** Front load bale spike – 3 pt bale spike – 3 pt diggers – old 6' pull type brush hog – old Farmall tractor for parts or scrap. **Trailer:** Load Max 20' tandem axle, gooseneck trailer with ramps. (floor is rough). **Tools:** Ranger 8 Lincoln welder/generator – Miller Millermate 140 wire feed welder with acetylene bottle – Craftsman 220 upright 175 psi air compressor – torch set on cart – Troy Bilt 3100 psi pressure washer – welding helmets – Craftsman 5.5 hp 26" front tine tiller – DeWalt 14" cut off saw – Craftsman 1.0 hp floor mdl drill press – 6" bench grinder on stand – 20 ton shop press – Task Force tool chest – Craftsman roll around tool chest – several 20 lb. propane bottles – Kobalt 20 gal 175 psi upright air compressor – Kobalt Diamon plate truck tool box – acetylene bottles – assorted tools – sure to be more tools not listed. **Pool Table:** The C.L. Bailey Co, Marionville Mo pool table – pool cues & holder – arcade games, foosball table – Mini Legends pinball machine – Courtside dual basketball game – elect dart board. **Safes:** (2) sm metal gun safes – large old bank safe, came from The Old McGinty's Store in Neosho MO. **Household:** leather look studded sofa with recliners on both ends and matching swivel rocking/recliner & loveseat (nice)- oak dining table & 4 chairs – oak table – tooton – pine bar with (2) bar stools – elect fireplace – stereo & speakers – mini refrigerator – large chest freezer – sm Chiefs Red, Galanz refrigerator (like new) – Misc end & coffee tables – ant record cabinet w/radio – bunk bed – misc pictures – (2) barstools – oak entry table – 58" Hisense flatscreen TV – TV stand – Hide a bed sofa – chair – computer stand – salon chair - lots more household not listed. **Misc:** Polaris Big Boss, 4x6 ATV (rough) – Igloo dog house – (2) old riding mowers for parts or scrap – misc scrap – (4) iron wagon wheels – Elite Inversion table – lots of deer antlers – many more items not listed. **Real Estate:** 40 acres m/l farm with a nice 3 bedroom 2 bath doublewide home on a permanent foundation. This home has an attached oversized 3 car garage plus a nice family room addition with partial basement. Enter this home under a covered front porch into a nice size living room with vaulted ceiling. Open to the dining area and kitchen. The kitchen features a sm bar area, double SS sink, Kitchen Aid dishwasher & Hot Point gas range with hood. From the kitchen go down the hall to the utility room and a door leading to the master bath and a door leading out to the attached oversized insulated 3 car garage. On the garage end of the home is the master bedroom with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan, walk in closet & the master bathroom with skylight, garden tub & shower. On the south end of the home is a nice family room with fireplace, ceiling fan & vaulted ceiling. 2 more bedrooms and a bathroom with a nice upgraded shower. From the dining room go through the patio door into a nice large family room addition with tongue & groove pine ceiling, lots of windows and a large pantry, stairs leading down to a partial unfinished basement, used as a game room, mancave, etc. **Outside Amenities:** Nice big shop building with overhead doors, walk door, concrete floor & elect. An old barn, a separate area for a mobile home space with elect, eater and septic. Fenced 40 acres m/l rolling hills with pasture & trees. This home has central heat & air. Also an outside wood burning furnace, rural water & septic's. **Note:** Bill & Helen have lived here for forty plus years. With the passing of Mr. Bertalotto, Helen is moving to be closer to family. If you or someone you know is looking for a nice 40 acre farm, here it is. Be sure and get your finances in order. Someone will be getting a nice farm. Many nice items in this auction so bring a friend or two and come to this nice auction. Call to preview the Real Estate before auction day or to get pre registered. 417-847-2507. Please read all terms and conditions. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card w/2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee will apply. If paying by check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the auction company bank unless you make prior arrangements with the auction company at least 24 hours before auction day. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO Et AR State
Champion Auctioneer



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer

Estate of: Bill Bertalotto
Owner: Helen Bertalotto

STUMPF'S

REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.

www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507

Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is A1365104. Environmental Effects: Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. Online filings are strongly encouraged. Mailing address for a paper filing is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, ATTN: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Only insertion 02/04/28 4 only

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI CASSVILLE

IN RE:
THE NAME CHANGE OF
Eleece Williams,
Petitioner,
Case No. 26BR-
DR00002

JUDGMENT FOR
CHANGE OF NAME OF
ADULT INDIVIDUAL

Public notice is hereby
given that on the 2nd day of
February 2026, by an Order
of the Circuit

Court of Barry County,
Missouri,
Case No. 26BR-
DR00002,
the name of
ELEECE
NICOLETTE WILLIAMS
was changed to
LEAH TRILLA KING.
Filed February 2, 2026
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
Judge
Robert Foulke
1st insertion 02/04/28
4-6

PROBATE

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, BARRY
COUNTY, MISSOURI

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

NOTICE OF LETTERS
TESTAMENTARY
GRANTED (SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION)

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

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

RUTH ETTA BUCHNER,
decedent by the Probate
Division of the Circuit
Court of BARRY COUNTY,
Missouri. The name and
business address of the
personal representative
is:

BILL BUCHNER,
21705 JASMINE LANE ,
EAGLE ROCK, MO 65641
The personal
representative's attorney's
name, business address
and phone number is:
CORDELIA HERRIN,
P.O. BOX 276
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-847-2734

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

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

then within two months from
the date it was mailed or
served, whichever is later,
or be forever barred to the
fullest extent permissible by
law. Such six-month period
and such two-month

period do not extend the
limitation period that would
bar claims one year after
Decedent's death, as
provided in Section
473.444, RSMo, or any
other applicable limitation
periods. Nothing in Section
473.033, RSMo, shall
be construed to bar any
action against a decedent's
liability insurance carrier

through a defendant ad
litem pursuant to Section
537.021, RSMo.

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

Date of first publication:
January 14, 2026

Date of second
publication:

January 21, 2026

Date of third publication:
January 28, 2026

Date of fourth publication:
February 4, 2026

Craig Williams,

Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker, Deputy
Probate Clerk
Receipt of this notice
by mail should not be
construed by the recipient
to indicate that the recipient
necessarily has a
beneficial interest in the
estate. The nature and
extent of any person's
interest, if

any, can be determined
from the files and records
of this estate in the Probate
Division of the above
referenced Circuit Court.
1st insertion 01/14/26
1-4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI PROBATE
DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
BETTY MAY JOHNSON,
DECEASED ESTATE NO.
25BR-PR00065

NOTICE OF FILING
FINAL SETTLEMENT
& PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN the Estate
of

BETTY MAY JOHNSON,
Deceased:

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

Angela C. Artherton,
Attorney
Sam Cowherd,
Personal Representative
10388 Farm Road 2172
Cassville, MO 65625
(417) 665-6511 angela@
arthertonlaw.com
Dates of Publication –
1/14/2026,
1/21/2026,
1/28/2026,
2/4/2026
THE ABOVE-
REFERENCED DATE
OF FEBRUARY 12,
2026 IS NOT A COURT
APPEARANCE DATE.

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

1st insertion 01/14/26
1-4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI PROBATE
DIVISION

Estate No.
25BR-PR00036
In the Estate of:
Arlie Cleo Knighten
Deceased

NOTICE OF FILING OF
FINAL SETTLEMENT
AND PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE
ESTATE OF Arlie Cleo
Knighten, Deceased:

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

James Randall
Attorney
405 E Broadway, Monett,
MO 65708
Address
January 14, 21, 28,
February 4.2026
Dates of publication

Personal Representative
ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF SERVICE OF NOTICE
Service of the Within
notice is acknowledged at
Monett Missouri on January
6, 2026

PROOF OF MAILING
OF COPY OF NOTICE
OF FILING OF FINAL
SETTLEMENT AND
PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

Samantha Prescott, on
that state(s) that a copy
of the above Notice was
mailed by the undersigned
on November
25, 2025 by ordinary
mail, according to law, to:

Heirs
Joe & Carolyn Whitmore
15238 County Lane 137
Carthage MO 64836

Sean Knighten Piper
Knighten

3706 Rt. 2217 Washburn
MO 65772

5320 McClelland Blvd,
Joplin, MO 64804

The foregoing is made
under oath or affirmation
and its representations are
true and correct to the best
knowledge

and belief of the
undersigned, subject to the
penalties of making a false
affidavit or declaration.

1st insertion 01/14/26
1-4

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

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

NOTICE OF LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION
GRANTED (SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested
in the Estate of
JAMES KING,
Decedent:

On January 14, 2026,
the following individual was
appointed the personal
representative of the estate
of

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

The personal
representative's name and
business address is:

WANDA FOWLER,
211 EAGLE NEST
CASSVILLE, MO 65625

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

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

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

publication of this notice
or if a copy of this notice
was mailed to, or served
upon, such creditor by the
personal representative,
then within two months from
the date it was mailed or
served, whichever is later,
or be forever barred to the
fullest extent permissible by
law. Such six-month period
and such two-month

period do not extend the
limitation period that would
bar claims one year after
Decedent's death, as
provided in Section
473.444, RSMo, or any
other applicable limitation
periods. Nothing in Section
473.033,

RSMo, shall be construed
to bar any action against
a decedent's liability
insurance carrier through a
defendant ad litem pursuant
to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's
death:

01-DEC-2025

Craig Williams,

Circuit Clerk

by S. Parker,

Probate Clerk

Date of first publication:

January 21, 2026

Date of second
publication:

January 28, 2026

Date of third publication:

February 4, 2026

Date of fourth publication:

February 11, 2026

Receipt of this notice
by mail should not be
construed by the recipient
to indicate that the recipient
necessarily has a
beneficial interest in the
estate. The nature and
extent of any person's
interest, if any, can be
determined from the
files and records of

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, February 9, 10 a.m.

Location: Exeter, Mo. Corner of Hwy 76 & Walker St. (100 Walker St, Exeter MO)

REAL ESTATE (FIXER UPPER) – MISC HOUSEHOLD & SHOP ITEMS



Misc Household & Shop Items: old cross cut saw (nice) – old hand saws – misc long handle tools - nippers – cordless weed eaters – 32’ alum ext. ladder – 16’ alum ext. ladder – alum step ladder – 1 hp Magna Force air compressor – ext. cords – gas can – sm dolly cart – Coleman cooler – Coleman lantern – tackle box & tackle – handicap walker w/seat & break – TV stand – glass top dining table – glider chair & ottoman – (2) older flat screen TV’s – assorted sm chest of drawers – office chair – misc end tables – old rocking/recliner – misc pictures – med size table – (4) dining chairs – Whirlpool elect dryer – Roper washer – Charm Glow electric heater – table lamps – Mr. Coffee – Mr. Heater natural gas 30,000 BTU – Panasonic sm portable TV – vacuums – floor fan – misc sheets & linens, afghan, blankets & quilts – misc. **Real Estate:** 2 could be 3 bedroom, 1 bath fixer upper, doublewide on permanent foundation plus detached oversized 2 car garage. Enter this home under a covered front porch into a nice size living room with large windows, ceiling fan & coat closet. Then, on into the dining area with large windows, joined to the kitchen. Now down the hall where the utility room is with an outside entry door, a large bedroom that could be divided to make a 2nd bedroom. Also, a full bathroom, (2) linen closets & a 2nd or could be a 3rd bedroom. **Outside amenities:** Side walk leading to the concrete driveway and the detached oversized 2 car garage with concrete floor and elect. All this on a very nice 1 & ½ lots on the corner on Hwy 76 & Walker St. **Note:** This is the Estate of James King Jr. James was living here until his recent passing. However, it is a fixer upper and is a great location and will be a nice 2 or 3 bedroom home when fixed up. Fixer, flipper or fix it and make it your home. Call to preview before auction day or to get pre registered for the auction. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. Sells subject to probate court approval.

Estate of: James King Jr.
Owner: Wanda Fowler



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State
Champion Auctioneer



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, February 16, 2026 — 10 a.m.

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

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

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



Go to www.stumpffauction.com to view complete listing and photos
See next weeks paper for complete listing

Estate of: Steve Carpenter
Owner: Peggy Carpenter



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State
Champion Auctioneer



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer

this estate in the Probate
Division of the above
referenced Circuit Court.
1st insertion 01/21/26
2-5

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

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

AMENDED NOTICE
OF FILING OF FINAL
SETTLEMENT AND
PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE
ESTATE OF
HUBERT LEE
SHEPHERD, deceased:

You are hereby notified
that the undersigned
Personal Representative
will file a Final Settlement
and Petition for
determination of the
persons who are the
successors in interest to
the personal/real estate of
the decedent and of the

extent and character of
their interest therein and for
distribution of such property,
on or about February
26, 2026 or as may be
continued by the Court.
and that any objections or
exceptions to such Final
Settlement or petition or
any item thereof must be
in writing and filed within
twenty days after the filing
of such final Settlement.

DONALD L. CUPPS,
Attorney
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin &
Schwartz
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625

CHRISTINE SHEPHERD
Personal Representative
Dates of Publication
1/21/2026,
1/28/2026,
2/4/2026,
2/11/2026

THE ABOVE
REFERENCED DATE
IS NOT A COURT
APPEARANCE DATE.

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

1st insertion 01/21/26
2-5

TRUSTEE'S SALES
TRUSTEE'S NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

To all persons interested
in the estate of
HOY L. BILYEU,
deceased:

The undersigned,
RODGER L. BILYEU,
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:
804 9th St
Purdy, MO 65734

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-
505, RSMO.

Rodger L. Bilyeu
Trustee
By: Carnahan Evans PC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7B

Call 847-2610
to subscribe

2025-2026

CASSVILLE

TIP-OFF

Theme: "Adam Sandler"

Tip-Off Candidates



Cassville’s theme for Tip-Off this year is “Adam Sandler.” Candidates for Tip-Off royalty are, front row, from left: Freshman Olivia Cypret, of Cassville, daughter of Casey and Anthonly Cypret; senior Layla Bailey, of Cassville, daughter of John and the late Tonya Bailey; senior Claire Reuter, of Cassville, daughter of Ben and Jayme Reuter; and junior Taylor Yarnall, of Cassville, daughter of Chad and Kristi Yarnall. Back row: freshman Hayden Jereczek, of Cassville, grandson of Michael Jereczek; senior Timothy Cash, of cassville, son of Eric Cash and Holly Miller; senoir Aiden McBroom, of Cassville, son of Tony and Jennifer McBroom; and junior Carson Cash, of Cassville, son of Jona Anderson and Danel Cash.

WILDCATS

BASKETBALL



Members of the Wildcats basketball team include: Jayden Barker-Ritchie, Carlos Barrientos, Dylan Bohmke, Tyson Bohmke, Masin Bryan, Spencer Drollinger, Nicholas Edie, Mquade Farris, Wylan Farris, Wyatt Hollingsworth, Easton Hughes, Elijah Keeney, Cheney Kelley, Brayden Phillips, Cashis Smith, Kaden Stearns, Baylee Taylor, Grant Varner and Aiden Whittington.

LADY WILDCATS

BASKETBALL



Members of the Lady Wildcats basketball team include: Briley Artherton, Aubrie Atkinson, Tomi Blankenship, Raegan Doucet, Riley Doucet, Brylee Gross, Alexandra Dawn Holycross, Audrey Kennedy, Taylor Kennedy, Addy Ramaeker, Kynzleigh Scott, Brianna Still, Samantha Stockton, Aubrey Stoufer, Mckenzie Wall, Brynn Whittenburg and Madison Yockey.

Willis
Insurance, Inc.
Since 1887

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

Bridgeway Plaza
Shell Knob, MO 65747
417-858-3747

www.willisinsured.com



Barry Electric
Cooperative



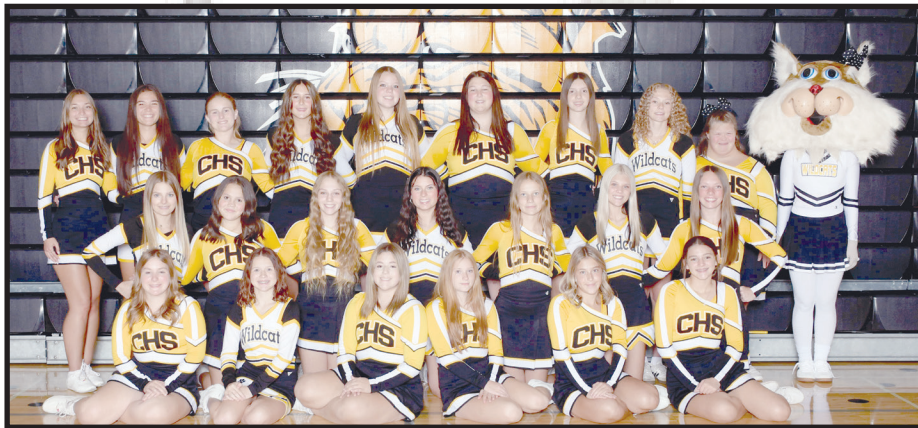
goBEC
FIBER NETWORK

Play fast
with our
fiber!

417-847-2131
4015 Main St., Cassville
www.barryelectric.com

CASSVILLE

CHEERLEADING



Members of the Cassville cheer squad include: Amber Davis, Arianna Greathouse, Lilli Proffitt, Jadyn Stewart, Caysee Stillings, Courtney Wall, Mckenzie Wall, Ava Hinson, Brooklyn Krallman, Kenzie Davis, Emily Anders, Reanna Royalty, Lydia Curbow, Payton Ray, Gracie Maher, Riley Harrison, Hopelyne Thompson, Olivia Cypret, Madison Humphrey, Nevaeh Hall, Lydia Cupps, Olivia Workman and Olivia Miller.





SECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

MEMBER
FDIC




Cassville, Exeter & Wheaton
417-847-4794



BARRY COUNTY
FARMERS COOP

Exeter, Missouri
PROPANE • DIESEL • FEED • FERTILIZER

Exeter
417-835-3465



Stark City
417-638-5513


TAKING ON THE TIGERS!

Cassville vs. Skyline



Friday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

CASSVILLE WRESTLING



Members of the Cassville boys wrestling team include: Tyler Annecharico, Brylar Beranek, Joshua Crawford, Koby Fare, Kole Fry, Trevor Garnett, Zaiden Hall, Tyler Hodge, Rylen Holman, Carson Hutchens, Jesse James, Riley James, Devin Johns, Bonifacio Lopez, Zachary Myers, Logan Parsons, Mason Rillstone, Colton Roark, Travis Rodgers, Braydyn Sizemore, Ethan Sizemore, Easton Stone, Tristan Thompson, Noah Uria, Kellen Craig Weldy and Michael Winchell.



Members of the Cassville girls wrestling team include: Isabella Bauman, Allison Deaver, Myah Dunfee, Gracy Farsungchin, Estrella Garcia, Alexis Lands, Molly Pickett, Emma Roney, Hopelyne Raschelle Thompson, Anna VanDerhoef and Analeigh Winchell.




417-847-6560417-846-7478



Aiden Whittington



Go 'Cats!
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE



Caiden Edie

Cassville Democrat

Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Carlos Barrientos

Chad Yarnall
Multi-Line Agent
417-847-3399
cyarnall@mof.com



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



Cash Smith

Troutman Media LLC

• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday





Cheney Kelley

Fohn Funeral Home

THE AREA'S MOST OFTEN CHOSEN FUNERAL HOME

Fohn, Cassville ~ McQueen, Wheaton



Dylan Bohmke

Cassville Democrat

Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Easton Hughes

Fohn Funeral Home

THE AREA'S MOST OFTEN CHOSEN FUNERAL HOME

Fohn, Cassville ~ McQueen, Wheaton



Elijah Keeney

Chad Yarnall
Multi-Line Agent
417-847-3399
cyarnall@mof.com



Grant Varner

Chad Yarnall
Multi-Line Agent
417-847-3399
cyarnall@mof.com



Jayden Ritchie

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m, Monday-Friday



Kaden Stearns

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m, Monday-Friday



Masin Bryan



GO WILDCATS!
900 Main St, Cassville
(417) 847-0470



Mquade Farris

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Spencer Drollinger

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Tyson Bohmke

ARVEST
503 Main St.
Cassville
Member FDIC
417-846-1500
arvest.com



Wyatt Hollingsworth

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m, Monday-Friday



Addy Ramaeker

Chad Yarnall
Multi-Line Agent
417-847-3399
cyarnall@mof.com



Alex Holycross

ARVEST
503 Main St.
Cassville
Member FDIC
417-846-1500
arvest.com



Samantha Stockton

Fohn Funeral Home
THE AREA'S MOST OFTEN CHOSEN
FUNERAL HOME
Fohn, Cassville ~ McQueen, Wheaton



Aubrey Stoufer

ARVEST
503 Main St.
Cassville
Member FDIC
417-846-1500
arvest.com



Aubrie Atkinson

Chad Yarnall
Multi-Line Agent
417-847-3399
cyarnall@mof.com



Audrey Kennedy

Go Lady 'Cats!
Mike's AUTO CARE
417-228-6085 Cassville, MO
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE





Bri Still

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Briley Artherton

ARVEST
503 Main St. Cassville 417-846-1500 arvest.com
Member FDIC



Brylee Gross

Go Lady 'Cats!
Mike's AUTO CARE 417-228-6085 Cassville, MO
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE



Brynn Whittneburg

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday



Kynzleigh Scott

Go Lady 'Cats!
Mike's AUTO CARE 417-228-6085 Cassville, MO
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE



Madison Yockey

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Makenzi Wall

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Reagan Doucet

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC
• Business Cards • Signs • Posters
• Stickers • Booklets • Promo Items
417-847-2610
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday



Sammi Stockton

Cassville Democrat
Go Wildcats!
600 Main St., Cassville • 417-847-2610



Taylor Kennedy

Go Lady 'Cats!
Mike's AUTO CARE 417-228-6085 Cassville, MO
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE



Tomi Blankenship

Go Lady 'Cats!
Mike's AUTO CARE 417-228-6085 Cassville, MO
10010 FR 2160, CASSVILLE

