



FOCUSED ON FOOD: HARVIC FARMS CHANGING MODEL — PAGE 7A

WHEATON GIRLS TURN IN 14 WINS >>>

Lady Bulldogs see growth in youthful season. — PAGE 1B



CASSVILLE Democrat

APRIL 1, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

CHS wastewater positive for nitazenes

District aims to use data to educate students, parents, community

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville school district was one of 37 in Missouri par-

ticipating in a voluntary wastewater monitoring program, and it was one of 26 that tested positive for nitazenes in its wastewater.

Merlyn Johnson, Cassville superintendent, said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reached out to the district in the fall of 2025 offering the testing

program, facilitated by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

"I was intrigued and thought it would be good to be proactive, so I put us on the list," Johnson said. "The testing did not start until January, and we did not get the data back until late February or early March. This data can give DPS a lens on

where some more serious drugs are being detected, and by providing that data, the goal is to focus on the community and the problem, and provide resources and learning opportunities for families, the community and the district."

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

WHEATON SCHOOLS

What: Proposing \$2 million bond issue
For: HVAC, roofing, asbestos removal, debt refinancing
More: Possible ancillary projects if funds allow

Wheaton schools proposes bond issue

\$2 million would go to HVAC, roofing, asbestos removal, debt financing

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Wheaton school district has proposed a no-tax-increase bond issue on the April 7 ballot, aiming to address aging infrastructure while freeing up general funds for operations use.

Chris Paullus, Wheaton superintendent said the measure, titled Proposition Critical Infrastructure, focuses on both facility improvements and financial restructuring.

"It's a \$2 million no-tax increase issue," he said. "The biggest things are we are going to refinance some debt, moving it into our debt fund and out of our operating fund, and then pay for HVAC upgrades, pay for some roofing improvements, and then do a few other smaller ancillary things."

In addition to major upgrades, Paullus said the district plans to address lingering safety concerns and, if funding allows, make additional improvements.

"We've got a little bit of asbestos still on campus, so we'll take care of that problem," Paullus said. "And then if anything's left, possibly do some playground upgrades or maybe some athletic upgrades."

The need for roofing work is driven largely by the age and condition of existing structures.

"Usually we do a roofing project once every few years," Paullus said. "It's just time, but for these two roofs are 20 and 25 years old."

Despite ongoing maintenance, Paullus said repairs are no longer sufficient.

"We've been patching them, but it's just time to replace them," Paullus said. "They've served their time. The roofing projects would be in kind of the center of our campus in front of the gym and then over on the high school side"

Similarly, HVAC systems across the campus have exceeded their expected lifespan.

"For HVAC, the units that we'd be replacing, most of them

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

'NO KINGS' RALLY

When: Saturday morning and early afternoon

Where: Barry County courthouse square

More: About 75 people protest current presidential administration

Area residents say, 'No Kings'

75 people attend first-of-its-kind rally on courthouse square

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

About 75 people lined Cassville's Main Street in front of the courthouse on Saturday to protest the policies of the current presidential administration and to express solidarity with some 3,000 No Kings Rallies scheduled in cities across the nation.

Organized by the Barry County Democrats, Cassville's gathering was a first. Nationwide, Saturday marked the third No Kings event.

Those in attendance ranged in age from high school students to senior citizens, all of whom were glad to have the opportunity to express their feelings.

"This event — and protesting President Trump's policies — isn't about being a Democrat or a Republican; it's about being pro-American," said Katie

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

On the hunt!



Brooklyn Ramey, 9, of Fairview, races to one of the last eggs left during the inaugural Cassville Fire Protection District egg hunt on Saturday at Cassville South Park. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Pedestrian bridge project moves forward after decades of discussion

New plan, location would cut cost of bridge in half

BY GWENDYLAN HARMON

Cassville Democrat Intern

A long-discussed plan for a pedestrian bridge in Cassville is once again moving forward, as city officials are revising plans aimed at reducing costs and improving accessibility for residents.

The proposed bridge would cross over Flat Creek near Sale Barn Road.

Richard Asbill, Cassville city administrator, said the idea of improving pedestrian access across Flat Creek has

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

What: In planning stages

Where: Along Sale Barn Road, near the former Designs by Debbie building

More: Original plan on other side of the bridge estimated at \$1.3 million; new project cost estimated at \$600,000

been in discussion for more than two decades. The concept dates back roughly 22 years, but the pedestrian-only bridge itself has been more seriously considered over the past 6-7 years.

Active work on the project, including planning, location evaluation and coordination with state agencies, has taken place within the last two years.

Asbill said the current iteration of the pedestrian bridge plan would put the structure near the former Designs by Debbie building and would cross Flat Creek, connecting both sides without requiring residents to use the Highway 76/112 vehicular bridge.

Currently, the project is undergoing review through the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). City officials are requesting that the bridge be moved from its originally planned location — on the other side of the vehicular bridge by the former pawn shop, to the new site.

"We're in the process of sending it back through MoDOT review," Asbill explained. "We want to move

it from the planned location to a new location to reduce cost and make it more accessible."

Cost has been one of the biggest challenges for the project. An earlier bid for construction came in at approximately \$1.3 million, which the city determined it could not afford. Because of that, officials began exploring alternative locations.

"We're looking at changing the location and scope, and how we can partner with MoDOT to accomplish the project," Asbill said. "We believe we can take the project cost down to about 600,000."

That figure represents the city's target budget moving forward, although final

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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Community Collective seeking sponsors for CPR/AED/First Aid classes

The Cassville Community Collective has announced upcoming Adult and Infant CPR/AED/First Aid Classes for the Cassville community. These classes will be available to individuals, businesses and organizations who want to be prepared in emergency situations. To help make these classes possible, the collective are currently seeking donations to purchase essential supplies such as CPR manikins, first aid materials and other training equipment. Every contribution goes directly toward equipping the community with the tools and education needed to respond confidently in everyday emergencies.

Monett Historical Society program April 21

Monett Historical Society Monthly program will be held on April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Event Center of the museum. The program for this evening will feature Kaitlyn McConnell, a noted Ozark historian. McConnell began writing about the Ozarks when she was 17 years old. In 2025 she published "The Ozarks Pie Project Diary," a collection of 48 tried-and-tested pie recipes from vintage local cookbooks. The event is free to the public.

Capps Creek Road District to meet

The Capps Creek Special Road District will meet in regular session on April 16 at noon, at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

Absentee voting ongoing for April elections

Absentee voting for the April 7 General Municipal Election is ongoing at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Clerk's Office will also be open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon for absentee voting. A photo ID must be presented to vote. Examples include a Missouri Driver's License, Missouri Non-Driver's license, Military ID or Passport. Anyone who has had an address change should contact the Clerk's Office to update their information prior to Election Day. Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Election Day. 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.

Kings Prairie Cemetery Annual Meeting

The Kings Prairie Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. on May 11 at New Liberty Church on Highway Z, southeast of Monett. All who are interested are urged to attend. Contributions for mowing and upkeep of the cemetery may be mailed to Kings Prairie Cemetery, c/o Dan Shelton, 2541 Farm Road 1120, Monett, MO 65708.

Wheaton Road District meeting on Monday

The monthly Wheaton Road District Meeting will be held on April 6 at 5 p.m. at the Wheaton road district barn on Hwy A across from Holmes Farm Supply.

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

The Barry County Community Garden has scheduled its monthly meetings on the first Monday of every month, at Harvick Farms, located at 16062 Hwy. 76 in Cassville. The work in the garden days are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Garden, located at on 10160 Farm Road 2160. Tentative working days depend on the weather and will be updated on the organization's Facebook page, "Barry County Community Garden," and people may contact the page for more information. Produce from the garden goes to the Cassville Pantry. New members and/or volunteers may come and reserve a plot.

Ozark Country Quilters show April 10-11

O C the Quilts is a judged quilt show presented by the Ozark Country Quilters of Cassville/Monett. In addition to over 200 items displayed, there will be a quilt turning, demonstrations, vendors, boutique, opportunity quilt, special exhibits and knife/scissor sharpening. The event will be on April 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Crowder College in Cassville, located at 4020 N. Main. Admission is \$5, and children under 12 are free.

Jenkins voters urged to vote absentee

Due to the bridge closure on Highway 248 over Flat Creek, voters in the Jenkins precinct are encouraged to vote absentee, especially those living on the West side of Flat Creek, due to the long detour that would be needed to get to the polling place on election day. Absentee voting is open Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the County Clerk's office, located 700 Main, Ste. 2, in Cassville. For more information, people may contact the Clerk's office at 417-847-2561 or by email at jennis@barrycountyclerk.com.

Cassville preschool, Kinder Academy, kindergarten screenings in April

The Cassville school district screening dates have been set for preschool, kinder academy and kindergarten students for the 2026-2027 school year. All screenings will take place in the FEMA 1 Building, located next to the football field. Families with an eligible child for either preschool or kindergarten screening should call the Primary Office at 417-847-2445 to make an appointment. Preschool screenings are April 13 and April 15. Preschool screening is for children ages three and four who live in the Cassville school district and will be 3 at the time of screening. Please plan for 30-45 minutes for the preschool screening appointment. Current Cassville preschool students do not need to participate in the screening. Kinder Academy and Kindergarten screenings are April 14 and April 16. Children that are 5 years old on or before July 31 should be screened for kindergarten. Families whose children are being screened for kinder academy or kindergarten should bring the following items to their appointment: Official birth certificate, immunization (shot) record, proof of residency (utility bill with name and address, real estate contract or rental agreement) and parent/guardian's photo ID. Anyone with questions may call 417-847-2445.

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.

Stouder receives Silver Beaver Award



Don Stouder, of Cassville, received the Silver Beaver Award from the Ozarks Trails Council of Scouting America at the annual Council Recognition Banquet held on March 14 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Springfield. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest service award for adult leaders from the Boy Scouts at the local Council level. Stouder, right, is pictured with his award and is joined by his wife, Jan Stouder. Contributed photo

Wheaton: Ancillary projects

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

are over 30 years old, but all of them are over 20," Paullus said.

Another goal of the funds involves refinancing existing debt currently paid out of operating funds.

"Currently, we've got a few COPs out there, so that's just debt that the district has to pay for out of operating funds," Paullus said. "Refinancing would allow the taxpayer, essentially, to flip the bill so that we could use all of our existing operating money for actual operations."

By shifting that burden, Paullus said the district can redirect funds toward instructional priorities.

"I can use it to pay teachers; I can use it to support student programs," Paullus said. "Right now, all of that's just tied up in past projects."

Paullus said the refinancing would provide both short-term and long-term financial relief.

"We would just move whatever a bond issue didn't cover from past projects into a bond issue now so that we can recoup those operating funds," Paullus said. "Next year, that'd be about \$116,000 back for us, and over the course of the next 10 years, it's well over \$1 million in recouped operating funds."

Beyond major infrastructure needs, the district has identified specific areas requiring attention, including asbestos removal beneath the aging stage in the gymnasium.

"The asbestos removal will definitely happen," Paullus said. "It's under our old stage and behind our old stage."

Addressing that issue would also open the door for future use of the space, he said.

"We'll have to pull the stage and then remove that asbestos, and then we can figure out what we're going to do with that area after that," Paullus said.

Additional potential projects fall into a secondary category, dependent on remaining funds.

"We'd like to do some lock-

er room renovations; we'd like to do some playground renovations," Paullus said. "We'd like to make that stage space more usable right now."

He also pointed to smaller maintenance needs across campus facilities.

"We've got some ceiling grids that are showing some age," Paullus said. "We've also still got some lighting conversions we'd like to do."

Athletic facilities are also included among the possible upgrades wish list.

"Baseball and softball field surfaces could use some work," Paullus said. "Our track has a couple of areas that have sunken down in the middle where we practice field events."

Improving those areas would enhance safety for students, he added.

"We'd like to get that dirt work taken care of, smooth that out and make it a little bit safer for our kids," Paullus said. "But again, all that's ancillary. It just depends on how much money we've got left after the big stuff."

Ultimately, Paullus said the proposal is about addressing pressing needs while preserving classroom resources.

"This just takes care of a lot of critical needs that are on campus," Paullus said. "We've got aging facilities."

He emphasized the financial impact on district operations and taxpayers.

"Right now, we're eating operating dollars to maintain those facilities, so this allows us to use our operating dollars for classroom practices," Paullus said. "If the voters support that idea, then we'll go with it, and at no additional cost to what they're currently experiencing."

Voters may have their say on the measure on April 7. To pass, the measure would need to receive four-sevenths support, or 57.14% in favor.

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About 75 area residents attended the No Kings rally on the Square in Cassville on March 28. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Roger Cusick, of Cassville, explained the meaning of his sign at Saturday's No Kings rally in Cassville. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



About 75 area residents attended the No Kings rally on the Square in Cassville on March 28. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



From left, Tom Patterson, of Monett; Louise Mitchell, of Cassville; and Brenda Snook, of Purdy, speak their minds from the sidelines at the No Kings rally in Cassville on Saturday. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Rally: A few counter-protestors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

McKean, 80-year-old Exeter resident, who carried a sign protesting the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good at the hands of ICE in Minnesota.

Roger Cusick, of Cassville, bore a sign with the slogan, "I may be Antifa," a choice of words he was happy to explain.

"My father served in World War II, and so did three of my wife's uncles," Cusick said. "They fought against fascism. I'm against fascism, too, and I would fight against it as well, so you could say that I'm 'anti-fascist.'"

Cusick said through research, he discovered there's no formal organization called Antifa, but if being against fascism makes him Antifa, he's OK with wearing the label.

Not all who attended the

event were able to stand, so they sat on benches and in lawn chairs along the sidewalk, including Tom Patterson, of Monett, who held a sign with the single word, "Epstein."

Patterson's wife, Donna, however, stood on the curb with a megaphone, attracting the attention of passersby with her bark-style messages.

"I always considered myself an Independent, until Trump's first term, but when he was elected a second time, I felt like I needed to become more involved," said Donna Patterson, a retired teacher for Purdy schools. "I wouldn't have been able to do this when I was still teaching; the school board might have frowned on it."

At the opposite end of the age-spectrum, 18-year-old

Rebecca Patterson, of Exeter, also wants to make a difference in the world around her. She's starting by running for the position of mayor in her hometown. Her mother, Linda Patterson, who accompanied her daughter to the No Kings rally, says she gives Rebecca the credit for her own growing political awareness.

A few counter-protestors put in an appearance. Two pickups drove past multiple times, "rolling coal," and a lone individual on the opposite side of Main Street displayed a sign to passers-by saying, "Don't pay any attention to the retards across the street."

According to multiple sources, total attendance at No Kings rallies across the US totaled approximately 8 million people.

Nitazenes: Open to talking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

nitazenes, or benzimidazole-oids, are synthetic opioids that originated in the 1950s, and since 2019, the abuse of nitazenes is similar to other synthetic opioids and has resulted in adverse health effects, including death.

Used for their psychoactive effects, nitazenes are likely to be abused in the same manner as schedule I opioids like heroin, etonitazene and isotonitazene. They may be found in tablets, like fake oxycodone, heroin, ketamine and synthetic cannabinoids, and they can be injected, inhaled or swallowed.

Nitazenes demonstrate a potency up to 500 times that of morphine and shown by one animal study to have a higher potency than fentanyl.

Johnson said in cooperation with the city of Cassville, DPS tested the wastewater pipe coming out of Cassville High School on Partridge Street, pulling samples weekly from 2 feet into the pipe coming directly from the school building.

"DPS brought in their wastewater experts, and they are doing the testing," Johnson said. "Our tap water is safe to drink. This is sewer water [coming from flushed toilets or water going down sinks]. They tested the water during the school day to get majority student restroom use. We understand there could be adults using the facilities, as well. Regardless if it's from an adult or a kid, if an adult is using, we would hope to catch that and deal with it employment wise, and if it's from students, we have policies to deal with that."

The testing is not designed to pinpoint any one individual who may have deposited nitazenes into the wastewater, rather, to provide a full picture of nitazenes present in the wastewater.

"We are working to come up with preventative measures," Johnson said. "We have been in contact with Sheriff Danny Boyd, and a plan for the Sheriff's office to come and educate students about dangerous drugs. But, this has been a problem for a while, and it's not just here."

Other Ozarks schools with positive results included Republic, Marshfield, Marionville, Eminence, Fair Grove, Salem and St. James. Monett, Crane, Bakersfield, Fordland, Strafford and Waynesville all tested negative.

"We do random drug tests of kids who play sports or drive cars to school, and some people disagree with that, but I think the data we are getting shows the need," Johnson said. "We don't believe [nitazenes] in the wastewater necessarily indicates drug use during the school day, but it can be something where someone has used a drug within the last 24 hours, or if someone is flushing pills down the toilet, that would be a high indication."

Johnson said the district has access to a program dashboard comparing Cassville to other districts, and as Cassville continues to use that data, it will learn more

information about where it stands.

"We are open to talking, and we want to be proactive," Johnson said. "We're looking for ways to educate kids. Kids are able to get stuff, and they trust each other. We've talked about approaching businesses and asking for help. We feel we've been put in a corner, and we have to fight back."

On Thursday, Johnson release the following statement regarding the wastewater testing results:

"As superintendent of Cassville R-IV Schools, I want to take a moment to share with our students, families and community about an important step we are taking to support student safety and well-being.

"Cassville Schools has chosen to voluntarily participate in the State of Missouri's wastewater testing program. This program is provided at no cost to our district, and our decision to participate reflects our commitment to being proactive and preventative in how we approach student health and safety. Rather than waiting to respond to potential issues, we believe it is our responsibility to stay informed and act early.

"It is important for our community to understand what this program is, and what it is not. The testing conducted through the Department of Public Safety is highly credible and designed to provide reliable, science-based information. At the same time, it does not identify individuals in any way. The data is aggregated, meaning it gives us a broad picture of potential trends, not specific people. This allows us to focus on awareness, education, and support rather than enforcement.

"We also want to be very clear: this is not a challenge unique to Cassville. Communities across Missouri and the nation are facing similar concerns related to dangerous substances, including emerging threats such as nitazenes. This is a widespread issue, and our participation in this program is about being part of a larger, coordinated effort to address it responsibly.

"Our focus moving forward will remain on prevention and education. We are committed to equipping our students and families with accurate information, raising awareness about the risks, and providing the support needed to make safe and informed decisions. As part of these efforts, we are currently making arrangements to invite Sheriff Danny Boyd and his team to speak with our students in the very near future to further reinforce these important messages.

"We will continue working closely with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and our local partners to ensure we are responding appropriately and responsibly to any information we receive.

"At the end of the day, this effort is about caring for our students, supporting our families, and strengthening our community. We appreciate your partnership as we take this proactive step together."

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW

A generational problem

Last week, a flurry of chatter in the Cassville community surrounded a news report about something I had never heard of — nitazenes.

Last fall, the Cassville school district was offered a free program to test the high school's wastewater, and Superintendent Merlyn Johnson opted in. Done at specific times aimed at capturing school day use, and no outside adult use during extracurricular activities the public attends, the Department of Public Safety pulled samples weekly from 2 feet inside the wastewater pipe exiting the high school along Partridge Street.

The result? DPS detected nitazenes.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, nitazenes, or benzimidazole-oxides, are synthetic opioids that originated in the 1950s, and since 2019, the abuse of nitazenes is similar to other synthetic opioids and has resulted in adverse health effects, including death. Used for their psychoactive effects, nitazenes are likely to be abused in the same manner as schedule I opioids like heroin, etonitazene and isotonitazene. They may be found in tablets, like fake oxycodone, heroin, ketamine and synthetic cannabinoids, and they can be injected, inhaled or swallowed.

Nitazenes demonstrate a potency up to 500 times that of morphine and shown by one animal study to have a higher potency than fentanyl.

So, how are nitazenes in the wastewater? The answer — they are present in the urine and/or excrement from students, or possibly staff, who use the restroom during the school day. This doesn't mean students or staff are using drugs during the school day, rather, that they are likely using outside of school then using school restroom facilities within 24 hours of use.

Unfortunately, the result does not come as much of a surprise to anyone who has been in the Cassville community for any significant amount of time. Graduates over the last 30-40 years, and even more recently, have said on social media that drug use was common during their prep years.

Even more recently — last November — Cassville Assistant Principal Jody Cavness wrote a "Community Voices" column for this publication underscoring the prevalence of marijuana at the high school. In the last two years he said, Cassville has 22 suspensions for THC violations, and at the time that article was published three months into the current school year, Cassville had 15 long-term suspensions for marijuana use.

The same week Cavness' piece ran, I did our weekly Through the Years section. That very same week in 1995, Bob Mitchell wrote a column lamenting the school district's challenges with marijuana.

This is not a new problem. It spans decades and generations, and it remains prolific throughout our community.

Cavness' piece was written before any wastewater testing was done, hence the lack of surprise in the testing's results.

So, where is it coming from? The fact that the positive result is for nitazenes is telling. There are a handful of businesses locally that sell marijuana products — at least six that I can think of off the top of my head.

Only one of those businesses — the Cassville Dispensary — is put through rigorous state oversight and standards. Furthermore, the Dispensary requires an ID at the door, which is scanned and would be immediately deemed invalid if fake.

The other five — who have each been served cease and desist letter I'm told — sell all kinds of a range of products not under any oversight. Not tested. Not regulated. Nothing. I know plenty of parents of high school students, and they say if you ask the students, they all know where the substances are coming from.

Are these businesses selling directly to minors? I'll give the benefit of the doubt to that question. Are there kids getting their hands on products from those businesses? Assuming the Department of Public Safety's testing results are valid, the answer is an unequivocal yes.

So, what's next? I have to give credit to Merlyn. Opting into this study and facing the results is not easy. He could have very easily declined and avoided the hula-balloo that has ensued. Yet, that's not his tact. Merlyn said in our interview last week on the subject two things that stuck out to me. One, that the district opted in to face this problem head-on. Two, that he feels the district has been backed into a corner and needs to fight back.

So, what does that look like? School officials are considering going into any and all businesses that sell unregulated marijuana products and impressing on the managers or owners that this is a problem. Next, they are in contact with Sheriff Danny Boyd in hopes of bringing in law enforcement to better-educate students about the dangers of drugs of all kinds, hopefully emphasizing the effects of synthetic drugs as more dangerous because no one locally can tell you what's in them.

Beyond that, parents and the community need education the subject — parents specifically. It's not beyond the realm to believe minors could be swiping products their parents have bought. It's also not beyond the realm to believe, as Merlyn said in our interview, that minors share these products — and trust their friends that they are safe.

So, what does the future look like? How do we stop a multi-generational problem? The short answer — there isn't one. This problem is local, regional, national. Thirty-seven districts opted into this testing, and 27 tested positive.

Seems to me as a community, as the Ozarks, as a country, we have work to do. This transcends politics, lifestyles and opinions. It's not OK — and if we don't take action, action will take our children's futures.

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



KYLE TROUTMAN

COMMUNITY VOICES

The water rose, so did we: What the 7th street bridge represents

This week, the City of Cassville will reopen the 7th Street Bridge — a moment many in our community have waited years to see.

For some, it will feel like a return to normal. For others, it will serve as a reminder of just how much has changed since the flood of 2017 — and how flooding is part of Cassville's history.

That flood was not just a high-water event. It reshaped how we think about infrastructure, access and preparedness. Flat Creek, which typically flows quietly through our community, rose to levels few had ever seen — reaching nearly 26 feet at its peak and pushing well beyond its banks.

Streets flooded, access points were cut off, and a vital connection point — the 7th Street Bridge — was lost.

But flooding is not new to Cassville. Historical records show that as far back as the 1930s, heavy rainfall events brought widespread flooding, damaged roads and bridges, and required evacuations along Flat Creek.

In many ways, this is part of Cassville's story. After all, we are the City of Seven Valleys.

And with that identity comes both beauty and responsibility. Water has always shaped this landscape, and it always will. While we cannot eliminate flood events, we can learn from them — and we have. The goal is to limit impact and reduce damage. The City appreciates the efforts of individuals like Corky Stehlik, Jerry Whatley, former City



RICHARD ASBILL

Administrator Steve Walensky and former Mayor Bill Shiveley for keeping that focus a priority.

Since 2017, the City of Cassville has worked alongside property owners, agencies and local partners to better manage water flow throughout our community. Efforts to clear debris, maintain channels, and improve drainage along Flat Creek and its tributaries have become an important part of reducing future impacts.

These are not always visible projects, but they matter. As we've seen in more recent events, routine maintenance and creek clearing can make a meaningful difference in how water moves and how quickly it recedes.

We have also learned that infrastructure must be built differently along Flat Creek and within our flood zones. The new 7th Street Bridge reflects that lesson. The previous crossing was more vulnerable to debris buildup and flood damage.

The new structure is designed to allow water to pass more freely, reducing blockage and improving long-term resilience. That is the key point — resilience. Just like the people of Barry County and Cassville.

Flood events are never positive. They bring disruption, damage, and uncertainty. But they also force us to evaluate, adapt, and improve. As a community, we have done — and must continue to do — just that.

The reopening of the 7th Street Bridge is not just about restoring a route to the park, the cemetery, or our neighborhoods. It is a symbol of what we can accomplish when we respond with purpose and work together toward a better outcome.

We know there will be future floods. That is part of living in a place shaped by valleys, creeks, and natural beauty. But we are better prepared today than we were yesterday — and that is something worth recognizing.

As we gather to reopen 7th Street Bridge, we are not celebrating the flood that took it — we are recognizing the progress that followed it. We are acknowledging the lessons learned, the work completed, and the commitment to continue improving.

Because in Cassville, resilience is not just something we talk about. It is something we build.

Richard Asbill is the city administrator for the city of Cassville. He is a retired school superintendent of Cassville and Bolivar. He may be reached at 417-847-4441

COMMUNITY VOICES

Implications of SB3 could create financial challenges

As the April 7 election approaches, Barry County residents will see Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) on the ballot.

This measure focuses on limiting how much property taxes can increase on a homeowner's primary residence, an idea many people find appealing. However, the issue has broader implications that are important for our county to understand.

Barry County is currently classified as a "0% growth" county. If SB 3 passes, this designation would mean that property tax revenues for local taxing entities, including schools, emergency services and local government, would be permanently capped at their Fiscal Year 2024 levels. In practical terms, even if property values increase, new homes are built, or inflation raises costs, the total amount of property tax collected locally would not grow.

Over time, this could



MERLYN JOHNSON

create financial challenges. Without the ability to increase revenue alongside rising costs, local services may face tighter budgets, reduced services or need to rely more heavily on alternative funding sources.

For public schools, the impact could be significant. In the Cassville R-IV School District, property taxes make up about 51% of total revenue. These funds support teacher and staff salaries, classroom resources, student programs and daily operations. When local revenue is limited, it directly affects a district's ability to maintain these services.

This comes at a time when school districts across Missouri are already facing financial pressures, including a projected state budget shortfall, potential reductions in per-student funding, and an existing gap in the state's funding formula.

At the same time, districts are being asked to meet higher expectations, expand programs, and enhance safety measures, often without additional funding.

• A "yes" vote would approve limits on how much property taxes can increase on primary residences. This could provide homeowners with more predictability and protection from rising tax bills. However, it would also slow the growth of funding available to local schools and services over time.

• A "no" vote would keep the current system in place. Property tax revenues would contin-

ue to adjust based on property values and local assessments, allowing schools and other services to maintain their current funding structure. However, homeowners could continue to see increases in property taxes if property values rise.

As voters consider this issue, it's important to weigh both the potential benefits and the long-term impacts on local services, including education. Decisions about property taxes are closely tied to the resources available for schools, public safety, and community needs.

I encourage you to review the ballot language, stay informed, and consider how this measure may affect both your households and the broader Cassville and Barry County communities.

Merlyn Johnson is the superintendent of the Cassville school district. He may be reached at mjohnson@cassville.k12.mo.us.

YOUR VIEW

Cassville woman: USPS failing disabled residents

Dear Editor:

I am writing to bring public attention to an ongoing and discriminatory issue regarding mail delivery at my address.

For some time now, the local post office has refused to deliver our mail, claiming that our dogs — who are securely contained and have never escaped — pose a "safety hazard" simply because they bark to loudly. The mail man himself stated to our maintenance man that he didn't want to walk down the ally to our

mail box.

Despite my best efforts to cooperate, the Postmaster has been entirely unwilling to find a middle ground. I have already moved my fence once 4 years ago specifically to accommodate the carrier. I have also offered to keep my dogs inside during the hours the mail is delivered, yet this compromise was rejected.

Instead, the post office insists I move my mailbox, which is physically impossible for our property layout.

To make matters worse, my mail is now being marked as "Customer Requested Hold." This is a blatant falsehood; I never requested a hold. Because of this, I am forced to travel to the post office and present ID just to receive my letters.

This is not merely an inconvenience — it is a matter of accessibility. I am legally blind, and the homeowner, which is my mother, is completely blind. Forcing two residents with significant

visual impairments to navigate the logistics of getting to the post office for everyday mail is unfair and ignores our rights under the law.

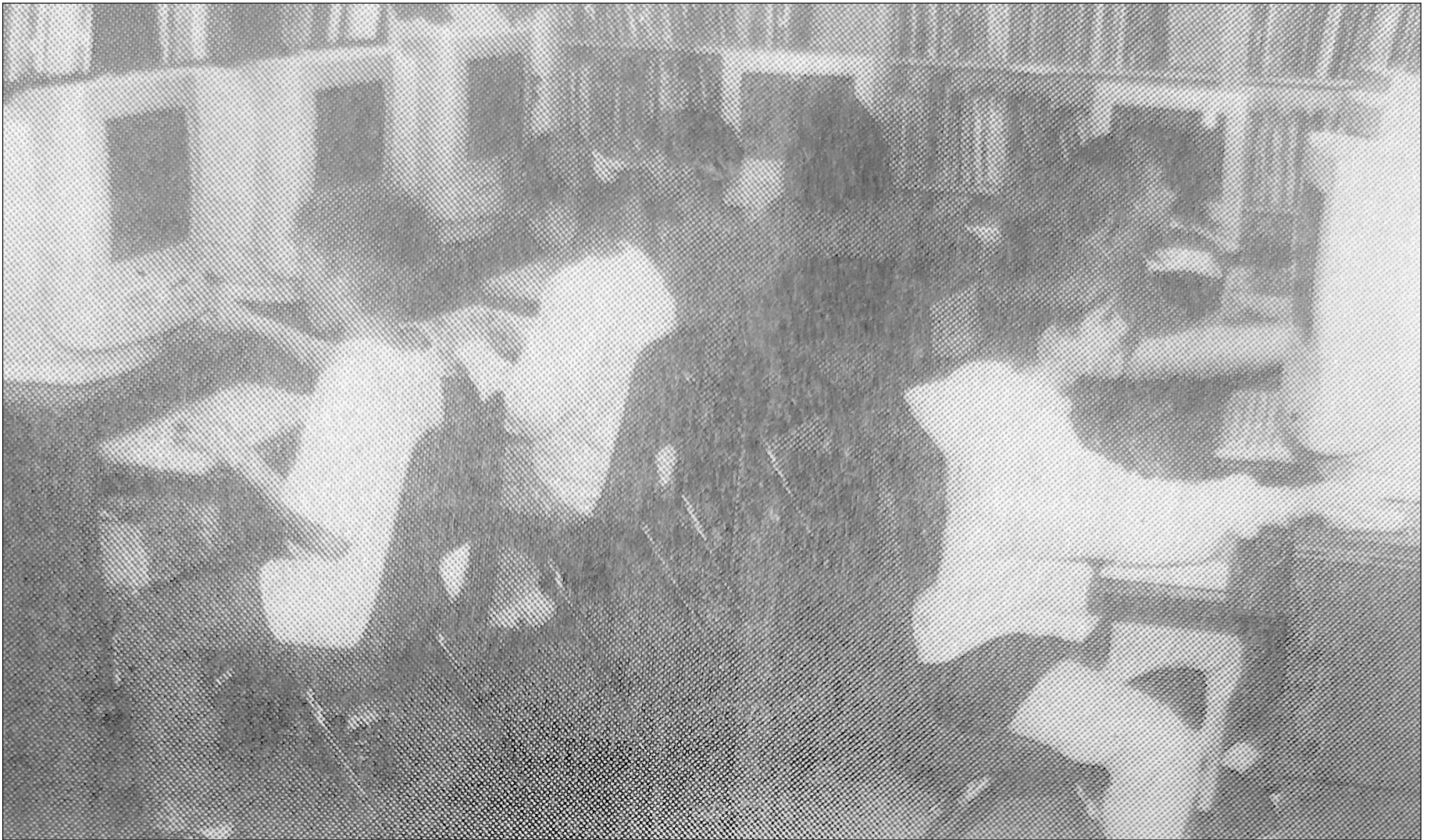
We have tried to be good neighbors and responsible pet owners, but the Postmaster's refusal to work with us has crossed the line. We deserve the same reliable service as every other taxpayer in this community.

Lisa Flippo
Cassville

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We don't believe [nitazenes] in the wastewater necessarily indicates drug use during the school day, but it can be something where someone has used a drug within the last 24 hours, or if someone is flushing pills down the toilet, that would be a high indication."

— CASSVILLE SUPERINTENDENT MERLYN JOHNSON ON THE DISTRICT'S WASTEWATER TESTING POSITIVE FOR NITAZENES.



30 YEARS AGO: A BOOST FOR COMPUTER LITERACY— Money raised through a Cassville P.T.A. fundraiser was used to purchase eight Power Macintosh personal computers and software for the elementary library. Fourth grade students are shown in front of the new computers. Clockwise, from the left, are Cody Stephens, Alisha Madison, Rebekah Perkins, Savanna McCormick, Nichole Easley, Trevor Messbarger, Corey Enfield and Chris Landstad. Democrat file photo

50 years ago

April 7, 1976
— CHAMBER TO REQUEST PSC PHONE HEARING

The Cassville Chamber of Commerce board of directors went on record Tuesday in requesting the Missouri Public Service Commission to hold public hearings here in relation to requested telephone rate increases by Continental Telephone co. The board request will be forwarded to Jefferson City this week according to Bill Ward, manager. The hearing request followed PSC instructions that communities desiring hearings notify the state capital offices as quickly as possible. Continental Telephone, which serves the entire area of south Barry County, is requesting additional rate increases after being granted hikes less than a year ago. Before the last rate hike, public hearings in Cassville conducted by the commission, attracted testimony from throughout the area. A day-long session was held at the Barry County Bank meeting room. Chamber officials said complete details of the request would be announced when word is received from the PSC. Coming events covered the remainder of the board's business Tuesday. Included in announcements from Joe Preddy, president and Ward, were: Mother's Day Trout Derby scheduled for the weekend of May 8-9 at Roaring River State Park. A metropolitan newspaper advertising schedule will be conducted. The busy weekend of July 9-10, during which the Missouri Press Association will be here for their state-wide golf tournament and the Bicentennial committee will sponsor Old Fashioned Political Days with the first weekend of the Cassville Reunion, was also discussed. Ward told the group 5,250 Cassville brochures had been distributed through Ozark Playground Association participation in boat and travel shows this season. He said OPA efforts had returned 128 inquiries

through the chamber this month. Board action favored an annual arts and crafts festival here after completion of the successful event over this past weekend. The board commended Mrs. Reba Wolf and her committee in their efforts. The American Legion Home auditorium was packed with 38 exhibitors during the weekend and Monday event. Motel and resort people at the meeting said indications were for large crowds in the area for the up-coming Easter holidays.

40 years ago

April 9, 1986
— CASSVILLE BETWEEN STORMS; 3.5 INCHES GENERAL RAIN

Sunday and Monday thunder-boomers, that weather forecasters had on the verge of tornado situations, virtually straddled Cassville. Damage, some rather heavy was recorded in the Eureka Springs, Arkansas area Sunday and in the Purdy community Monday evening. The storm that swept through north-west Arkansas, dropped one inch hail in the area. Winds were reported in the area at 60 miles-per-hour. However, the storm didn't get north of the Missouri-Arkansas line. Chuck Edwards at Eagle Rock Landing, said there was plenty of wind and rain in the area, but didn't know of any property damage. There was about a half inch of rain that covered the area as the rain showers swept through this area. High humidity Monday afternoon was a forerunner of things to come in a stormy Monday evening. Up to three and one-half inches of rain was recorded generally in this area. There were numerous reports of damage from lightning throughout the area. Heaviest damage in the Monday storm just before 7:00 p.m. was in the Purdy area. Deputy Sheriff Kermit Howell, whose home was hit by winds and hail and considerable damage reported, said the following incidents had been sighted. Wayne Harris lost a trailer roof and the Nashville

West sign was completely destroyed alongside Highway 37. Barn roofs were blown away at the Carl Jordan and Bill Kenney farms. Two metal grain bins at the Sam Hall place were destroyed. Hit heavy were trees in the Ar-nhart community. The cemetery there had several trees down. A number of windows were broken in the high winds and heavy hail. Damage at Butterfield was the Danny Conner mobile home and several outbuildings also suffered damage. Mrs. John McClure, a resident of the Hungry Hollow community down Flat Creek from Cassville, said their area recorded 3.8 inches of rain in about 30 minutes time. Mrs. McClure added this area "is a sight" with storm damage and limbs off trees. Rainfall in the storms officially at the U.S. Forest Service in Cassville stood at .65 of an inch Sunday and 2.23 inches on Monday evening. Officials said they had received no reports of serious injury involving the pass-through of storms. Joplin weather observers pinpointed the storm locations throughout broadcast interruptions during the early evening hours.

30 years ago

April 3, 1996
— COUNTY COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT BIDS

Plans for expansion of Barry County Jail have reached the bid phase. County commissioners met with members of Archetype Design Group last Thursday to finalize bid specifications on the project, which will cost the county approximately \$490,000. The commission divided the project into four separate bid packages: general construction, detention modules, detention equipment and furnishings, and security electronics. Bids are due by 10 a.m. on May 2. A mandatory pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for April 18 at 10 a.m. at the courthouse. A tour of the existing jail will be conducted at that

time. Plans and specifications are available for review at the County Commissioners' office. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said the jail addition will be completed within the 150-day period following notice to proceed. Few changes have been made since Archetype first presented the commission with design plans in December 1995. Warren said the commission opted to change the roof construction to a rubber-based pitch roof. They added sound board in the sheriff's office and will provide a generator with natural gas hook-up. Warren said the generator is necessary in case of power loss. A key override will also be added to the centralized security system so that cells can be opened electronically or manually. The basic design approved by the commission will add 4,000 square feet to the existing jail. The expansion is designed modularly so that cells can be added on easily. Plans call for the addition of eight jail cells, which would give the county the ability to handle 16 additional prisoners. Each new cell will contain 85 square feet. Four of the cells will be located at the street level and four on a mezzanine level. The jail addition will also include a lobby area, holding cell, booking room, storage rooms, central control room, administrative offices and an enclosed 577-square-foot recreation yard. In other action last week, the commission:

- Opened bids for county liability insurance. Bids were received

from Willis Insurance of Cassville in the amount of \$27,753.00, and from Custom Insurance Services, Inc. of Crystal City in the amount of \$27,515.00. The commission voted to accept the bid from Willis because the Custom Insurance bid did not include property coverage.

- Approved March payroll for 73 employees in the total amount of \$74,433.26.

• Opened bids for culverts. Bidders were Thompson Culvert, West Pipe and Viebrock Construction Metal Culverts. The commission accepted the low bid from West Pipe.

• Appointed Louise Parson to fill a vacancy on the Barry County Health Unit board of directors, which was created by the death of her husband, Don Parsons. Mrs. Parsons will hold office until the next municipal election.

— THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

Missouri's state tree, the dog-wood, grows abundantly in the Ozarks. It attracts thousands of tourists each spring. The pink or white dogwood is a celebration of color across the awakening land Ozark residents take great pride in the flowering dogwood and its leg-end. It is said that at the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood was as large and strong as the mighty oak, and its wood was used for the cross. This so grieved the tree, that Jesus in his sympathy, promised that the dogwood would never again grow large enough to be used for such a desecrated purpose. He ordered that the blossoms take the form of the

cross, the center a crown of thorns, with nail prints on the edge of each petal and that the tree be cherished as a symbol of the Holy Cross. Every spring the mystical beauty of the dogwood shines brightly throughout the wooded hills and has remained a symbol of love and life.

— SBCH INSTALLS NEW BREATH ANALYZER

South Barry County Hospital's laboratory recently installed an Alco Analyzer 2100 gas chromatograph breath analyzer. The equipment was necessary to meet federal regulations for drug testing as required by several agencies including: Department of Transportation; Federal Aviation Agency; Federal Highway, Railroad and Transit Administrations; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and the Research and Special Project Administration. The test is a simple non-invasive procedure. The operator types in responses to questions that appear on the screen. After the subject blows into the mouth piece, the unit quickly analyzes the breath sample looking specifically for the presence of ethyl (beverage) alcohol. The system is fool proof. "This equipment is the most legally defensible instrument on the market," said Laboratory Manager Barbara Herrmann B.S. MT (ASCP). SBCH is the drug screen collection site for Cassville and the surrounding area. Both urine drug screen collection and evidential breath alcohol testing are now available to help area employers meet federal regulations.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Sweet Georgia wants to find her forever humans soon. She is a medium sized Pointer/Lab mix. Her date of birth is July 15, 2025. She is good with other dogs, cats and kids. She would be a great addition to your family. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and micro-chipped. For more information, people may email havenozark-sanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



Attention Pet Parents!

Upcoming Clinics

FREE Vaccine Clinic April 30th
 register at tinyurl.com/PetClinic2025
 Appointments 10 AM - 2:30 PM

Affordable Spay/Neuter Clinics
Dates: June 4th and June 15th
 Appointments are limited—secure your spot now by registering at tinyurl.com/spayneuter2024



Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary
 A No-Kill Facility

Clinics will be held at:
 9617 Farm Road 2190, Washburn,
 (located off 76 Hwy between
 Cassville & Exeter)

*All appointments MUST be arranged online—no phone calls allowed.
 Don't have access to a computer? Feel free to visit the Haven and use our computer to book your appointment!*



**REBECCA ANN
"BECKY"
HENNINGSON**

Rebecca Ann "Becky" Henningson, age 79, of Cassville, Missouri, passed away Friday, March 27, 2026, surrounded by her family at Lakewood Memory Care in Springfield, Missouri.

She was born October 5, 1946, in Cassville, Missouri, the daughter of Norman and Shirley (Farwell) Chaney, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her nephew, Clay Chaney.

On December 27, 1969, in Cassville, she was united in marriage to Marvin Peter "Butch" Henningson Jr., who survives. Additional survivors include her daughters, Jennifer Epperly and her husband Kelley of Springfield, Missouri, and Andrea Sarratt and her husband David of Rogers, Arkansas; her brother, Gary Chaney and his wife Becky of Wesley, Arkansas; her sisters, Lindy Gibson and her husband Mike of Cassville, Missouri, and Cindy Ledgerwood and her husband S.T. of Rogers,

Arkansas; six grandchildren, Cody, Kameron, Shelby, Noah, Case, and Nyls; along with several nieces and nephews.

Becky grew up in Cassville and graduated from Cassville High School in 1964. Following high school, she moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she attended the University of Arkansas and earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education. She began her teaching career at Southwest School District in Washburn, Missouri, where she served as a physical education teacher and coach for two years. She later joined the Cassville School District as a physical education teacher and coach, where she dedicated 27 years to education before her retirement. After retirement, she continued her dedication to Cassville Schools by serving on the school board. She was known as a friendly and encouraging presence to her students, and she took great pride in helping young people grow through both school and sports.

Becky had a deep love for golf and competed in several tournaments and was the ladies club champion multiple times at Cassville Golf Club. She never met a stranger and loved visiting with others no matter where she traveled. She was an avid fan of women's basketball and especially loved cheering on the Arkansas Razorbacks. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of life and found joy in staying connected with family, friends, and her commu-

nity. Above all, she cherished her grandchildren and had a profound love for the Cassville community and its schools. Becky was a member of the United Methodist Church in Cassville.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, April 2, 2026 at the United Methodist Church in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jeff Fugitt and Pastor Jeffrey Gibson will conduct the services. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at the United Methodist Church in Cassville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family for the Coach Becky Henningson Memorial Scholarship or Cassville United Methodist Youth Group in memory of Becky.

PAID OBITUARY

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
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**DANIEL "DANNY"
LOONEY**

Daniel "Danny" Looney, 81, of Butterfield, Mo. passed away on Monday, March 9, 2026.

He was born on July 20, 1944, in Cassville, Mo., the son of Ivan and Claire (Intessimone) Looney, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife, Dorothy Utter.

Survivors include his son, Robert Les Foster and wife Linda; daughter, Tracy Tucker and husband Rod; sisters, Dianna Martin and Carla Intessimone; sisters-in-law, Diana Eddy and Christine Utter; six grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; special caregivers, Tony and Sherry Intessimone and Tim Intessimone as well as a host of other family and friends.

He grew up and attended school in Washburn, graduating from Southwest High School with the Class of 1963. He was employed by Justin Boot in Cassville, Mo. for more than 30 years.

He and his wife Dorothy also owned and operated Papa Joe's Diner in Purdy, Mo., for over five years. After his retirement he continued his pursuit of higher education by attending Crowder College in Neosho, Mo.

For many years, he traveled performing with his own band, sharing his passion for music with others. He was a member of Body of Christ Ministries in Wheaton.

Memorial services will be held at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Body of Christ Ministries in Wheaton, Mo. Pastor Gene Robinson will conduct the services. Arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
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**FAUSTINE MARIE
(CRAIG) PENN**

Faustine Marie (Craig) Penn, 87, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at Oak Pointe of Monett in Monett, Mo.

She was born March 26, 1938, in Cassville, Mo., the daughter of Roy and Genevieve (Allison) Craig, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband, Oscar Penn, and brothers, Ray Craig, Gerald Craig, Leon Craig, and Carroll Craig.

Survivors include her daughter, Vicky Dudley and husband Cecil of Summerdale, Ala.; brother, Glen Craig of Cassville, Mo.; granddaughters, two grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

She spent her entire life in Cassville. She grew up and attended school there, graduating from Cassville

High School before continuing her education at Draughn Business College in Springfield, Mo. She dedicated many years of service to the Ellis and Ellis Law Firm in Cassville, where she was a valued employee until her retirement. Her crocheting talent was widely recognized when she earned both Grand Champion and first-place honors for a crocheted tablecloth at the Springfield fair in 1994. She was also a member of First Baptist Church of Cassville.

Services were held Monday, March 30, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor James Weaver conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Hospice Compassus in memory of Faustine.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141**

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**GERALDINE
FAY "GERRY"
BARBEAU**

Geraldine Fay "Gerry" Barbeau, 64, of Eagle Rock, Mo., passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at Mercy Hospital Aurora in Aurora, Mo.

She was born on October 29, 1961, in The Dalles, Ore., to Glen and Sonja (Heiber) Mullins, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Russell Barbeau; her daughter, Brandy Youhouse and husband Shane of Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands, and son, Joshua Barbeau of Northern Calif.; her brother, Scott Mullins of San Francisco, Calif.; her sister, Cindy Lee-Mullins of Castaic, Calif., and her four grandchildren.

She grew up in Saugus, Calif., where she attended school, and spent many years working as a waitress.

In recent years, Gerry and Russell made their home in Eagle Rock after time spent in Bakersfield, Calif., and Alaska.

She was of the Christian faith.

Private services will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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Bridge:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A
costs will depend on the MoDOT review process, design revisions and future bidding.

In addition to lowering costs, accessibility remains a key component of the design. The pedestrian bridge is expected to accommodate a wide variety of users, including walkers, runners, families with strollers and cyclists. Plans also include a connection to the Greenway Trail, which city officials hope will encourage more recreational use.

The bridge would provide a direct pedestrian route across Flat Creek, eliminating the need to cross the Highway 76/112 vehicular bridge. Currently pedestrians who need to travel between the two sides must use the vehicular bridge, which can present safety concerns due to traffic flow and limited space.

"For as long as I've been in Cassville, pedestrians crossing the 76/112 bridge has been a difficult and challenging issue," Asbill said. "Some people yield, some people don't yield, and it makes traffic flow difficult. The bridges are not wide, and it doesn't make oncoming traffic flow very good. The overall piece is safety."

By linking both sides of Flat Creek, the bridge would allow residents easier access to trails, neighborhoods and nearby amenities. Officials believe this improved access will encourage walking and biking while making travel between areas more convenient. City leaders believe the bridge could increase use of the trail and provide a more enjoyable experience for outdoor activities.

"We believe this will provide an excellent opportunity for people to utilize the Greenway Trail, as well as getting to the other side of the creek with very little obstruction," Asbill said.

While the project planning is ongoing, no construction timeline has been finalized. The bridge must first complete the MoDOT review process before any final decisions can be made regarding design, funding and scheduling. Once that review is complete, the city will be able to move toward final plans and a future bid process.

Despite the remaining steps, city officials remain optimistic about the project's potential impact.

For now, the project remains in the planning and review stage, but city leaders say they are continuing to work toward making the pedestrian bridge a reality.

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Lainey Harvick pushes hoses beneath a display of strawberry plants at Harvick Farms. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Lainey Harvick arranges hoses in a hoop-house at Harvick Farms. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Focused on food

Garden center turned food hub brings fresh community resources

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Harvick Farms, situated along State Highway 76/112, on the south edge of Cassville, is shifting its business model this year toward becoming a community food resource: a cooperative outlet where area farmers and producers can sell their goods.

"It's a win-win situation for producers and for the entire community," said Lainey Harvick, who is excited about the role Harvick Farms will play in facilitating the food hub. "We're a farming community, so there's no reason that people in this area should go hungry or shouldn't have access to quality food."

With its new business model, Harvick Farms will host what is essentially a weekend-long, indoor farmers' cooperative market, ramping up in mid-May, although many items are already available.

"Area residents will be able to buy fresh produce, eggs, milk, meat and other items here, directly from the farmers who produce them," she said.

In addition to other forms of payment, Harvick Farms will also accept SNAP and WIC benefits, increasing access to fresh local foods.

Lainey Harvick and her husband, Joseph Harvick, own and operate Harvick Farms in conjunction with their sons, Sam and Alex, and Joseph's father, Carlton Harvick. The couple purchased the 1.2-acre property after relocating to Eagle Rock from Fort Worth, Texas. With limited agricultural experience but a strong desire to learn, the couple dove in, renovating long-abandoned structures to open a nursery and bedding-plant business just in time for spring, five years ago.

Since then, the garden center has also become a community educational hub, offering practical hands-on classes related to gardening, cooking, canning and skills important for self-sufficiency in a mass-production world.

"Food production will become our main focus this year," Harvick said.

With funds from a recent USDA food security grant, the Harvicks installed multiple raised garden beds for the production of sweet potatoes, cucumbers and a variety of greens and herbs. They are also working with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation



Apple, peach and plum trees are in the early growth stage at Harvick Farms. "We're using them for educational purposes, until they're big enough to bear fruit," Lainey Harvick said. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Service (NRCS) for a new high tunnel, which now includes a growing area on their home farm to grow turmeric, ginger and bell peppers.

"We also used a USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) grant to remodel our storefront and install refrigerated shelving and coolers," Harvick said. "Now, we're able to stock eggs, milk and other products that need refrigeration."

Harvick has invested significant time connecting with prospective partners for the Harvick Farms cooperative project, including visiting community gardens, farm stops and food hubs in neighboring communities.

"I'm amazed at how many people I've met in the short amount of time we've lived in the Ozarks," said Harvick, who works remotely in a full-time nursing role for Mayo Clinic. "COVID brought us to the Ozarks. I was working as a full-time ER nurse in NWA when COVID hit, and the stress was unbelievable. Gardening was a respite for me."

Lainey Harvick's mother-in-law, Carol Harvick, recalls when the couple visited Eagle Rock prior to their decision to move.

"Lainey spent much of the time sitting on the back deck, taking in the peaceful surroundings," Carol Harvick said.

Although the pace for Harvick has been busy since their move eight years ago, the change in environment — shifting from emergency care to preventative, community-based food and health — has been meaningful.

In a recent development, Harvick Farms is partnering with Roaring River Adventures, the concessionaire for Roaring River State Park, a partnership Lainey Harvick is excited about.

"It's an example of locally-produced food going full circle right here in Barry County," Harvick said.

Harvick Farms is producing vegetables for the kitchen at Emory Melton

Inn. In turn, the Roaring River Adventures staff will prepare fresh lunches — including salads and wraps — to be sold on consignment at the Harvick Farms storefront on select days.

Harvick Farms is also partnering with the Carl Junction's ISD Farm-to-School program to help provide locally grown vegetables.

The cooperative concept developed when Harvick realized that it's difficult for one producer to provide a full variety of food to a community.

"We each have our specialty — the things we like to grow or produce," she said. "So, it only makes sense to transition into a farm-stop model where multiple farmers can offer their products in one place."

Harvick's goal is to provide indoor sales space for up to 40 producers.

"We currently have about 15 vendors, and growing," she said.

The growing list includes A2A2 milk from Still Dream Dairy; microgreens from Microgreens Essentials; pork, sausage, and chicken from Bulmanski Farms; eggs from Lovey Dovey Eggs; kombucha from Spring Branch Kombucha; fresh mushrooms from Hazy Hollow Farms; fresh greens from The Fresh Greens Project; fresh floral bouquets from 4S Flower Farms; honey from Devora's Gardens; produce from McGarrah's Farms; produce from L&B Produce; fruits from Bishop Gardens; salsa and pickles from Two Men and a Garden; soup mixes from Wind and Willow; honey products from Messner Honey; and soaps from Missouri Milkmaids.

"As we progress into late spring, we plan to continue working with local farmers to bring in berries, vegetables and more locally made, agriculture-based products," Harvick said.

Handcrafted items in the store currently include soaps, teas, salsa and baked goods.

"Teas are my thing," Harvick said, noting that



Lainey Harvick blends herbal teas and salves, available for purchase, along with locally-sourced honey, at Harvick Farms. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

she uses her own dried herbs to create blends sold under the Harvick Farms label.

Joseph and Carlton Harvick contribute to baking operations. Their fresh-baked bagels, cookies and other goods will be available in limited quantities.

"We are just getting off the ground with some of our ideas, so production levels will be trial and error for a while," Harvick said.

Another project underway is the conversion of an outbuilding into a commercial kitchen that local producers can rent to create value-added products.

"The health department requires that items like salsa be processed in a commercial kitchen if intended for public sale," Harvick said. "Right now, there are very few options nearby for small producers."

Harvick Farms will continue to sell shrubs and bedding plants this season, though plant sales will become a smaller portion of the overall business.

Educational classes will also continue.

"So far, we have classes



Harvick Farms' storefront received a facelift, remodel and new coolers, courtesy of an infrastructure grant from the USDA. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

on building a birdhouse, making a barn quilt, composting, and pest and disease management lined up," she said.

Harvick Farms will also host its first Baker's Exchange of the season on Saturday, April 18th.

"We plan to host this event the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon from April through November," Harvick said. "We're looking for small-batch bakers to join us."

Harvick Farms' annual Spring Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about classes and events, people may visit the Harvick Farms Facebook page.

Information about partnering with Harvick Farms can be found at HarvickFarms.com.

Harvick Farms will be staffed Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

"We will continue to work on a self-serve option for the entire building to be more accessible throughout the week," Harvick said.

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Jackson Frye picks up a book to consider buying at the spring Book Fair at Cassville Primary School. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Madilynn Brooks leafs through a book as she decides what to get at the Cassville primary School Book Fair on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Emma Swearingen parades her selections to the checkout desk at the Cassville Primary School Book Fair on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Sportsman's Corner under new management

New owner aims to update inventory, offer firearms

BY GWENDYLAN HARMON

Cassville Democrat Intern
A new chapter has begun for Sportsman's Corner, as local resident Garrett Hoppes has stepped in as the store's new owner, bringing both years of experience and passion for the outdoor business.

Hoppes, who grew up just outside of Exeter, said his background in hunting and fishing led him to the opportunity. He previously worked for five years at

Roaring River, where he handled inventory in a store and gained valuable knowledge about outdoor retail.

"I have always wanted my own tackle shop, and my dad wanted one too, so we kind of worked together to make this happen," Hoppes said

The opportunity to purchase the store came through a connection with the previous owner, whom Hoppes said his family knew well. Taking over at the beginning of the year, Hoppes officially became the new owner on Jan. 6

The store previously operated partially as a pawn shop, and Hoppes said he plans to shift its

focus more toward outdoor goods and away from pawn. He plans to rearrange the store layout, expand inventory and increase advertising to bring in more customers.

Hoppes added he plans to speak to customers to see what inventory changes they would like to see, and he also plans to change what food items are offer, and increase the amount of fishing tackle sold at the store.

Hoppes is also in the process of obtaining a federal firearms license, which will allow the store to sell firearms in the future. He said hunting rifles will be the main types of guns stocked, and he plans to

offer pistols, as well.

While the updates are still in the works, Hoppes emphasized that long-term customers can expect a sense of familiarity.

"We're not getting rid of them, that's for sure," he said. "We just hope to expand and get more people in here."

For Hoppes, owning a business in Cassville is both a personal and professional milestone.

"It feels good to work for yourself." He said

With plans to grow, Hoppes hopes aims to not build away from the store's foundation, rather, to build off of it.

On the hunt!



The last of three age group egg hunts got off to a racing start during the inaugural Cassville Fire Protection District egg hunt on Saturday at Cassville South Park. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Myah Hall, 7, of Cassville, smiles as she returns to her parents with a basket full of eggs, picked up during the inaugural Cassville Fire Protection District egg hunt on Saturday at Cassville South Park. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Wolfgang Endicott, 5, of Neosho, devised a superior egg collection method, wearing his backpack backward so he could pick up goodies with both hands, during the inaugural Cassville Fire Protection District egg hunt on Saturday at Cassville South Park. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Barry County Health Corner



Detailing the Environmental Program

The community hears about the Health Department's Environmental Program and thinks, "Oh, you mean the health inspector."

People may be familiar with our work in restaurants but do not realize the extent of all we do to ensure our community here in Barry County has access to safe and clean food, water, childcare facilities, and lodging establishments.

Yes, we are often seen in restaurants doing routine inspections of food establishments. We use these interactions to educate food service employees, based on what is seen during these inspections. With this we can improve their food safety procedures to protect the public. No food establishment wants to make their customers sick with their food practices; however, if someone has such an encounter at a food establishment a confidential complaint can be submitted to the Health Department.

Environmentalists will then conduct a prompt investigation. If our community does experience a food borne outbreak, our environmentalists are onsite to work closely with public health nurses and state officials to conduct a comprehensive investigation. When there is an emergency involving food establishments, such as power outages due to tornadoes, a fire or a flood event, our environmentalists are there to help ensure a safe facility.

We provide guidance for when it is safe to reopen, and the best practices to prevent food that has become compromised from being consumed by the public.

To help protect our community's drinking and recreational waters the citizens of Barry County established an ordinance in 1996 requiring property owners to effectively treat their wastewater. To facilitate clean water, our environmentalists, work with homeowners and septic installers to ensure both new and existing homes have onsite septic systems. This is important to ensure wastewater is properly treated before it gets into our drinking water, lakes, and streams.

Environmentalist issue permits for septic system installations or repairs, and conduct complaint investigations when members of the community may be having a system failure. Copies of these permitted systems are then kept on file at the Health Department and available upon request.

Individuals who are on private wells should be confident that their wells are providing safe water. A water sample can be submitted to our office for in-house testing. In addition, our environmentalists collect water samples from wells that offer water to the public on a routine basis. Changes in a home's plumbing or well pump, flooding and droughts can all have an impact on the water we drink. We recommend getting your private well tested at least once a year to ensure the water it provides is safe to drink.

Children are more likely to get sick from their environment and shared illnesses. Their bodies and immune systems are not fully developed making them more susceptible to disease and environmental hazards, such as lead, that can have lasting effects.

Our environmentalists work with the State Health Department to ensure the childcare facilities in Barry County are safe places for our children. We conduct inspections of childcare facilities to help identify safety hazards in the facilities, and educate providers on food safety and disease prevention practices to keep children safe.

To protect our community and those visiting our beautiful area of the state, our Environmentalists also work with the State Health Department to ensure lodging establishments are clean and safe. We routinely inspect lodging establishments to ensure they have the appropriate fire and building safety measures in place, pools are being maintained to prevent waterborne illnesses from occurring, and sanitary cleaning practices are being used to prevent the spread of disease and pests.

It is our goal to prevent through education, investigate with dedication and help be one small part of what makes our community a safe place to live.

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

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The Easter Story

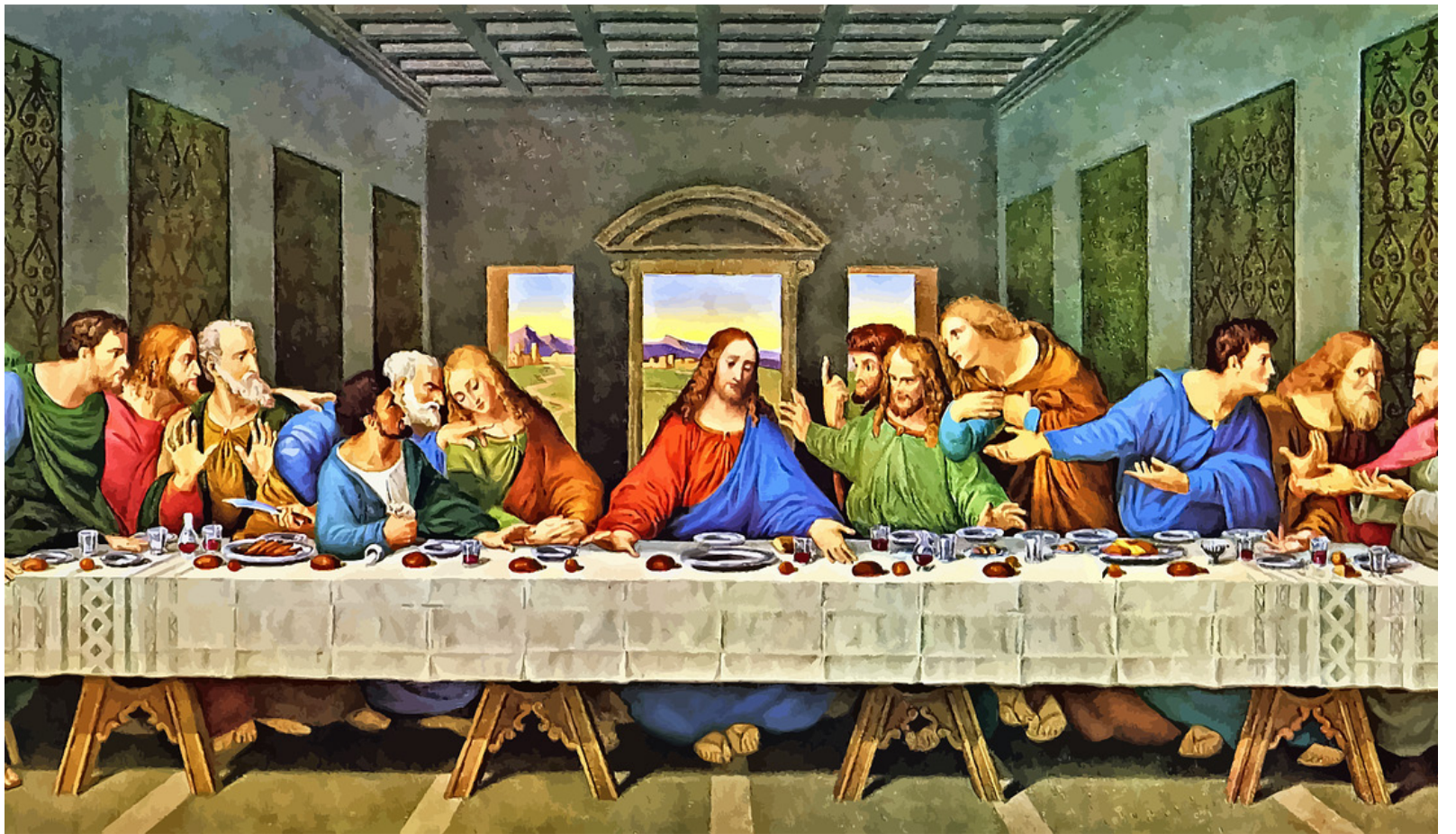
The Last Supper

And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he said unto them: and they made ready for the passover. And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. — **Mark 14:16-17**

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you. I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. — **Mark 14:22-25**

The Betrayal

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. —



Matthew 26:47-49

And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius

Pilate the governor. ... And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When

Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying,

I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. — **Matthew 27:2, 23-26**

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EASTER



Jesus Led Away, Mocked

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying Hail King of the Jews! And they spit on him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him and led him away to crucify him. — **Matthew 27:27-31**

And as they led him away,

they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. And there followed him a great company of people and women, which also bewailed and lamented him. — **Luke 23:26-27**

The Crucifixion

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do. — **Luke 23:33-34**

And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the vail

of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, he said, Father into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. — **Luke 23:44-47**

Jesus is Risen

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in

a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. — **Mark 16:2-7**

Received up into Heaven

So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. — **Mark 16:19-20**

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and

returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. — **Luke 24:51-53**

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 Luke 24:6

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WILDCATS GOLF

What: Season underway
Returning: Multiple experience golfers and two stat qualifiers
More: Depth of squad may mean varsity players interchanging throughout year

Linking experience to success

Wildcats set goal to qualify multiple golfers to state

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

With the amount of experience returning to the tee box, the Cassville boys golf team is has set ambitious goals this season, expecting to qualify multiple golfers to state.

"We have an older group of boys now that have played at the varsity level for a year or two at least," said Clayton Bagby, Cassville boys golf coach. "They spend a lot of time at the golf course putting in time on their own to be better golfers and love to play the game. They all have high expectations for themselves, and if individually they are meeting their expectations, as a team, that should put us in a lot of opportunities to compete for tournament titles, including at Conference and in the District Tournament.

"I believe they would tell you they want, and expect, to for multiple members to qualify for state, and have the opportunity to qualify as a team."

Among the returners, juniors Cheney Kelley and Dennis Craig bring state-level experience.

"Cheney qualified for state last year as a sophomore," Bagby said. "Has played the most golf of any of them and is a very good ball striker with a good short game. Dennis qualified for state as a freshman. He didn't start playing as early as Cheney, but he absolutely loves the game and puts in a ton of work to keep improving, and he has high expectations for himself to return to state and finish towards the top of all tournaments."

The Wildcats also return a group—senior Aiden McBroom, Senior Tyson Bohmke and junior Kaleb Artherton — that has shown scoring ability in recent seasons.

"These three all started playing a little later, but their quick improvement and ability to score has been impressive," Bagby said. "All three have the ability to score in the 70's, and Tyson and Aiden having earned medals in tournaments last year, including the Big 8 Tournament."

Competition for varsity spots is expected to be strong throughout the season.

"We have a very competitive group this year," Bagby said. "Last year, the same five guys played every varsity tournament. This year, I expect there will be changes from tournament to tournament on who is earning that opportunity with the five above, as well as the ones below having the ability to play good golf and would play on a number of other teams at the varsity level."

Several additional golfers are pushing for those interchanging varsity opportunities.

"Junior Kyle Brown was usually in sixth spot last year and has shown improvement in his game and improved consistency in his ball striking and scoring over the year before," Bagby said. "Senior Daichi Kezuka is a foreign exchange student from Japan that is a very skilled golfer and has shown the ability early to shoot low scores."

"Senior Will Brooks placed in the 50s of over 100 golfers in our own varsity tournament last year Senior Trevor Brookes is a newcomer that likes to play golf and is working to improve his game."

Bagby said the team's competitive nature is a key strength. "They love the game and they are competitive," Bagby said. "Like any sport, when you have athletes competing against each other on your own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12B

FROM 4 TO 14



Wheaton's Harmony Loftis rolls the ball toward the hoop in the district championship game against Exeter. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Lady Bulldogs inflate win total, reach district title game

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Wheaton girls basketball team took a leap forward this season, improving its win total and making a district championship appearance.

"I think the ladies had a wonderful season," said Jessica Dermott, Wheaton girls basketball coach. "From winning only four games the previous year to have a 14-15 game season this year, and playing for a district championship — I couldn't be more proud of this group."

Growth throughout the season was evident Dermott said.

"Teamwork and learning to work through when something doesn't go your way, and overcoming adversity [we all areas of improvement]," she said.

Despite roster challenges, Dermott

LADY BULLDOGS HOOPS

Record: 14-15

Last result: 41-37 loss to Exeter in Class 1, District 4 tournament

More: Wheaton won 10 more games this year compared to last year

said the team handled the season well.

"I think overall it was a successful season," she said. "These girls have had to overcome a lot with new teammates, some not coming out and playing, so having them kind of having to start again and being junior heavy, I'm proud of how they handled it all."

Rather than a single game, Dermott pointed to the team's development as a defining part of the season.

"Just watching them become a team this year, the laughing even crying at

times, they were a true team and we all stayed united and continued to work for our goals," she said.

Wheaton competed without any seniors on the roster, and Dermott hopes that youth could benefit the program moving forward.

"Their work effort and willingness to not give up [is what the underclassmen will bring to next year's team]," Dermott said.

Reaching the district championship game marked a key milestone for the program.

"The biggest goal was we wanted to make it to the championship and play for it, and they made it there, but wasn't the outcome we wanted," Dermott said. "But, again, I couldn't be more proud of them."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12B

Lady Eagles have high ceiling amid low wins

Purdy girls steadily improving, hope youth will utilize experience

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Two seasons removed from not having enough players to field a team, the Purdy girls basketball squad turned in three wins this year, but Coach Stephanie Heman said the record does not reflect the wins made in development.

"I would say we were about average this year," Heman said. "We didn't win many games, but we made some positive improvements. I think we got better at handling pressure and rebounding."

Turnovers and free throw

shooting proved to be key areas that limited the Lady Eagles' ability to close out games.

"We have to take care of the ball and limit the number of turnovers," Heman said. "We work hard defensively to get a stop or a turnover, and then we turn it back over. Also, free throw shooting must improve for us to be successful."

One game that stood out during the season came a home win over a nearby rival.

"Our home game against Verona was probably our best game this season," Heman said. "From start to finish, we played well. We jumped out and got a nice lead and never looked back. That was our first win of the season."

Purdy's lone senior provided effort and leadership despite limited recent playing experience.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12B



Purdy's Shelby Patterson puts up a shot in a contest at home against Exeter this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Track and Field

4/6	Seneca Track Meet	Away	4:00 pm
4/7	Monett Track Meet	Away	
4/9	Mt Vernon Track Meet	Away	4:00 pm
4/14	Clever Track Meet	Away	
4/16	East Newton Track Meet	Away	4:00 pm
4/21	Cassville Wildcat Relays	Home	
4/30	Big 8 Conference Meet	Away	
5/9	District Track Meet	Away	
5/16	Sectional Track Meet	Away	
5/22-23	Class 3 State Track Meet	Away	

Baseball

4/2	Marionville	Home	4:30 pm
4/3	Forsyth	Away	4:30 pm
4/7	Crane	Home	5:00 pm
4/9	Mt. Vernon	Away	4:30 pm
4/11	Purdy	Home	10:00 am
4/11	Hillcrest	Home	2:00 pm
4/13	Logan-Rogersville	Home	4:30 pm
4/14	Lamar	Away	4:30 pm
4/16	Monett	Home	4:30 pm
4/17-18	Pleasant Hill Baseball Tournament	Away	
4/21	East Newton	Away	4:30 pm
4/23	Aurora	Home	4:30 pm
4/24	Diamond	Away	5:00 pm
4/28	McDonald County	Home	4:30 pm
4/30	Nevada	Away	4:30 pm
5/1	Hollister	Home	4:30 pm
5/4	Clever	Home	1:00 pm
5/5	Seneca	Home	4:30 pm
5/7	Reeds Spring	Away	4:30 pm
5/11	Blue Eye	Away	5:00 pm

Girls Soccer

4/2	Bolivar	Away	4:30 pm
4/6	Parkview	Away	5:00 pm
4/7	McDonald County	Home	5:00 pm
4/9	Logan-Rogersville	Away	4:30 pm
4/13	New Heights Christian	Home	4:30 pm
4/14	Aurora	Away	5:00 pm
4/21	Monett	Home	5:00 pm
4/28	McDonald County	Away	5:00 pm
5/4	Marshfield	Home	1:00 pm
5/5	Aurora	Home	5:00 pm
5/7	Fair Grove	Home	4:30 pm
5/11	Greenwood	Away	5:00 pm

Boys Golf

4/6	Joplin Invitational @ Twin Hills	Away	
4/9	Cassville Invitational	Home	
4/16	Aurora	Away	4:00 pm
4/16	Ozark Tiger Invitational	Away	
4/20	Carthage Abbiatti's BBQ Invitational	Neutral	
4/23	Willard Invitational @ Green Hills	Away	
4/28	Marshfield Invitational	Neutral	
4/30	Monett Tournament	Away	
5/4	Big 8 Golf Tournament	Away	9:00 am

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

The importance of resurrection

The 15th Chapter of I Corinthians is one of the greatest passages in the entire Bible.

It is about the importance of the resurrection to our faith and salvation. Verse 17 says it plainly, "If Christ hasn't been raised, then your faith (our faith) is worthless; you are still in your sins."

Many have been mistakenly given to believe that our faith and salvation centers on the death of Jesus and not necessarily on resurrection. We frequently hear Christians say, "The central message of the

Gospel is 'Jesus died for our sins, so we might go to heaven.'"

While that is part of the story, it is not the whole story. Of course, one cannot have resurrection without a prior death.

However, Jesus came or was sent not only to forgive us our sins. God had been doing that for a long time before Jesus ever became known. What humankind most needed was not more forgiveness, but rather an answer for the penalty of sin which is death. The truth is that we can be

forgiven and still remain unchanged. That is the story of the Old Testament.

The New Testament story is that Jesus Christ not only forgives sins, but by His resurrection He forever defeats sins and death. By defeat we mean He entirely eliminates them from the equation. Sin is made powerless by God's grace and eternal death is overcome by Jesus' resurrection.

All of this is happening Now, for this present moment. We do not need to wait to be changed from sinner to saint, mortal to immortal, from

death to eternal life. It has all been done before and for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection there is no victory for Jesus, nor for us.

"If Christ hasn't been raised then your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins." Verse 17.

I particularly like what James Bryan Smith writes about this in his little book, "Hidden In."

"Death is the great enemy, but it has been defeated. Sin is the great destroyer, but it too has been defeated. Both

of those menaces have been defeated by the greatest event the world has ever witnessed: the resurrection of Jesus.

Every single issue in life, every problem we face, every hope we have-absolutely everything hinges on the resurrection of Jesus."

Jesus died our death for our sins. He rose from death to make eternal life possible.

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

Find all of our devotionals, guest written by local pastors, online at: www.cassville-democrat.com/tag/devotional

BIBLE VERSE:

"He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

— MATTHEW 28:6

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

YARD SALES
YARD SALE: Big yard sale, 8249 Farm Road 2290, Seligman. Running all week through Monday.

LOST & FOUND
LOST WALLET: If you find a wallet belonging to Sandra Molton, please call 417-346-5226. Reward if contents are intact.

MISCELLANEOUS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

CHRISTOPHER LEE MAST, Petitioner, REBECCA MORRIS, Respondent.
 Case No. 26BR-DR00033

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: REBECCA MORRIS
 You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Dissolution of Marriage.
 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 Petitioner is:
 J. MICHAEL RIEHN
 104 W. 7 STREET
 P. O. BOX 324
 CASSVILLE, MO 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 11th day of MARCH 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 5th day of MARCH, 2026.
 Craig Williams
 CIRCUIT CLERK
 BY KATIE CORREIA/DC
 First publication:
 MARCH 11, 2026
 Second Publication:
 MARCH 18, 2026
 Third Publication:
 MARCH 25, 2026
 Fourth Publication:
 APRIL 01, 2026
 1st insertion 03/11/26
 9-12

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

Stuart Carson
 Plaintiff
 VS.
 Linda Blakenship,
 Her unknown heirs, spouses, consorts, devisees, grantees and assigns
 Defendants
 Case No. 25BR-CC00028

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Stuart Carson to Linda Blakenship, her unknown heirs, spouses, consorts, successors, devisees, grantees and assigns:
 You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of the County of Barry, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Petition for Quiet Title.
 The names of all parties to the said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is
 James J. Randall, Jr.
 405 Broadway,
 P.O. Box 151,
 Monett, MO 65708.
 You are further notified that, unless you file an

answer or pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within forty-five (45) days after the 18th day of March 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, Missouri.
 Witness my hand and seal of the Circuit Court, State of Missouri, the 11th day of March, 2026.
 Craig Williams
 CIRCUIT CLERK
 By Kami Stanton
 DEPUTY CLERK
 1st Publication:
 March 18, 2026
 2nd Publication:
 March 25, 2026
 3rd Publication:
 April 1, 2026
 4th Publication:
 April 8, 2026

RANDALL, MASRI & RANDALL, P.C.
 405 Broadway, P.O. Box 151
 Monett, Missouri 65708
 Telephone (417) 235-8688
 MoBar No. 58732
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 1st insertion 03/18/26
 10-13

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

H.E., a minor by and through his Next Friend, HAYLEY EARP, and HAYLEY EARP, individually, Petitioners, v. ROBERT EADE, Respondent,
 Case No. 24BR-DR00078

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: ROBERT EADE
 You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is paternity of H. E.
 The names of all parties in this action are HAYLEY EARP, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is
 J. Michael Riehn,
 Attorney at Law,
 P. O. Box 324,
 Cassville, Missouri 65625.

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 12th day of March, 2026.
 First publication:
 March 18, 2026
 Second Publication:
 March 25, 2026
 Third Publication:
 April 1, 2026
 Fourth Publication:
 April 8, 2026
 Craig Williams,
 Circuit Clerk
 by S. Parker,
 Deputy Clerk
 1st insertion 03/18/26
 10-13

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, April 13, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville go South on Hwy 76/112, 2 miles. Turn East on hwy 76 and go 2.9 miles to auction on right. (19607 State Hwy 76, Cassville MO)

REAL ESTATE – ZERO TURN MOWER – GUNS – MOTORCYCLE - TOOLS – HOUSEHOLD – MISC



Real Estate: 3 bedroom, 2 bath metal sided home. Enter this home under a full length covered front porch into a open floor plan, living room and kitchen area with dual ceiling fans, windows, front entry door & back entry door leading out to a big covered back deck. The kitchen features Frigidaire side by side Refrigerator/Freezer, Whirlpool smooth top elect range with built in Frigidaire microwave/hood, double SS sink, Bosch dishwasher, cabinets & good countertop space. On the East end of the home is a bedroom with ceiling fan, windows and closet. Also the master bedroom with ceiling fan, large walk in closet, window & master bath with step in shower. On the West end of the home is a bedroom with ceiling fan, windows and walk in closet, a full bathroom & utility room/pantry. Outside **Amenities:** Covered front porch, covered back deck, asphalt driveway leading into the oversized detached 2 car garage, storage building plus a large underground storm shelter. All this on 1.6 acres m/l with a wooded back yard with lots of wildlife. Country living however only 4.9 miles to Cassville on Hwy 76 and a short drive away to Shell Knob & Table Rock Lake. **Note:** This is a very neat home. Mostly maintenance free. Open floor plan. One level easy to get around. For anyone looking to buy real estate, here's a good one. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the property before auction day. **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.

Estate of: Doyle Crotwell
Owner: Sharon Crotwell



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JOB OPENING - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The City of Cassville is seeking an Administrative Assistant. The position will be responsible for assisting with taking payments for utility bills and permits, organizing and scanning documents and files for the Finance Department and helping maintain fixed asset records. This position will also serve as clerical support for the Cassville Police Department, duties will include processing, maintaining and releasing records and reports and other responsibilities as needed. Competitive hourly rate starting at \$15.50 per hour or composite experience. Benefits include employer paid health, vision, and dental insurance and retirement benefits. Applications are available at Cassville City Hall and online at www.CityofCassville.com. For more information about this position and a full job description, please contact Monzell Hagins @ 417-847-4441. Resumes and application can be taken to Cassville City Hall, or can be sent via email to mchagins@cityofcassville.com

PART-TIME COURT CLERK IN WHEATON

The City of Wheaton is seeking a part-time Court Clerk for 30 hours per week. The position will be responsible for creating court dockets, attending court proceedings, collecting payments for court fines and court costs, organizing and filing documents, and answering phone calls. Hourly pay rate starting at \$15.00 per hour, negotiable depending on experience. Benefits include paid holidays, 20 hours of vacation leave, and 32 hours of sick leave. Applications are available at Wheaton City Hall. They may be returned to City Hall or emailed to jogina@cityofwheatonmo.org. For more information, please contact Wheaton City Hall at 417-652-3314.

Township 24 North, Range 27 W.
 Bids will be opened at the April 21, 2026 regular meeting.
 Bids should be submitted to Butterfield Special Road District, 7049 Farm Road 2115, Purdy, MO 65734.
 For further information contact Commissioners Gene Cowherd, Pat Caddell, or Bobby Ragdale. Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids.
 1st Insertion 03/25/26
 11-12

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Barry County Commission is accepting sealed bids for road Chip and Seal.
 Bid specifications are available from the County Clerk's Office,
 Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Bids will be accepted at the Barry County Clerk's Office
 (700 Main Street, Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625)
 no later than 9:30 a.m. on April 9, 2026, at which time the sealed bids will be opened and read aloud.
 All bids will be opened in the County Commission's Office and the bid will be awarded to the lowest or best bidder.
 All bids shall be marked "sealed bid –and with the "bid opening date".
 Barry County Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids or any parts thereof.
 1st insertion 03/25/26
 11-12

BID NOTICE

Butterfield Special Road District is accepting sealed bids for approximately 5 miles of roads. Bids will be accepted

until 6:00 PM April 21, 2026.
 Bids will be opened at regular monthly 6:30 PM meeting at the Butterfield Community Building in Butterfield.
 Bids should be submitted to Butterfield Special Road District, 7049 Farm Road 2115, Purdy, MO 65734.
 For further information contact road supervisor Randy Isley or Commissioners Gene Cowherd, Pat Caddell, or Bobby Ragdale.
 Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids.
 1st insertion 03/25/26
 11-12

BUTTERFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ACCEPTING BIDS FOR OVERHEAD DOOR MAINTENANCE

The Butterfield Fire Protection District will be accepting sealed bids for maintenance of overhead doors at their fire station, located at 10600 E. 1st St., Butterfield, MO 65625. Services will be provided for a two-year period. Licensed and insured bidders are preferred. Sealed bids may be submitted to the Butterfield Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 706, Cassville, MO 65625, and must be postmarked by April 10, 2026.
 For more information, contact Donnie Privett at (417) 846-3565.
 The fire district reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.
 1st Insertion 03/25/26
 11-12

BUTTERFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ACCEPTING BIDS FOR
 CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

Butterfield Special Road District is accepting sealed bids for Chip and Seal for approximately 5 miles of roads. Bids will be accepted

JOB OPENING AT HATCHERY

Roaring River Fish Hatchery is seeking a highly motivated individual to work hourly, 12am to 8am, 2 days on the weekend.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Monitor and ensure adequate aquaculture health, fish production, care, and distribution.
- Performing all janitorial duties including cleaning and disinfecting public restrooms and offices.
- Working independently will be required for this position.

Starting Pay: \$16.58/hr
 Visit jobs.mdc.mo.gov to apply or contact Terry Gerke or Brad Farwell at 417-847-2430 for more information.

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
MOWING SERVICES

The Butterfield Fire Protection District will be accepting sealed bids for biweekly mowing/weed eating services (April-September) at their fire station, located at 10600 E. 1st St., Butterfield, MO 65625. Services will be provided for a two-year period. Licensed and insured bidders are preferred. Sealed bids may be submitted to the Butterfield Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 706, Cassville, MO 65625, and must be postmarked by April 10, 2026. For more information, contact Donnie Privett at (417) 846-3565. The fire district reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

1st insertion 03/25/26
11-12

BUTTERFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ACCEPTING BIDS FOR PEST CONTROL

The Butterfield Fire Protection District will be accepting sealed bids for pest control services at their fire station, located at 10600 E. 1st St., Butterfield, MO 65625. Services will be provided for a two-year period. Licensed and insured bidders are preferred. Sealed bids may be submitted to the Butterfield Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 706, Cassville, MO 65625, and must be postmarked by April 10, 2026. For more information, contact Donnie Privett at (417) 846-3565. The fire district reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

1st insertion 03/25/26
11-12

EXETER SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT IS ACCEPTING BIDS

The Exeter Special Road District is accepting bids for the following:

1. Base rock and cold mix by the ton.
2. Hauling of base rock and cold mix by the ton.
3. Single and double chip and seal, according to State Specifications, and job must be completed by August 1, 2026.

Please include the type and size of equipment when submitting your bids. Bids should be submitted in writing to Exeter Special Road District, 15907 Farm Road 1055, Exeter, MO, 65647 no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2026. The Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Done by order of the Exeter Special Road District Commissioners

1st insertion 03/25/26
11-12

THE ROARING RIVER SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT BIDS

The Roaring River special Road District is now taking bids on the following: General Road Repair and maintenance. Mowing of right of way within district. Tree trimming and storm damage of trees within district. Backup with snow removal as needed. Please mail your bid, with BID written on the envelope to: P.O. BOX 9 Eagle Rock, Mo 65641 Include your name, bid amount, and phone number. Also a copy of insurance policy. Bids will be opened and read on April 14th 2026. Any questions call 417-665-9839 Marc Landrith 1st insertion 03/25/26 11-13

CITY OF CASSVILLE IS SEEKING BIDS FOR PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT

The City of Cassville is now accepting sealed

bids for its upcoming Pavement Resurfacing Project. Contractors with experience in asphalt paving and infrastructure work are encouraged to submit proposals. Bid packets can be obtained from City Hall. Sealed bids must be submitted no later than Friday April 24th at 2:00 pm at the following location: City of Cassville 300 Main Street Cassville, MO. 65625 Attn: Mike Hagins Bids will be publicly opened at that time. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process. For more information, contact Mike Hagins, Public Works Director at 417-847-4441 or mhagins@cityofcassville.com Only insertion 04/01/26 12

WHEATON NATURAL GAS

Revised Sept 2022 The City of Wheaton owns, operates, and maintains the Natural Gas system serving you. The area this system covers is on Hwy W, beginning at Georges Poultry Plant, then nine miles West along Hwy W into the City of Wheaton, and all the City limits. Pipeline markers are in the pipeline right-of-way and indicate the approximate location of a buried pipeline. But to operate the system safely, we need your help. If you smell gas in or near your home or building

EVACUATE THE AREA.... IMMEDIATELY GO TO A SAFE LOCATION.

DO NOT: Attempt to turn off the gas yourself, a trained person will. DO NOT: Strike matches, lighters, or smoke in the area. DO NOT: Turn lights on or off, or operate any electric equipment that can cause a spark. (Electric motors have sparks)

DO NOT: Use your telephone in the building or area where gas is noticed.

DO: Contact the City of Wheaton at 417 652-3314, report there is a smell of gas, and give the address or directions to where the smell of gas is. Normal working hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (After hours, weekends and holidays call 911).

The City of Wheaton owns the natural gas meter and the piping that comes into it from the distribution main line.

Customers own the piping that runs from the meter to the natural gas appliances, and it is the customer's responsibility to maintain this piping. We suggest that this piping be black steel piping as this is a very strong and reliable pipe.

Pressure Test must be done by a plumber or Qualified City Employee and only a Qualified City Employee may turn on the flow of gas to a customer.

Excavating, rototilling, digging fence post holes or any other type of excavation in the City of Wheaton or along and off Highway W, Call (811) IT IS THE LAW.

If Unsafe Conditions exist in your piping or units, the gas will be turned off until conditions are repaired. The customer will be responsible for any leaks and lost gas that occurs within the structure or its piping

EFV As a Gas customer you have the option to have an Excess Flow Valve installed on your service line by us at your cost for safety purposes. To learn more about the Excess Flow Valve (EFV) contact City Hall at 417-652-3314 Any further questions, contact the City of Wheaton (417)652-3314 Only insertion 04/01/26 12

PROBATE

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

In the Estate of: JAMES R. DURHAM, deceased 26BR-PR00032

NOTICE OF HEARING

To all persons who claim any interest in the property JAMES R. DURHAM, deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent: You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Jane Durham Covell, for the determination of the heirs of James R. Durham, deceased, and of their respective interest as such heirs in and with respect to the following described personal property that the decedent owned at the time of his death: Arvest Wealth Management Brokerage Account: #WAB-033358 Petitioner's attorney is Harry D. Schwartz, whose business address is 702 West Street, P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625. You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on April 20, 2026, at 8:45 o'clock a.m., in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, at Cassville, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

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

In the Estate of: JOAN BECK, Deceased Estate No. 25BR-PR00104

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOAN BECK, 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given to all citizens and parties in interest that the Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING On Monday, April 20, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. in the

Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 Main St., Cassville, Missouri. The hearing will be conducted to ascertain public opinion regarding the following: 1. Case Number 2026-01 A zoning request from R-2 (Two-Family Dwelling District) to C-2 (General Commercial District) of the following described real property:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 1,2,3,4 in Block 10 in S.M. Mitchell's Second Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri.

And any such additional business as required. Copies of the agenda may be obtained by contacting Monzell Hagins, City Clerk, City of Cassville, 300 Main St. Cassville, MO 65625; 4 1 7 - 8 4 7 - 4 4 4 1 ; mhagins@cityofcassville.com

Posted - City Hall Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Published - Cassville Democrat Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Monzell Hagins City Clerk City of Cassville 1st insertion 04/01/26 12-14

PROBATE

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

In the Estate of: JAMES R. DURHAM, deceased 26BR-PR00032

NOTICE OF HEARING

To all persons who claim any interest in the property JAMES R. DURHAM, deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent: You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Jane Durham Covell, for the determination of the heirs of James R. Durham, deceased, and of their respective interest as such heirs in and with respect to the following described personal property that the decedent owned at the time of his death: Arvest Wealth Management Brokerage Account: #WAB-033358 Petitioner's attorney is Harry D. Schwartz, whose business address is 702 West Street, P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625. You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on April 20, 2026, at 8:45 o'clock a.m., in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, at Cassville, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

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

In the Estate of: JOAN BECK, Deceased Estate No. 25BR-PR00104

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOAN BECK, 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

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, April 4, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Rogers, Ar. (10720 Lakeside Dr, Rogers AR)

Beaver Lakefront Real Estate – UTV – Boat – Gun's – Taxidermy – Tools – Furniture, Antiques & Collectibles – Household – Misc





UTV: 2013 Coleman Hissua, 700, 4x4 with 1000 lb. hoist in the bed. Mower: John Deere 115 automatic riding mower. Boat: 1998 Suncruiser, 24' Pontoon boat with 70 hp, Evinrude motor & trailer w/new boards, bearings, tires and rings, & 4 wheel brakes. Boat has (GPS fish finder). **Guns:** ant Springfield gas operated, .22 LR, simi auto, w/walnut stock – Savage mdl 64, .22 simi auto rifle w/scope – Herrington & Richardson 25/06 single shot, w/scope. **Ammo:** Thousands of rounds of .22 LR – 25/06 -Baska 20- 60x80 mm spotting scope – glass door gun cabinet. **Taxidermy:** Russian Boar – Moufflon Corsican goat – Texas doll sheep. **Tools:** Stihl MS 140 chain saw – Stihl MS 250 chain saw – Poulan, Craftsman, Redmax & McCulloch chain saws – Hitachi chop saw & stand 0 4050 watt generator – Craftsman 10" table saw – Kobalt cordless weed eater – Craftsman roll around tool chest – Craftsman torpedo heater – shop vac – DeWalt Torpedo heater – 6.5 hp, 60 gal upright air compressor – 1" & 2" sockets – Jumbo 20 pc socket set – receiver hitches – pipe wrenches – Contractors level – large socket set up to 3" – breaker bars – 4' step ladder – T post driver – gas cans – sm bottle jacks – 4 way wrenches – asst of hammers – levels – misc sm hand tools such as pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, etc. – torch set – titanium 170 mig welder – battery charger – welding helmet – misc portable tool boxes – shop stools – furniture mover dolly's – large shop fan – work mate table – 12 v. sprayer – nuts & bolts, screws, etc – fish tape – router – sanders – stapler – all kinds and sizes of drill bits – misc sm power tools such as, drills, sanders, nail guns, etc – pole saw – shop lights – band saw – drill master 4 & 1/2" tile saw (new in box) – Power King battery charger – Miller Thunder bolt AC/DC welder – sm air compressor – misc long handle tools – come a long – car ramps – large pipe or storage rack – Husko 20 ton log splitter (looks new) – Power stroke 2200 psi pressure washer – alum ext. ladder – more tools not listed. **Golf Cart:** EZ Go elect golf cart, with new tires, seats & batteries only approx. 1 year old with charger. **Trailer:** 4'x6' drop gate utility trailer. **Antiques & Collectibles:** Old Delta railroad light – old tin Prince Albert can – old oil lamps – pitcher & bowl – pink depression covered dish – A1 Canon 35mm camera – single tree's – misc deer antlers – galvanized wash tub on stand (flower planter) – old desk lamp – large galvanized pot – galvanized water can – ant child's scooter – misc glassware such as vases, milk glass, etc – misc stoneware – misc chicken décor – old child's high chair – blue granite ware – Hamilton Beach single malt mixer – misc Coca Cola tins & wagon. **Furniture & Appliances:** Round dining table & (4) roll around chairs – ant office chair – computer desk – office chair – TV stand – (2) corner what knot shelves – microwave stand – sm decorative table – sofa table – matching night stands – ant dresser – electric fireplace/ TV stand – ant wood rocking chair – oak end tables – leather brown recliner – sm wood pantry cabinet – Keurig & misc sm kitchen appliances – large Frigidaire upright freezer. **Patio Furniture:** Patio table & chairs – sm coffee table – patio storage cabinet – (2) patio bar stools – patio table & love seat. **Household & Misc:** Duncan mdl K Klin & molds – fish cooker – Christmas candy cane arch – misc rod & reels – sev. Ricks of seasoned firewood – archery arrow cutter – deer hunter tower stand – ground blind – (2) deer feeders – rubber water tub – misc lumber – misc steel post – boat dock bumpers – food dehydrator – plant stand, bent wood chair – sm table top sconce light – misc household plants – misc craft supplies – Char Broil grill.

Real Estate: Beaver Lake, lake front real estate. Very nice double wide, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with nice additions. Over 2000 sq ft w/whole house generator. Enter this home from a nice front deck into a nice size living room with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan & lg. windows. The living room is open to the dining area. To the left of the front entry is (2) bedrooms w/windows & walk in closets & a shared full bathroom. To the right of the entry is the master bedroom w/ceiling fan, large walk in closet & master bath w/double vanity, storage cabinet, jacuzzi tub, sky light & shower. From the dining room go through the French doors into the den/man cave with fireplace. Very nice kitchen that features patio door leading out to a very nice raised back deck looking towards Beaver Lake. Frigidaire dishwasher, double deep S.S. sink, sm kitchen island, Whirlpool smooth top elect range w/built in microwave/hood, refrigerator/freezer & lots of cabinets. Also, a door leading to the utility room with utility sink then on into a hobby room, sewing room, etc w/outside entry. **Outside Amenities:** Front deck, large raised back deck w/a gazebo w/ nice view of the background. Large carport w/concrete drive, storage shed & nice big shop building. Beaver Lake, lake front lot at the back of a cove & only 3/10 mile to the public boat launch. **Note:** Beaver Lake life, just a few short miles to Rogers AR. Don't miss your opportunity to live on Beaver Lake. Some of the best fishing on the lake & abundance of wildlife out your back door. Call to preview the Real Estate before auction day. 417-847-2507. Please read all terms and conditions. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. All terms on bidder card apply. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee will apply. If paying with a check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the bank unless a bank letter of credit is provided to auction company BEFORE auction day. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. All 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.

Owners: Richard & Susanne Nelson



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State
Champion Auctioneer
#1409 | PB00051442



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

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 April 23, 2026, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement. HARRY D. SCHWARTZ, Attorney SAM MADSEN, P U B L I C ADMINISTRATOR Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative P. O. Box 276 Cassville, MO 65625 (417)847-2734 Dates of Publication – 3/18/26, 3/25/26, 4/1/26, 4/8/26 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 03/18/25 10-13

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI Judge or Division: PROBATE

In the Estate of ANNA SUE ROSE,

Deceased. Case Number: 26BR-PR00037

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of ANNA SUE ROSE, Decedent: On March 20, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of ANNA SUE ROSE, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is: WILLIAM LESTER ROSE, 27050 FARM ROAD 1015, WASHBURN, MO 65772. The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: HARRY D SCHWARTZ, PO 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: 06-DEC-2025 Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk Date of first publication: April 1, 2026 Date of second publication: April 8, 2026 Date of third publication: April 15, 2026 Date of fourth publication: April 22, 2026 Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit

LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

Court.
1st insertion 04/01/26
12-15

TRUSTEE'S SALES

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:

Harry Edward Lassley and Carole Lassley, husband and wife and Harry E Lassley Jr. a married man Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Harry Edward Lassley and Carole Lassley, husband and wife and Harry E Lassley Jr. a married man dated January 4, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 22, Page 96 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:50 AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:

PART OF THE EAST HALF (E1/2) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW1/4) OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 1000.09 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 0 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 357.29 FEET, THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST 486.87 FEET, THENCE NORTH 29 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 51 SECONDS WEST 278.66 FEET, THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST 115.02, THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 43 SECONDS WEST 326.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND A TRACT OF LAND 7 FEET WIDE AND 393.68 FEET ALONG THE EAST SIDE THEREOF, AND 15 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE THEREOF MAKING THE BACK WEST LINE 372.29 FEET AND THE EAST LINE 408.68 FEET AND THE NORTH LINE WILL BE 333.45 FEET. ACCESS EASEMENT: AN EASEMENT FOR ACCESS PURPOSES BEING 30 FEET WIDE AND HAVING PARALLEL LINES DESCRIBED ALONG THE WEST LINE AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF (E1/2) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST 215.0 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 7 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST 791.53 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 26 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 187.75 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 115.02 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 29 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 51 SECONDS EAST 278.66 FEET TO THE POINT OF TERMINATION.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,

Successor Trustee
612 Spirit Drive
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110

No: 229868.040726.467569 FC
NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The debt collector is attempting to collect a

OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION BALLOT MCDONALD COUNTY, MISSOURI

APRIL 7, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice, like this ●.

CANDIDATES: Complete the oval next to the name of the Candidate for whom you wish to vote.

PROPOSITIONS: If you are in FAVOR of the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word YES. If you are OPPOSED to the proposition or question, complete the oval next to the word NO.

WRITE-IN: To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided for such purposes and complete the oval next to the space provided.

Wheaton R-III School District Board of Directors

Proposition 1. To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each. (Vote for 3)

Josh Kinnaman

Tony Ball

Lewis Royer

Elizabeth Goetz

Nikki Allen

Rodney Allen

(write-in)

(write-in)

(write-in)

Wheaton R-III School District Proposition Critical Infrastructure

Shall the Board of Education of the Wheaton R-III School District borrow money in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities, including infrastructure and safety improvements; and refunding outstanding lease obligations, and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain unchanged at \$0.8300 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

YES

NO

MCDONALD COUNTY POLLING PLACES

General Municipal Election April 07, 2026

Polling Places open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

R.E.C. at Longview: 18.02
McDonald County Road Barn,
16393 E. State Hwy 76
Richwood/Elkhorn/Center Voting Precinct

Central Polling Voting
County Clerk Office,
502 Main, Pineville
417-223-7530

1st Insertion 03/25/26
11-12

debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON:
March 11, 2026
03/18/2026,
03/25/2026,
04/01/2026
1st insertion 03/11/26
9-12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, Clifton O. Mitchell and Melissa G. Mitchell, Husband and Wife,

by their Deed of Trust With Future Advance Clause, dated April 5, 2001, and recorded in the office of the recorder of deeds for Barry County, Missouri, on April 9, 2001, in Book 01 Page 2173, conveyed to Gary Fields,

Trustee, the following-described property situated in the County of Ban-y, State of Missouri, to-wit: Lot 89 Coral Fountain Shopping Center, recorded in the Recorder of Deeds office, Barry County, Missouri. Subject to a permanent easement for public use as described and shown on or before mentioned plat of Coral Fountains Shopping Center. Subject to any easements, rights of way or restrictions of record or fact.

which conveyance was made to the said Gary Fields, Trustee, m trust to secure the payment of promissory notes in said Deed of Trust described; and WHEREAS, default was made and still continues in the payment of said promissory notes; and, WHEREAS, Security Bank of Southwest Missouri as the legal holder of said promissory notes has appointed Jon Homer as Successor Trustee under said Deed of Trust; NOW THEREFORE, at the request of the legal holder of said promissory notes and in accordance with the provisions of said Deed of Trust, I, Jon Homer, Successor Trustee, will

sell the property above described at public venue, to the highest bidder for cash, at the East Door of the old Barry County Courthouse, at 700 Main Street in the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, on April 3, 2026, at 1:00 pm, for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

By: Jon Homer, Successor Trustee
Cordelia F. Herrin
Ellis Cupps Herrin & Schwartz
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-2734
NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this

debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Publish:
March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 2026
1st insertion 03/11/26
9-12

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE for default in the payment of debt secured by a Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") executed by Willard Bellon and Bonnie Bellon, husband and wife, as Grantors, in which Arvest Bank is named Lender ("Original Lender") and James Kevin Checkett, was named as original trustee (Book 22, Page 3012); and Deed of Trust executed by Willard Bellon and Bonnie Bellon to Tammy Willhoit, Trustee

for Arvest Bank, recorded on March 13, 2024 (Book 24, Page 1143); and Sarah Dalton, is named as successor trustee (instrument recorded March 17, 2026 in Book 26, Page 1330), all filed for record with the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri (the "Records").

The undersigned Successor Trustee will on April 21, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., more particularly at 1:00 p.m. at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 102 West Street, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash paid:

The real property situated in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, described as follows:

Commencing at the NE Corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 33, Township 23, Range 27; thence S 368'; thence N 89°56' W 896' to a point of beginning; thence N 89°56' W 412.41', to an existing fence; thence Northerly along said fence to the SW Corner of Lot 39 in Southern Hills Subdivision; thence Easterly 411.23' along the South side of Lots 39, 36 and 27 in said Southern Hills Subdivision to a point North of the point of beginning; thence S 363' to the point of beginning and being a part of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 33, Township 23, Range 27, Barry County, Missouri.

ALSO: All of Lot 39 in Southern Hills Subdivision, as per the recorded plat thereof. Said Lot being part of the West Half of Section 33, Township 23, Range 27, Barry County, Missouri.

The sale of all of the foregoing property shall be "AS IS, WHERE IS", for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust, and shall be subject to all conditions of title, of records and in fact and neither the Successor Trustee, nor

any other party makes any representation or warranty of any kind or nature regarding the condition of, the description of, or title to the property.

Sarah Dalton
Successor Trustee
503 Main Street
Cassville, MO 65625
(417) 846-1500
Published in the Cassville Democrat

Publication Dates:
March 25,
April 1,
April 8
and April 15, 2026
1st insertion 03/25/26
11-14

TRUSTEE SALE

In Re: Thomas Eugene Loftis, a single man.

TRUSTEE'S SALE – Under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Thomas Eugene Loftis, a single man, dated 12/20/2024, and recorded on 12/26/2024 Book 24 Page 6492 Document 202406668 in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, MISSOURI, the undersigned Successor Trustee, will on 04/20/2026 at 10:00 AM at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main St Cassville, Mo. 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash subject to the terms announced at the sale, the realty described in said deed of trust, to wit:

LOT 9, ENGLAND ADDITION TO WHEATON, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS PER RECORDED PLAT THEREOF FILED IN PLAT BOOK 5 PAGE 179.

Eastplains Corporation
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE
Published in the CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT
File #: LOFTHRCK
First publication date 03/25/2026
1st Insertion 03/25/26
11-14

Visit us online at:
cassville-democrat.com

SAMPLE BALLOT
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, APRIL 7 2026

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the General Municipal Election will be held in the County of Barry on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 as certified to this office by the participating entities of Barry County. The ballot for the Election shall be in substantially the following form.

COUNTY OF BARRY

QUESTION

"Shall the County of Barry exempt eligible taxpayers from certain tax increases on eligible taxpayers' primary residence above the liability incurred during the initial credit year?"

YES

NO

MONETT R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

To choose by ballot three (3) board members who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each.

Vote For THREE

ANNIE SMITH

ASHLEY BAILEY

JARED R. WORMINGTON

RYAN NESTLEROAD

JENNIFER LEWIS

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

PURDY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District. (THREE directors for a term of three (3) years each.)

Vote For THREE

KALEY THIGPEN

DAVID WORMINGTON

NATHAN LAMP

DAVID YOUNG

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

SHELL KNOB SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78

FOR BOARD MEMBER THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For THREE

LEAH DENTON

PRESTON FORSYTHE

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

PIERCE CITY R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

To elect, by ballot, three (3) directors, who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said District for a term of three (3) years.

Vote For THREE

JOSEPH FRANKLIN REBER

APRIL ELLIS

LEE JONES

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

PIERCE CITY R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION PROPOSITION EAGLE PRIDE

Shall the Board of Education of the Pierce City R-VI School District, Missouri, be authorized to increase the operating tax levy to \$3.6200 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and to eliminate fully the Proposition C Sales Tax Rollback in its operating levy under Section 164.013 R.S.Mo., as amended, for the purposes of attracting and retaining quality certified and support staff, maintaining and expanding educational programming and facilities, and meeting additional operating expenses?

(If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating tax levy of the District is estimated to increase by \$0.8700 from \$2.7500, currently, to \$3.6200 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the 2026 Tax Year and will be applied to the assessed valuation for each year thereafter.)

YES

NO

BOND ELECTION PROPOSITION CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Shall the Board of Education of the Wheaton R-III School District borrow money in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities, including infrastructure and safety improvements; and refunding outstanding lease obligations, and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain unchanged at \$0.8300 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

YES

NO

VERONA R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposition 1

To choose by ballot three directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three years.

Vote For THREE

LOUIS CARRASQUILLO

ABE SHERWOOD

BETH HILTON

KEVIN E. HILTON

TINA JENNINGS

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOND ELECTION PROPOSITION K.I.D.S.

Shall the Board of Education of the Verona R-VII School District, Missouri, without an estimated increase in the current debt service property tax levy, borrow money in the amount of Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,900,000) for the purpose of providing funds to repair and replace heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units, roofs, windows, and flooring; to the extent funds are available, complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District; and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the School District is estimated to remain unchanged at \$1.0073 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

YES

NO

WHEATON R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT

To choose by ballot three directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said School District for a term of three years each.

Vote For THREE

JOSH KINNAMAN

TONY BALL

LEWIS ROYER

ELIZABETH GOETZ

NIKKI ALLEN

RODNEY ALLEN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

EAGLE ROCK, GOLDEN, MANO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FOR DIRECTOR
FOUR YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

PURDY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FOR BOARD DIRECTOR
SIX YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

FLAT CREEK SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

KENNY TUCKER

JAMEY SMITH

WRITE IN

MINERAL SPRINGS SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

PIONEER SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

PLEASANT RIDGE SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

ROARING RIVER SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

SUGAR CREEK SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

MICHAEL BLACKBURN

NEAL STANLEY

WRITE IN

WASHBURN SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

JERRY YARNALL

WRITE IN

QUESTION

Shall the Washburn Special Road District of Barry County, Missouri vote to retain the \$0.1277 additional levy per one hundred dollar assessed valuation for a period of four (4) years? The total additional levy will be \$0.1277 per one hundred dollar assessed valuation.

YES

NO

WHEATON SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

WHITE RIVER SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT #7

FOR ROAD COMMISSIONER
THREE YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

SEAN NICODEMUS

WRITE IN

SPECIAL ROAD AND BRIDGE LEVY REQUEST

Shall the White River Special Road District #7 of Barry County, Missouri, levy an additional tax rate of 0.35 per one hundred dollar assessed valuation for a period of four (4) years.

YES

NO

CITY OF BUTTERFIELD

FOR MAYOR
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

FOR ALDERMAN WEST WARD
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

RUSSELL LOWE

WRITE IN

FOR ALDERMAN EAST WARD
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

WRITE IN

No-excuse absentee voting ongoing at Clerk's Office through April 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

QUESTION

Shall Butterfield, Missouri, issue its sewerage system revenue bonds in the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of extending and improving the City's sewerage system, including acquiring land and rights of way, the cost of operation and maintenance of said sewerage system and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its sewerage system, including all future improvements and extensions thereto?

YES

NO

CITY OF CASSVILLE

FOR NORTH WARD ALDERMAN
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

TAYLOR WEAVER (ELLIS)

WRITE IN

FOR SOUTH WARD ALDERMAN
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For ONE

JUSTIN GATES

WRITE IN

CITY OF EXETER

FOR ALDERMAN
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

TERESA ALVERSON

KARRY LEWIS

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

CITY OF WASHBURN

FOR ALDERMEN AT LARGE
TWO YEAR TERM

Vote For TWO

CONNIE DEANS

ANTONY BLAND

WRITE IN

WRITE IN

QUESTION

SHALL THE CITY OF WASHBURN, MISSOURI, IMPOSE AN ADDITIONAL SALES TAX OF ONE PERCENT (1%) FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY, THEREBY MAKING THE GENERAL SALES TAX OF THE CITY OF WASHBURN TWO PERCENT (2%)?

YES

NO





Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 3 AND 8

JUST kidding

Q: Where do rocks like to sleep?

A: On bedrock!



JUST kidding

Q: On what day of the week are most twins born?

A: Tues-day!



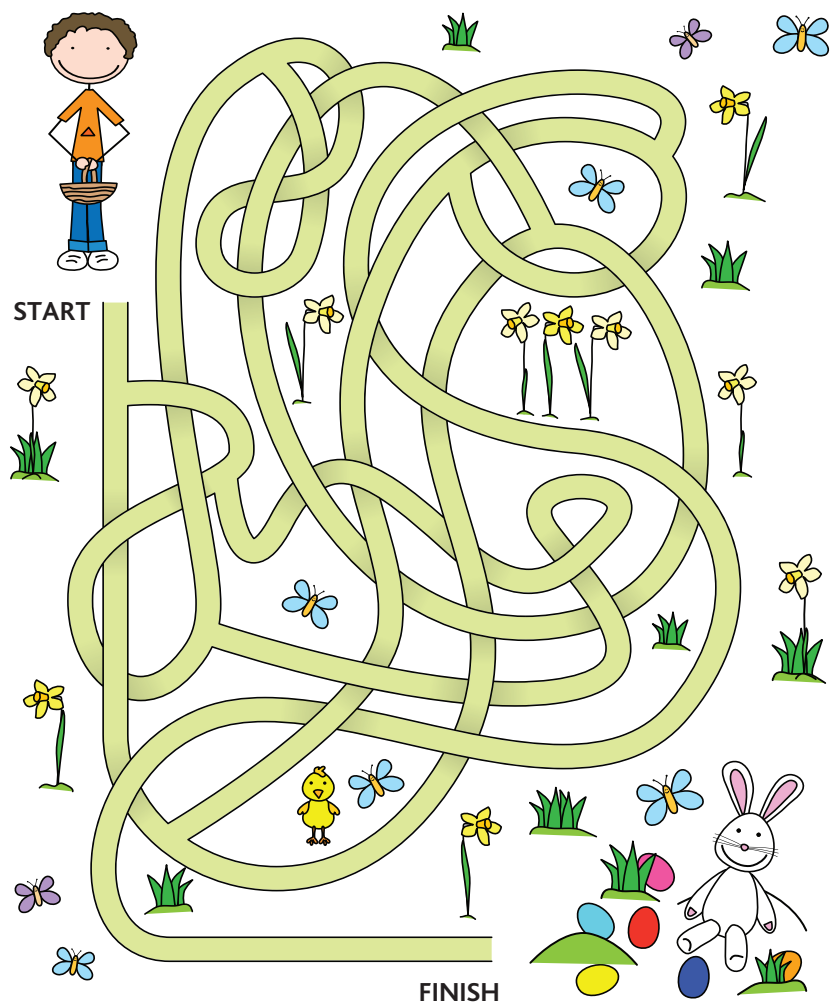
JUST kidding

Q: What did the flower say after it told a joke?

A: I was just pollen your leg.

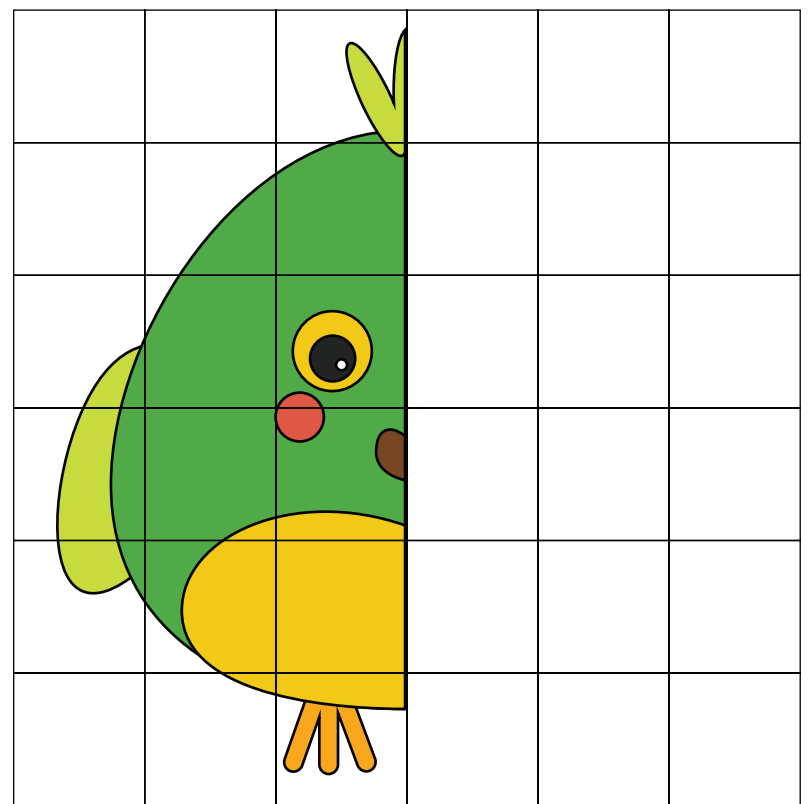


Amazing maze



MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



Sudoku 6 x 6

		×	○		◇
		△			
○			△		
□					×
	◇		+	□	
△	+			◇	

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

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

○	◇	×	□	+	▽
▽	□	+	○	◇	×
×	○	◇	+	▽	□
□	+	▽	◇	×	○
+	×	□	▽	○	◇
◇	▽	○	×	□	+

ANSWER

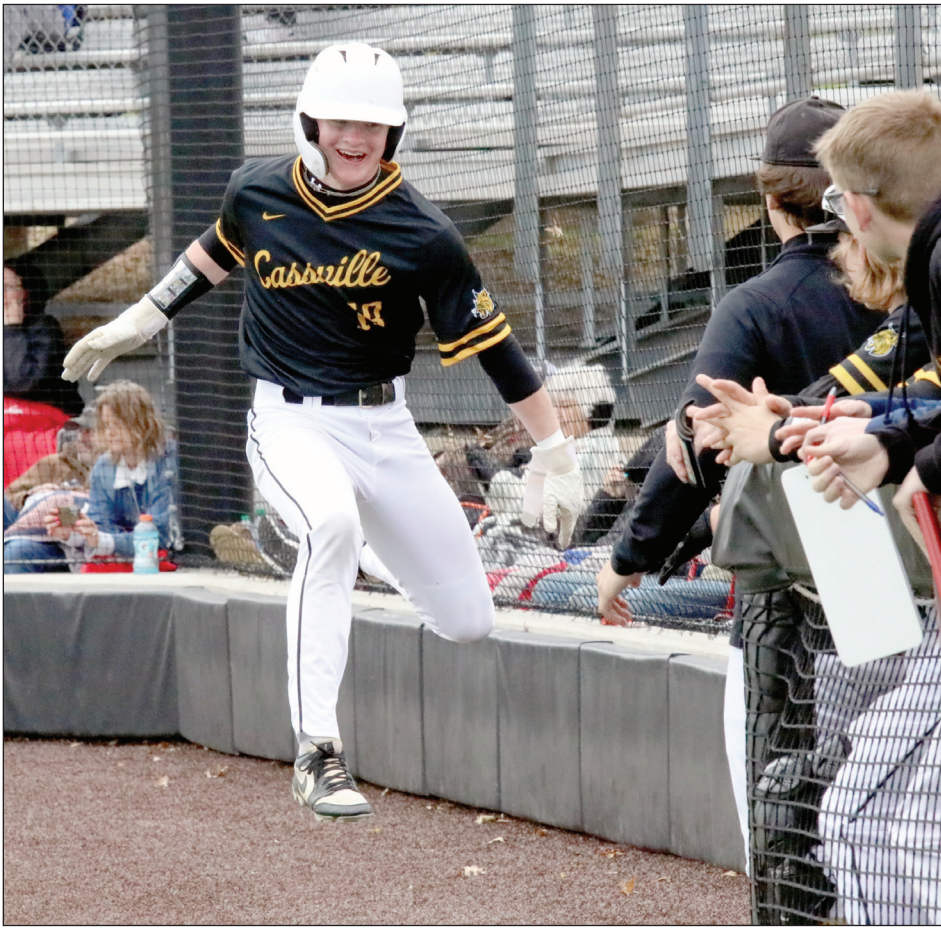
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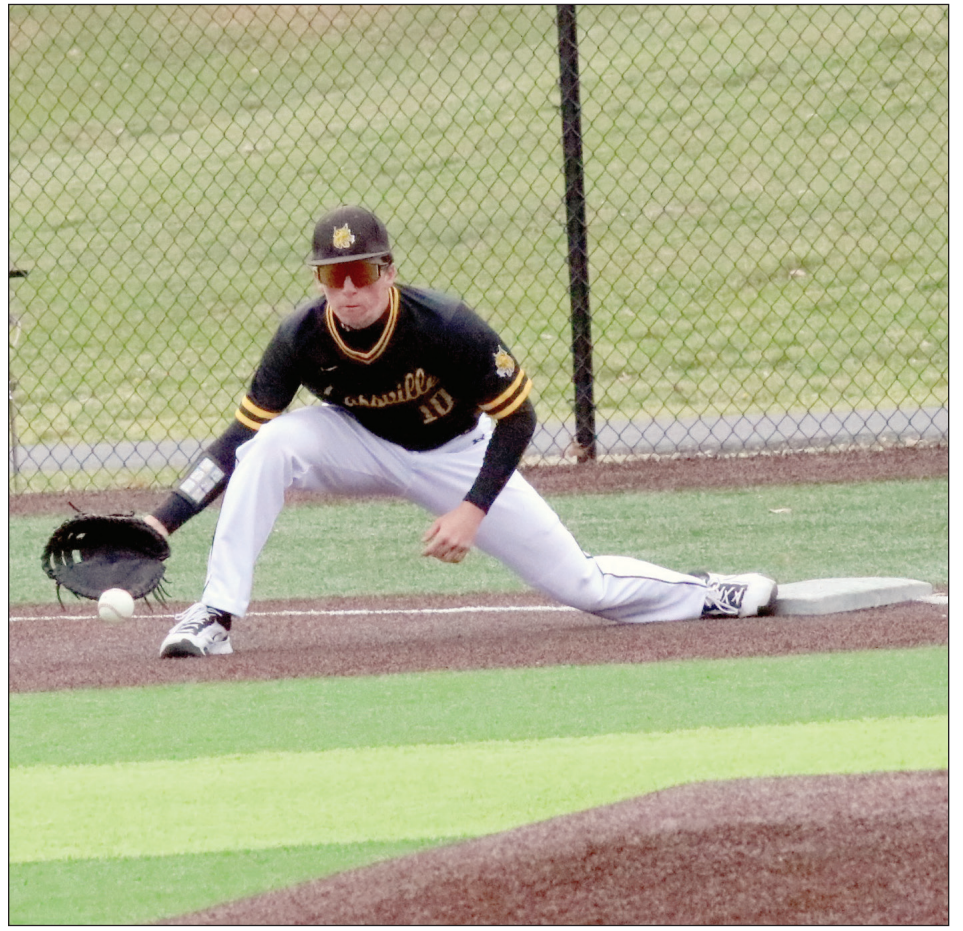
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Cassville's Spencer Drollinger takes a skip and a hop back to the dugout after scoring a run against Bolivar on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Chase Ruark reels in a low ball for an out at first base during a contest against Bolivar on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

SCOREBOARD

Wildcats go 1-3 at home tourney

The Cassville baseball team wrapped up Cassville Classic tournament play last week with a 1-3 record, highlighted by a hard-fought 7-5 win over Mt. Vernon. The group also battled in a tough 5-4 loss to East Newton, a game that came down to the final moments. "While the results against Bolivar and Lebanon didn't reflect the team's full

potential, the tournament provided valuable opportunities for growth, both on the field and in our character in regards to how we respond to adversity," said Simon Beeson, Wildcats baseball coach. "Defensively and on the mound, there are still areas to clean up, but the coaching staff has been encouraged by steady improvement at the plate, with more competitive at-bats each day. Despite working through a few linger-

ing injuries to key players, the team has remained focused on developing both character and consistency in their process. With continued emphasis on those foundations, the team and coaching staff believe that the results will follow as the season progresses."

Cassville wins medals in McDonald County

The Cassville boys track team competed in McDonald

County on Thursday, bringing home 10 top-eight finishes. Results include:

3rd Place
Corbin Rhoads: Pole Vault, 3.91m

5th Place
Jacob Hudson, Donovan Mikesch, Preston Driskill and Dade Zajac: 4x800 Relay, 9:28.69

6th Place
Kamden Beebe: 100m, 11.46
Preston Driskill: 3200m, 11:34.29

Logan Parsons: Pole Vault, 3.33m

Dade Zajac, Cash Smith, Colton Beebe and Mace Bredeson: 4x400 Relay, 3:45.13

7th Place
Tyler Rattigan: 110m Hurdles, 17.76

Ricky Norris: Javelin, 39.17m

8th Place
Isaac Luney: Shot Put, 13.07m

Vynnie Arguelles: Javelin, 38.34

Purdy baseball returns experience, eyes postseason run

Coach pushing team chemistry, hard-nosed play as goals

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Purdy baseball team is entering this season with a strong returning core and loads of experience, hoping to put that combination to the test and build toward another postseason push.

"We have 8 varsity returners and 10 returning lettermen," said Joshua Hughes, Purdy baseball coach. "We look forward to competing this spring. Our schedule is one of the toughest in class 2 in my opinion. We play most of the Big 8 schools and have a few Class 6 schools on our schedule as well. Our guys are really working hard and want to get us back to the district championship game.

"We want to be playing our best ball in May and give us a shot to be in the hunt for a district title and move deep into the playoffs."

On the mound, Purdy returns multiple experienced arms to lead the rotation.

"Damon Mahurin has been in our rotation since his sophomore year and has a great arm," Hughes said. "He pounds the zone and has developed a really good arsenal of pitches. Hunter Wormington is a big strong left hander with a lot of movement. Hunter can be very dominate from the left side.

"Grady Mahurin was our closer last year with a heavy fastball and is working on adding off speeds. He throws a lot of strikes and hits spots very well."

Behind the plate, the Eagles will rely on a senior leader.

"Easten Goetz will lead us from the catcher's position on defense," Hughes said.

Across the infield, Purdy features a mix of returning starters

and versatile options.

"Sophomore Grady Mahurin will be at third base, sophomore Daniel Aldabo will be at shortstop, junior Jackson Lee is our second baseman and junior Hunter Wormington is on first base," Hughes said. "Senior Damon Mahurin and freshman Quentin Dodson will be our utility guys that can play any infield positions when guys are pitching."

In the outfield, experience continues to be a strength.

"Senior Simon Walker will be in left field, junior Brennan Hawkins is in center field and junior Alex Stubblefield will play right field," Hughes said.

Leadership will come from several key contributors across the roster.

"Damon will be our leader on the mound," Hughes said. "Hunter and Daniel have taken over some leadership roles in our program also."

Player development has also been evident during the offsea-

son.

"Brennan Hawkins at this time last year was fighting for a spot in the outfield," Hughes said. "Over last spring, summer and our fall season, he has earned our every day center field job and is a big part in our offense. He has worked extremely hard in the weight room and has become a big strong athletic kid."

Team chemistry, Hughes said, is expected to play a major role in the Eagles' success this season.

"Team chemistry is at a all time high right now with this group," Hughes said. "We have added some off-season and in-season things to help build this and our guys love to be around each other on and off the field."

As the season progresses, Hughes said Purdy will continue refining its approach on both sides of the ball.

"We will need to continue to build on our defense and

offense," he said. "We had a good fall where we implemented new ideas and philosophies and the guys bought in early. Now we just need to continue to fine tune the small things."

The Eagles are aiming to establish a clear identity as the season unfolds.

"Hard working, hard nosed, tough," Hughes said.

Purdy enters the season coming off a conference championship and a narrow district title loss.

"We won our conference last year and finished runner ups in the district," Hughes said. "New Heights beat us 9-8 in a heart breaker."

The Eagles started the season with a 13-3 home opener win over Exeter. Since then, they have played in two tournaments, going 2-1 in the Purdy Tournament and winning the Bill O'Dell Varsity Festival with three straight wins, culminating in a 7-4 victory over Lamar in 8 innings.

7 Wildcats named Academic All-State



The following CHS football players have earned Football Academic All State Honors, from left: Kamden Beebe, Andon Goutney, Tristan Thompson, Gunner Knight, Sky Yang, Harley Madison and Preston Driskill. Academic All-State Football honors student-athletes who excel both on the field and in the classroom. Nominees must be a starter on offense/defense or be a punter or kicker in 70% of games, be in grades 10-12 and be nominated by their head coach. In addition, players must meet at least two of the following: a 25 or higher ACT score (or 1200 SAT), a 3.5 unweighted GPA or ranking in the top 20% of their class. Contributed photo

Softball team named Academic All-state

The following CHS softball players have earned Softball Academic All State Honors, front row, from left: Kierstan Fare, Nevaeh Johnson, Tyra Sturgell and Tomi Blankenship. Back row: Alex Holycross, Madison Yockey, Brianna Still, Addy Ramaeker and Briley Artherton. The Missouri High School Fastpitch Coaches Association (MHSFCA) establishes the criteria for this recognition. To qualify, an athlete must be a varsity letter winner and maintain an unweighted GPA between 3.7 and 4.0 following the 2025 fall semester. In addition, the team earned the Academic All-State Team Award. This honor is awarded to teams that achieve an average team GPA of at least 3.3 following the fall semester. The Lady Wildcats surpassed that mark with a team GPA of 3.7. "Congratulations to our Academic All State award winners," said Jordan Savage, Cassville softball coach. "I am extremely proud of them. I also am extremely proud that as a team we qualified for an Academic All State Team Award. I believe this shows the level of dedication this group of girls has to both their sport and more importantly their academic success." Contributed photo



SPORTS

Purdy: Team competitive in several contests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"We only had one senior this year, Courtney Patterson," Heman said. "She hadn't played since her freshman year. Not playing for two years can put a player behind skill-wise, but Courtney always played hard for me."

The Lady Eagles relied heavily on a young roster, which Heman believes holds promise for the future.

"We had eight underclassmen this year: three juniors, three sophomores and two freshmen," Heman said. "There is a great deal of potential in this group. We just have to keep working in the offseason to get stronger and more confident."

While the win total fell short of expectations, Heman said the team remained competitive in several contests.

"We played hard and had the opportunity to win a few games had we shot better from the free throw line and had taken better care of the basketball," Heman said. "They learned a great deal this year, and we need to continue to build on that. We continue to improve each year. I saw growth in different areas this year compared to last year. We just need to put it all together. We didn't win as many games as we had hoped, but we did give ourselves an opportunity to win several games — we just couldn't finish."

The Lady Eagles finished the season with a 3-20 record, with multiple close losses highlighting the narrow margins.

"We battled illness and injury a good portion of the season," Heman said. "We lost two games by 4 or less points and three others by 10 or less."

Looking ahead, Purdy will focus on fundamentals and consistency in an effort to turn close games into wins.

"Obviously, we would like to win more games," Heman said. "We are going to continue to work hard, get stronger defensively and finish those close games. We are going to focus on ball handling, passing and free throws. We have to play more consistently from game to game."



Purdy's Lizett Aldava looks for room to shoot in a home game against Exeter this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Purdy's Kierstyn Postlewait drives the floor for the Lady Eagles during a home game this season against Exeter. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Wheaton's Perla Hinojosa looks for room to take a shot during action against Exeter in the district championship. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wheaton: Coach proud

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Looking ahead, Dermott said maintaining progress will be a priority.

"I think a main goal would be to continue to push forward and not go backwards," she said.

Dermott added the season left a lasting

impression on the program.

"I'm so proud of this group and loved every minute this season getting to watch them grow," she said.

Wheaton fell to Exeter, 41-37, in the Class 1, District 4 championship.

Golf: Home tournament April 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

team in the right way, that is only going to make the team and the individual better."

Course management, Bagby said, will be a major point of emphasis moving through the season.

"It's human nature to want to fix one bad shot with the next shot, and being able to take your medicine, forget and move to the next hole will be huge, as well as understanding that par is always a good score," he said. "So, we have to know when to be aggressive and when to be smart."

Cassville will also host a key event on its home course.

"We host about 20 teams in our own tour-

namment on April 9, so it is always a good opportunity to let people see the excellent job the crew at the golf course do with the course conditions and give the boys the opportunity to play at home when maybe a few extra people are able to get out and watch them," Bagby said.

The schedule has been adjusted this year to provide additional challenges.

"We definitely made an effort to get in a couple of tournaments this year at state-level type courses against some bigger school competition, which included adding Ozark (Fremont Hills) and Joplin (Twin Hills) to the schedule," Bagby said.

The Wildcats' season began last week at the Reeds Spring Invitational. The team took fourth place among 17 schools, finishing behind Monett, Branson, and Logan-Rogersville. A total of 74 golfers competed in the tournament. Individual results included: 4th, Aiden McBroom, 79; 11th, Dennis Craig, 82; 16th, Cheney Kelley, 84; 26th, Kyle Brown, 87; 29th, Tyson Bohmke, 88.

Cassville's next tournament is on April 6 in Joplin.



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Kaden Stearns	Michael Winchell
	



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