



MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED CHILD MOLESTATION — PAGE 3A

HISTORY MADE: ROARK WINS 2ND TITLE >>>

4 Cassville wrestlers medal at state championships. — PAGE 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

MARCH 4, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM



MAKING MEMORIES, CRAFTING TRADITIONS



Corbin Henderson, 6, of Purdy, nets a trout for his father, Jake Henderson, minutes after the gun was fired on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Nearly 2,500 anglers wet lines on Opening Day

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

After firing the gun to open catch-and-keep trout season on Sunday, Larry Quinalty reflected on the experience as more than 2,000 anglers cast their first lines of the year, surmising making memories — like shooting the gun — was the most important thing Roaring River State Park has to offer.

“It was fantastic,” he said. “I told [Hatchery Manager] Brad [Farwell] when we got to 10 seconds, we should count down together. I’ve been here in the area for 50 years, and the atmosphere is wonderful. It makes me appreciate being alive because I can enjoy this and see people happy and making memories. I believe in making memories— that’s what carries us through.”

While it did not approach the record of nearly 3,000 tags sold, Sunday’s opening in mild conditions drew a significant number of anglers from near and far. By 7 a.m., 2,006 tags had been sold. By noon, the total grew to 2,280, including 1,824 adult tags and 456 children’s tags.

Once again, Roaring River reigned supreme among the state’s three trout parks. By noon, Montauk State Park had sold 1,856 adult tags and 317 children’s tags for a total of 2,173, and Bennett



Kevin Willey, of Wills Point, Texas, smiles as he chats with another angler on Opening Day on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Spring State Park had sold 1,601 adult tags and 197 children’s tags for a total of 1,798.

Final numbers for all parks at 4 p.m. included: Roaring River, 2,482 total (1,967 adult and 515 children’s); Montauk, 2,251 (1,915 adult and 336 children’s); and Bennett Spring, 1,919

(1,691 adult and 228 children’s). Farwell said the final total at Roaring River was 2,499 for the day.

The tradition-steeped Opening Day experience was one Quinalty said brought friends together, new and old.

“One woman I hadn’t seen in a long

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

What: Star City Bridge near Highway U and Farm Road 1142
Project: \$1.2 million replacement by Hartman & Company Construction
More: Bridge located on historic route

Star City Bridge to be replaced

Historic structure one of only a few left in area

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

The historic, iron Star City Bridge — located just north of the end of U Highway on Barry County Farm Road 1142 — is slated for replacement.

“It’s no longer sound enough to support all of the heavy trucks that use it,” said Steve Blankenship, Barry County presiding commissioner.

Blankenship said most of the bridge’s use is by area farmers and ranchers who pull cattle trailers and drive feed trucks across it regularly. Blankenship said construction will begin on the bridge project any day.

Trees have already been cleared from the area in advance of bat migration season, which typically begins in March.

“The crossing will be closed for about 120 days,” Blankenship said.

Hartman & Company Construction, based in Springfield, submitted the winning \$1.2 million bid for the project.

The Star City Bridge is located along a historic route, known at various intervals throughout the past century as “The Trail of Tears,” the “Butterfield Overland Mail Route” and the old “wire” road — now formally referred to as the “Old Wire Road.” According to a December 1939 article in the Cassville Democrat, the road was one of the most heavily traveled in the county, at that time.

According to the diary of a Union soldier, Civil War troops crossed Flat Creek 13 times on the Wire Road between McDowell and Cassville.

The iron bridge, one of only a scant handful now remaining in the county, was erected around 1949, to replace a former low-water, concrete iteration, which had crumbled, making the Flat Creek crossing treacherous for travelers.

A 1939 Cassville Democrat article states that the Star City

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

Securing scholarships: A guide for Cassville seniors

Counselor details where students can access resources, opportunities

BY GWENDYLAN HARMON

Cassville Democrat Intern

Navigating the scholarship process can feel overwhelming, especially with deadlines quickly approaching.

To ease any anxiety, Cassville High School Counselor Kristie Preddy encourages students to take advantage of the many helpful resources available through the school.

“Students should treat fill-

SCHOLARSHIPS

What: Cassville school district aims to help seniors obtain scholarships

Who: Kristie Preddy, high school counselor

More: “Scholarships Hub” available online

ing out scholarships like working a part time job so they won’t have to treat it like a full-time job in college,” she said.

Preddy emphasizes the importance of consistency and starting early to avoid last-minute stress. Students can begin by visiting the Cassville R-IV website. After clicking on the “Schools” tab and selecting

“High School,” they should locate the “Counselor’s Corner” icon. From there, students can scroll down to find the “Scholarship Hub” link, which provides information about both local and non-local scholarships.

The scholarship spreadsheet is updated frequently, with new opportunities added regularly, especially during the busy spring months.

Preddy said scholarship opportunities vary widely.

“There are so many different scholarship opportunities from CFO,” she said. “They range from scholarships for trade schools to four-year universities and various types of

degrees.”

Preddy noted that students planning to attend trade schools or community colleges are sometimes less likely to apply.

“I do think our students that are heading the trade school or community college route are less likely to apply for scholarships, and those scholarships specific for them go without applicants from time to time,” she said.

For non-local scholarships, students can apply through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks (CFO). Through its online portal, students complete one universal appli-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Commentary.....Page 4A
- Through the Years.....Page 5A
- Obituaries.....Page 6A
- Sports Schedule.....Page 2B
- Church Page.....Page 3B
- Classifieds/Legals....Pages 4-6B
- Kids’ Columns.....Page 7B



7 39292 00068 8
Vol. 155, No. 8
March 4, 2026
©2026 Cassville Democrat

LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Portion of Old Exeter Road to close

The City will temporarily close a section of Old Exeter Road on Tuesday to allow for scheduled utility installation work. Closure points include at Rainbow Drive and at 1st Street. Old Exeter Road will be closed to traffic between these two points for the duration of the work. Local access for residents within the closure zone will be maintained as much as possible. Motorists are encouraged to plan alternate routes and allow additional travel time. The city appreciates the public's patience and cooperation while this essential utility work is completed. For more information, please contact the City Hall at 417-847-4441.

Missi Hekseth to speak at event

The Barry County Democrats are inviting the public to an open community information and public dialogue event featuring Missi Hekseth, Democratic Candidate for 7th Congressional District. The event will be held on March 11 at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Shell Knob VFW Hall, located at 24204 St. Hwy. 39 in Shell Knob.

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.

Purdy Road District to meet

The Purdy Special Road District will host its monthly meeting at 4 p.m. on Monday at the Purdy District Road Barn, located at 200 S. 9th St.. (Farm road 1085)

Corsicana Road District meeting set

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

Strawberry-picking program at Historical Society

Did you pick strawberries growing up? Jim Randall, Monett attorney, draws on four generations of farming strawberries, with railroad connections, for an entertaining program on March 17 from 7-8 p.m. at the Monett Historical Museum Event Center at 422 Broadway. There is no admission charge for the program.

Oak Hill Cemetery Annual Meeting in March

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

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

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

Summer Putting League kicks off April in southwest Missouri

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

Book collection now at Bayless-Salyer house

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

Voter registration ongoing for April elections

For those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the April 7 General Municipal Election, the last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 11, 2026. People may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or the Monett Chamber of Commerce. Registered voters should notify the Clerk's Office of any change of address or name. Photo ID is required to vote in the April General Municipal Election. Absentee voting is ongoing at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two-week in-person, no-excuse absentee voting begins March 24. If unable to vote in person, voters may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625, or fax to: 417-847-5311. The Office will need: name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, phone number, reason for voting absentee and signature. Those who live in the Monett area may go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is March 25. For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561, opt: 3, or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

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

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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

Exeter man dies in train-versus-car collision

Chevrolet sedan attempted to cross tracks near Purdy

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com

An Exeter man died after his vehicle collided with a train at 1:20 p.m. on Feb. 20, three quarters of a mile north of Purdy.

According to a Missouri Highway Patrol report, a 47-year-old male, of Exeter, was driving a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt eastbound and attempted to traverse a railway crossing marked

by yield/railway crossing signs and was struck by a Arkansas and Missouri Railway 2012 EMD SD70ACE, being conducted by a 19-year-old male.

The Exeter man was pronounced dead at the scene at 2:28 p.m. by Deputy Coroner Todd McCoy. The train conductor was not injured.

It is unknown if the Exeter man was wearing a safety device, and the vehicle was totaled. The train was not damaged.

This is the 12th fatality of 2026 for Troop D of the patrol, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri, including Barry.

Barry County Health Corner



What your child's blood lead test means

The blood lead test tells you how much lead is in your child's blood.

Lead can harm a child's growth, behavior and ability to learn. The lower the test result, the better. However, no lead level has been proven safe.

Lead poisoning occurs when children lick, swallow or breathe in dust from lead paint. Most homes built before 1978 have old lead paint, often under newer paint. If paint peels, cracks, or is worn down, the chips and dust from the old lead paint can spread onto floors, windowsills and all around your home.

Mining has occurred in a large portion of Missouri. High levels of lead in the air, dust, and soil have been found in areas surrounding mining activity. Mining waste in these areas has been used for driveways, land fill material, and even in children's play area.

Other sources of lead include drinking water, jewelry, pottery and occupational exposures brought home. Lead paint, dust and other materials containing lead may get onto children's hands and into their mouth and swallowed or inhaled.

Many children have had some contact with lead in old paint, soil, plumbing or other sources. All children under the age of 6 should be screened for lead risk factors at each well child check. If a child is at risk for lead poisoning, he or she should be tested.

All children under the age of 4 should be provided lead education and offered a test yearly. For children up to age 6, your doctor or nurse should ask you at every well child visit about ways your child may have had contact with lead. Children who have had contact with lead should be tested. Additionally, Federal requirements are to blood lead test all children receiving Medicaid benefits at ages 12-24 months, at a minimum.

The Barry County Health Department offers a capillary lead screening test for children age 1-5 years old. We also offer lead case management for children with elevated blood lead levels. Through case management we give parents educational and nutritional advice to help lower the child's levels.

We work with the parent to ensure that the child is following up with their private physician. Blood testing must be done at regular intervals to ensure that levels are returning to normal limits.

If your child needs a lead screening, please call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 for more information.

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.

STREAM EVERY BUZZER-BEATER WITH goBEC FIBER.

417 847 2131

www.gobec.net

CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT

March 4, 2026
Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five
Number 8

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

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

CORRECTIONS

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

CASSVILLE Democrat

COVERING BARRY COUNTY LIKE THE MORNING DEW

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

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

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

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

Cassville man facing attempted child molestation charge

Suspect allegedly threatened to rape child at home in Washburn

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
 ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
 A Cassville man is facing a felony charge for allegedly attempting to molest a child at a home in Washburn.

Triston Garner, 27, of Cassville, Mo., is charged with second-degree attempted child molestation.

According to a probable cause statement filed by James

Morgan, Washburn police chief, on Dec. 27, 2025, at about 11:30 p.m., he was dispatched to a residence in Washburn for a possible sexual assault of a juvenile. Upon arrival, Morgan made contact with the reporting party, the mother of the juvenile.

The mother said according to her child, under the age of 12, Garner allegedly touched the child inappropriately, and said, "I will rape you," and put his hands in the child's pants.

The mother said Garner had been staying at the residence for a while as a family friend, and when confronted with the

allegations of the incident, Garner left the home walking toward Cassville, where he has family who live in apartments.

Morgan reported the incident to Child Protective Services, and a forensic interview with the child was held on Dec. 28 at the Children's Advocacy Center in Monett.

Morgan said in the statement Garner also allegedly attempted to get the child to kiss him on the lips, saying it would be fun, and was attempting to have sexual intercourse with the victim but was unsuccessful.

Garner also allegedly took pictures of the victim and

showed the victim AI-created photos of the victim's face on a naked person's body, which Morgan said appeared to be an attempt at grooming.

Authorities recovered Garner's phone from a brush pile he threw it into on the night he was confronted. Morgan said it was discovered Garner had called 9-1-1 and the Cassville Police Department responded to an apartment in Cassville because Garner was afraid someone was going to hurt him. The phone was submitted to a lab for a forensic phone dump.

On Jan. 9, Morgan went with a Cassville officer to the

address on record for Garner and attempted to contact him but was unsuccessful.

The partial phone dump has been returned, and due to the phone having a password, the forensic team was unable to get a complete dump. Nothing of evidential value was discovered, Morgan said.

A warrant for Garner's arrest was issued on Feb. 25, and Garner was arrested and booked into the Barry County jail on Feb. 26, held on a cash-only bond of \$100,000. A bond hearing is set for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.



The historic iron bridge across Flat Creek at Star City, on Farm Road 1142 ("The Old Wire Road"), is scheduled for replacement by Hartman & Company Construction, of Springfield. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



The iron bridge over Flat Creek at Melton Ford, east of McDowell on Farm Road 2080, will be the last of its kind in use on rural farm roads in Barry County, says presiding commissioner. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Bridge: Melton Ford bridge the last of its kind still in use in Barry County

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Bridge project was initially given the stamp of approval by the county and the Monett Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a WPA project, that year. The iron structure was removed from the old "Feeney" crossing over Shoal Creek, near Pioneer, two years earlier, and was being held in reserve for the Flat Creek crossing at Star City. That construction, although approved, didn't materialize for over a decade.

Jeremiah Buntin, Barry County Museum historian and research specialist, speculates that U.S. involvement in WWII had something to do with the delay.

A December 1948 news article states that work was expected to begin on the iron bridge installation at Star City in 1949,

although financing plans had changed. The project would no longer be under the auspices of the WPA, which was dissolved in 1943, but would be the result of a state law known as the "King 'Milk Route' Law." Under that law, the State of Missouri would supply up to \$750, per mile, for milk, mail and school bus routes, with counties expected to match the state grants.

As a part of what was called the Flat Creek bridge building program, funds were approved for installation of three iron bridges in the county: one across Flat Creek at Star City; one at Melton Ford, the Flat Creek crossing east of McDowell, near the late Missouri Senator Emory Melton's childhood home; and a third near the

historic community of Carney, across the "old Carney ford."

Anderson Construction Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, began work on the Star City Bridge in August, 1949, with the Melton Ford Bridge scheduled to be second in line, followed by the Carney Bridge.

According to a December 1951 article in The Cassville Republican, T.J. Anderson, of Anderson Construction filed a claim against Barry County in 1950 for non-payment of money the county allegedly owed him, after work on the Star City and Melton Ford Bridges had been completed. Materials had also been delivered for the Carney Bridge, he stated. Anderson's case was based on allegations of expenses he entailed due to "unreasonable delay" on the

part of the county's engineer.

The case was heard in a Joplin court by Federal Judge Albert Ridge. Ridge awarded Anderson \$2,078 of the nearly \$36,000 he requested, and Anderson's contract to build the Carney Bridge was rescinded. A sum of almost \$24,000 was set aside in a bridge fund for future construction of the bridge.

It is unclear whether those funds were later used to construct a bridge over the current Flat Creek crossing on State Highway EE, near the historic community of Carney, or if an iron bridge was constructed elsewhere along that section of creek.

In addition to the Star City Bridge, the bridge over Flat Creek on Highway 248, south

of Jenkins, is scheduled for demolition and replacement. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) states that work on that project is scheduled to begin this week. That crossing, too, will be closed for about 120 days.

Steve Blankenship said aside from the old Jenkins Bridge in Jenkins — which is no longer open to vehicular traffic — he believes the bridge at Melton Ford, on Farm Road 2080, will be the last of its kind still in use in the county. He's heard no complaints from inspectors about the condition of the Melton Bridge, he said.

Past news clippings used for this article were provided courtesy of Jeremiah Buntin, at the Barry County Museum, in Cassville.

AREA BUSINESSES SERVING YOU!

BARRY COUNTY FARMERS COOP
 Exeter, Missouri

PROPANE DIESEL FEED FERTILIZER

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

TRIPPS OUTDOORS

- Land Clearing
- Property Consulting
- Wildlife Seed
- Forestry Mulching
- Property Management
- Feed & Minerals
- Lawn care
- Landscaping

417-737-2497
 www.trippsoutdoors.com
 info@trippsoutdoors.com

If you're in Barry County, I'm for you.

Chad Yarnall - Agent
 (417) 847-3399
 chad.yarnall@mofb.com

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

BARRY COUNTY READY-MIX

3 Locations To Serve You

Cassville: 417-847-3200 • Eagle Rock: 417-271-3200
 Shell Knob: 417-858-3200

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC

NOW OFFERING...

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

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

Four State Stockyards Serving the Four State-area since 2019
 Exeter, MO

Feeder calf sale every Tuesday 10am, slaughter cows to follow
 Bred cows/pairs every Tuesday 6pm
Special Cow Sale — April 18, 5 p.m.

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

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

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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

MFA AGRI SERVICES

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

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

- Feed
- Forage Seed
- Row Crop Seed
- Ag Chemical
- Bulk Fertilizer
- Precision Grid Soil Testing & Variable, Rate Fertilizer
- Custom Application
- Crop & Livestock Insurance

GRAFTED IN Cabinetry

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

Purdy, MO

Robert Bergeron — 417-323-5250

COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Mission accomplished

The last week of February every year has repeatedly come to be one of the most coverage-heavy weeks of the year — and while 2026 gave no shortage of challenges, it gave as many rewards.

After getting out our 22-page issue last week, I embarked on a five-day, weekend-consuming coverage-fest of sports and news, culminating in today's issue that is packed with a bit of something for everyone.

The journey began last Wednesday with the annual trip to Columbia to cover the Cassville wrestling program's nine state qualifiers. I make mention of state wrestling every year because it is such a unique and emotional event. Never in one place do you simultaneously see so many tears of joy and tears of despair as you do at state.

Cassville had its share of both. With high expectations coming in and the realistic goal of a team medal, the prospects did not pan out as hoped. Of the nine, four departed with medals, two in sixth place, one in fifth and one state champion.

Reflecting on the tournament, Cassville Coach Nathan Fortner believed the chink in the armor came at districts, when three-time state medalist Riley James suffered a season-ending knee injury. Momentum, he said, swung the direction of misfortune.

A mixed bag of results on Day 1 turned into an even more challenging Day 2. I interviewed each of the wrestlers Thursday afternoon when only Colton Roark's championship match remained. Even though there was disappointment among the ranks that day, the overarching takeaway was the seniors left with a sense of accomplishment — having medaled or not — and the underclassmen left with a sense of resolve — also having medaled or not.

As for Roark, there was never any doubt why he was ranked No. 1 at 175 pounds. An 18-second pin, 45-second pin and a 15-0 tech fall in under 90 seconds put him in the title bout.

I've covered this kid all four years, and watching the way he controlled that championship match — making history with a 6-3 decision to become the first-ever two-time state champ from Cassville — was absolutely incredible. His timing, his composure, his skill and his knowledge were all unquestionably on display. As good as he was as a freshman, it was incredible to watch how good he'd become as a senior.

This senior wrestling class was a special one. With more than 600 wins and 10 state medals among the four of them, I will miss covering their accomplishments.

Returning Friday afternoon, I had a couple of hours' break before heading to Verona to cover the Class 1, District 4 girls' basketball championship, ensured a local winner since the battle was between Exeter and Wheaton.

A rather slow first half devolved into a chaotic second half, with Exeter erasing a 5-point deficit in the final 5:29 to win the game by 4.

In that game, you had to appreciate the tenacity of Lady Tigers senior Shea Hilburn. Held scoreless in the first half and most of the third quarter, she knocked down 15 points in the final 12 minutes to propel her team to a victory — a vindicating result after falling to Hurley in last year's district title game.

As small-school district championships go, it was a really fun one to cover.

Saturday was mostly spent putting together the March Monett Monthly, which I put to bed on Sunday after covering my 13th consecutive Opening Day at Roaring River State Park.

Opening Day has a "same story, different script" feel year by year. How many tags were sold and the weather are always the main points, but the underlying storyline weaves tales of traditions new and old, and countless memories being made on the banks or the stream.

As they did last year, Facebook Reels I posted about the event have brought the negative Nancys. Anyone who thinks Opening Day is "combat fishing" or "like shooting fish in a barrel" I would say is a bit misguided.

While fishing is the main activity, Opening Day really isn't about fishing at all. It's about spending time with family and friends, enjoying the beauty of our slice of the Ozarks no matter where you are from, and most importantly, renewing or creating traditions that span generations — I frequently see three or four generations standing side by side on the banks.

From the wrestling pins to the fishing lines and everything in between and after, it has taken about 80 hours to produce this week's issue.

As we move into spring and our next projects and goals, trying weeks like this inevitably remind me of the importance and value of community newspapers. From the stories to the photos and advertisements to the design, I hope this issue remains in the memories of the many, many people within its pages or not.

Being a historical record is one of our goals as an organization, and this week — mission accomplished.

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.

AMERICAN INSIGHTS

A centennial call for freedom

American independence at one hundred years, The New York Times wrote on Tuesday, July 4, 1876, was nothing short of "a complete century of trial."

In the years since the Declaration of Independence, America was transformed by forces large and small, visible and invisible, tragic and triumphant. The principles for which the fifty-six delegates of the Second Continental Congress had pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor had stood the tests of time, albeit not without challenge.

By 1876, the country seemed to be speeding toward its zenith. America's breathtaking infrastructural innovations in railroads, waterways, steel production, oil independence, and other technologies, not to mention the unprecedented nature and effects of economic growth, urbanization, and immigration, had by the late nineteenth century signaled "a nation transformed," as one historian has described.

Politically, if not morally, America had witnessed long-awaited rectification, if only partly. In 1861, Lincoln marshaled America's better angels to restore and preserve the permanency of the Union and the Constitution on no other principles than those of the Declaration, specifically the principle that "all men are created equal," a phrase he repeated as often as one of faith recites the Psalmist. It cost 600,000 lives, but the Union was preserved, the Constitution made supreme, slavery abolished, and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments ratified, beginning the long process toward equal access to the ballot. The American ideals, in sum, were being realized—if not at breakneck speed, at least at a steady pace.

But there remained, after one hundred years,



DAKODA PETTIGREW

an issue that had yet to be resolved. "Remember the ladies," Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John Adams, in March 1776, "[we] will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or representation." The right of women to vote, save briefly in New Jersey, was not, in fact, remembered. Worse, the Fifteenth Amendment, ratified in 1870, inserted the word "male" into the Constitution for the first time.

The year before, Iowa legislators resolved that "men' in the [Declaration]...refers to the whole human race, regardless of nationality or sex," and that "taxation and representation should be coextensive." What of the "consent of the governed?" they asked. Yet by 1876, only the Wyoming and Utah territories granted full voting rights to women.

Thus, amidst the awesome festivities of the first-ever world fair in Philadelphia and surrounded by lively centennial celebrations of American independence, Susan B. Anthony and four other women decided to do something that Americans, as rambunctious relatives of the English, knew and did all too well: protest. On the Fourth, after a descendant of Richard Henry Lee read the Declaration during the official program, Anthony marched up to the podium and presented a document to Vice President Thomas Ferry—"a declaration of rights from the women citizens of the United States," Anthony said.

Perplexed, Ferry accepted it. Their "overt act" complete,

the ladies retreated through the audience and handed copies of their declaration to astonished onlookers, after which they set themselves up at "a raised platform" in front of Independence Hall, where "Miss. Anthony read the Declaration" to a "thronging crowd."

"Our faith is firm and unwavering in the sacred principles of human rights proclaimed in 1776," Anthony declared. "Yet we cannot forget, even in this glad hour, that while all men of every race, and clime, and condition, have been invested with the full rights of citizenship under our hospitable flag, all women still suffer the degradation of disenfranchisement."

America's centennial, as the Times had written, was one of trial, marked, in Anthony's approximation, by "a series of assumptions and usurpations of power over women, in direct opposition to the principles of just government." Such principles were "the natural rights of each individual, the equality of these rights, that rights not delegated are retained, that no person can exercise the rights of others without delegated authority, that the non-use of rights does not destroy them."

On the day of America's centennial, the ladies arraigned the nation's leaders and listed "articles of impeachment," including the effective suspension of habeas corpus "in case of a married woman against her husband," the denial of trial by a jury of a woman's peers, unequal labor codes, and, most striking, taxation without representation, which ran counter to the very principle which had given birth to the United States.

"It was the boast of the founders," Anthony said, "that the rights for which they contended were the rights of human nature," adding, "if these rights are ignored in

the case of one-half of the people, the nation is surely preparing for its downfall." The subjugated status of half the country was "incompatible with the first principles of freedom." Anthony concluded, "We ask justice, we ask equality."

The great feminist historian Ellen Carol DuBois wrote that "for weeks after, women from all over...wrote to have their names and those of their friends and relatives added to the Declaration." While newspapers covered the incident, they did so only modestly. It was, as another historian wrote, "a fleeting moment." Not until 1920 and the 1960s would women truly see ideals realized.

Yet, on Tuesday, July 4, 1876, beneath the shade of an umbrella, in front of perhaps few people at a time, Anthony did what the courageous do and what change requires: she stood for what was right and cared little how many listened.

"It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped," Robert Kennedy said in 1966. "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

The question, then, is whether we are the ripple or the wall.

Dakoda Pettigrew is a summa cum laude graduate of Liberty University with a Bachelor's of science in political science and history. Pettigrew's father went to school in Cassville, and he lives in Tennessee. He can be reached at pettigrewdakoda6@gmail.com.

You will love
SHELL KNOB
 The biggest little town in southwest Missouri

SHELL KNOB DENTAL CENTER
 Brian K. Leach, D.D.S.
 TimbeRoc Village
 Shell Knob, MO
417.858.6527
 HOURS
Mon. Tue. Thur. | 8am - 5pm
Fri. | 8am - 2pm

BARRY COUNTY READY MIX LLC
3 Locations to serve you
 CASSVILLE: 417-847-3200 • EAGLE ROCK: 417-271-3200
 SHELL KNOB: 417-858-3200

Bulk business orders! **TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC** **Save big with local business!**
CALL US TODAY FOR.....
 Business Cards • Signs • Posters • Booklets • Promotional Items • Memo Pads • Stickers • Greeting Cards • Business Checks • Receipt Books
.....AND MUCH MORE!
 Design assistance available — competitive pricing — Mailed to your door or pick-up in Cassville
 417-847-2610 600 Main St., Cassville
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m, M-F ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

50 years ago

March 10, 1976
— COURT RENOVATION BID IN MONEY; CITY PLAN ON HOLD

Two federal and locally funded programs in Cassville were under bids received by the Barry County Court Friday. Included was a program of renovating the Circuit Courtroom of the courthouse and office expansion and remodeling of an existing city building for a neighborhood center, ambulance storage facility and offices. The courthouse program is being funded by the Missouri Council on Criminal Justice and the court in the amount of \$24,000 each. Low bidder on the project was Lester Prewitt and Son of Exeter with a proposal of \$35,170. Prewitt said he would begin work within 40 days with a 90-day completion schedule. A Springfield firm bid \$37,344 and a Neosho contractor was high with \$40,292. Included in the project will be adding offices for Prosecuting Attorney Dale Burke on the present balcony of the courtroom. A resulting shuffle of offices will see the Barry County Extension offices moved from the Post Office basement to the second floor of the courthouse. Taken under advisement was a Housing and Urban Development grant project of converting and adding to the city building on South Main. Available was \$76,000 of federal funds minus overhead and engineering costs of about \$3,500 each. Prewitt was again low bidder with \$83,460 submitted on the base bid. George Ulmer, engineer, said the project remains about \$14,701 short. Meeting with the engineer and court representatives, city officials called a meeting Thursday to determine if makeup funds would be available from revenue sharing and general revenue monies. On the bidding for conversion of the old Thomas Building, used for industrial, storage and firehouse purposes, three other contractors submitted proposals of \$94,569, \$96,977 and \$114,902. Mayor Bill LeCompte said the feeling of council members present, W.C. Hailey and Gene Schlichtman, was that the project should be completed with the city making up the difference. He said a full council meeting would be necessary to make that decision. The conversion, bid at about \$3,000 more than city plans several years ago, would also provide new Chamber of Commerce offices, offices for the fire department and ambulance service, a neighborhood center for special events and general exterior renovation. City officials said the Thursday 7:30 p.m. session would replace Tuesday's regular scheduled meeting for which no quorum was available. Mayor LeCompte said this would permit ample time for review of finances to determine if funds were available to complete the project. Bidding was supervised by Miller-Newell and Associates of Cassville, engineers on the two projects.

— TWO CASSVILLE BUSINESSES IN



40 YEARS AGO: AT THE FINISH LINE — Cassville Cub Scouts Jeff Crumpler and Lane Truman are shown watching their Pinewood Derby entries finish a heat. Observing the close finish were judges Steve Buchheit, left, and Clyde King, right. Pack officials and recorders are in the background. The Saturday event at the American Legion Home produced these age group winners: Eight-year-olds, Clay McCracken, Steve Turner and Danny Brock; nine-year-olds, Lane Truman, Jeff Crumpler and Jeff Williams; 10-year-olds, Eric Mann, Greg Turner and Gene Stouder. Tiger Cub winners were best of class Terry Slater, first Danny Stouder and second John Bailey. Democrat file photo

OWNER CHANGES

Two Cassville businesses are involved in ownership changes this week. First announced was the sale of Hutchens Surge Dairy Service to Ron and Bob Vinson from Mr. and Mrs. Carol Hutchens. The second was Doug Samuel acquiring sole ownership of Sportsman's Corner from former partner Allen Sparks. The Vinson brothers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Vinson of Butterfield, have assumed operation of the business that includes a Barry County and northwest Arkansas franchise. Ron Vinson has been associated with the business a number of years. Bob Vinson has been in west Texas in the finance and insurance business. They will continue installation, service and supplies from the present location east of Cassville on Highway 248. Hutchens will devote full time to his dairy herd on a farm at Washburn Prairie. Samuel purchased his partner's interest in the fishing and sporting goods business at the highway intersection in south Cassville late last week. Sparks has not announced future plans. Sportsman's Corner was established by the partnership last summer in the German Building. Samuel said plans include expansion of product lines to include more complete sporting goods and installation of a live bait operation. In another business note for Cassville, the move of NaLani's Fashions, managed by Mrs. Betty Patterson, is complete from the 800 block of Main to the 900 block.

40 years ago

March 12, 1986
— ALTERNATE PROJECT MIGHT OPEN 13TH STREET BRIDGE

Cassville City Council got back into discussion of the 13th Street bridge over Fint Creek in a regular meeting Monday night, as pressure from residents of the northeast part of town continues in an effort to shorten the route traveled to downtown areas. Mayor Rolland Meador acknowledged coun-

cil acceptance of one of two options proposed by a Kansas City engineering firm. Acting under a program of the Missouri Highway Department, engineer Bob Campbell of Harrington-Cortelyou Inc. gave a two-option verbal report on the possibility of reopening the bridge, which has been closed two weeks. Relayed to George Ulmer, city engineer, the plan adopted by the council will include stripping of the asphalt overlay from the bridge floor and reinforcement from both ends of the bridge. This would be followed by setting a 15 mph speed limit and a 6,000-pound vehicle limit. Doing the work, estimated to cost \$2,000, gives no assurances of the firm issuing a safe crossing approval. After the work is completed, the firm would make more tests, including a load stress test, toward a final determination. Council intention, with all members present, was to continue efforts for new bridge construction. In the session, the decision was made by members Gary Fields, Sue Brattin, Bill Shiveley and Bob Mizer. City Clerk Jo Ledgerwood said a second alternate, estimated to cost \$20,000, would have gone into the creek bed, providing additional foundations and beams extended to the bridge floor center span. Crews were expected to begin cutback of approaches this week, permitting removal of a four-inch asphalt base on the bridge floor. Ulmer estimated this could relieve the crossing of considerable weight as a temporary measure. Mayor Meador also restated the city's intention to take part in the April 19-26 Missouri Beautification Association cleanup efforts. Southwest Sanitation, holder of waste contracts, will also take part and be assisted in some large hauls by city crews. In other action, bills payable amounted to \$13,020.41. By ordinance, two property owners represented by James LeCompte had annexations approved, including Mr. and Mrs.

Jim Craig and Mr. and Mrs. Owen Anglum, both residing in the East 13th Street area. Departmental reports were approved from Police Chief Ray Burnette and Water-Streets Superintendent Tim Miller. Complaints reviewed with no action taken involved water pressure at Schell Mobile Home Park by Donna Stephens and sewer problems relayed by Marvin Garrett. The city will begin a search for a new building inspector following the resignation of Henry Scroggs in February. In the unusually short two-hour session, citizens attending included three from Wildwood Estates concerned about the 13th Street bridge: Dr. John Ferris, Jerry Marple and Cheryl Hall.

— EXTENSION FUNDED; ANOTHER CLOSING

Barry County Extension Council efforts have raised about \$9,000, assuring University of Missouri offices in Cassville will remain in full operation. That word was received this week from Mrs. Ruby Vincent of Jenkins, president of the advisory council. The council group went to work raising funds when Barry County cutbacks presented the possibility of regional officials eliminating specialist positions here. In other cutback information this week, Assessor Glen Nicoll said his first-floor office at the Barry County Courthouse is closed and the telephone number will no longer be in service. Nicoll said all business of his office will be handled in second-floor offices. Reductions in operation and personnel divisions resulted in the closing. There was no announcement of future use of the space. Mrs. Vincent said the Extension Office was not out of the woods completely and still needed contributions, which can be mailed to the office. Local staffers who

will remain headquartered here include Emmett McCord, farm management; Tony Rickard, dairy; Mickey Belosi, foods and nutrition; Nancy England, 4-H educational assistant; and Kelly Horner, secretary. Private fundraising followed county reductions in budget items when sales tax propositions failed on two occasions. Barry County formerly contributed \$24,000 to extension programs, cut to \$10,000 this year. Mrs. Vincent said arrangements included making all specialists in the 10-county regional area available to this county.

30 years ago

March 6, 1996
— ROARING RIVER ANGLERS SET NEW RECORD FOR FRIDAY OPENER

Fishing was as good as it ever has been at Roaring River, according to a string of veteran opening day anglers who caught their limit within the first 10 minutes after the opening gun was fired last Friday morning. Dave Fielder of Shell Knob and fishing pal Jim Stephens of Cassville were two of the 2,000-plus fishermen who purchased trout tags on March 1. Fielder said he caught his inaugural trout in the first three casts of the morning. Stephens and Fielder both admitted to using the lawn chair method of fishing this year. When the opening gun was fired at 6:30 a.m. by Secretary of State Rebecca Cook, there were 1,965 fishermen lined up along the banks of Roaring River. Many had braved pre-dawn temperatures in the teens to claim the perfect fishing spot. The number of trout tags sold rose with the temperature, setting a new Friday opening day record of 2,449 by the end of the day. That total surpassed last year's trout tag total of 2,019 but fell below the park's standing record of 3,504. J.D. Fletcher of Fletcher's Float Service and Devil's Dive Resort reports the fishing is improving. The crappie fishing is good, with most being caught with small jigs. Walleye are also being caught with small jigs. J.D. caught a five-pound walleye last week and a five-pound catfish off his boat dock. He has not seen any white bass yet, but black bass have been hitting rogues on the lake's main body and points. Campbell Point Boat Dock reports fish are biting inside the lake's points with standing cedar trees in 18 to 20 feet of water. Bass are being caught with jerk and crank baits. Tri-Lake Bait & Tackle in Kimberling City reports the water temperature is 42 degrees and the lake water is clear. Bass are biting Smithwick Rogues in 10 to 15 feet of water. Crappie are being caught around brush piles in 20 to 25 feet of water using live bait.

— C.C.C. MEMBER JAMES WOODS HONORED WITH FIRST TROUT TAG

Cassville man helped build Roaring River State Park in 1938 — James Woods' earliest memories of Roaring River State Park include a lot of

pick and shovel work. As a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Woods worked to build many of the park facilities visitors use today. Woods was honored last week for his early involvement at Roaring River by receiving the first trout tag of the 1996 season. The presentation was made by Jerry Dean, hatchery manager, and Leroy Heman, assistant chief of fisheries with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The recognition was fitting because Woods said he actually dug the trenches for the raceways where rainbow trout are raised. Woods first arrived in Cassville on Oct. 13, 1938, as a member of C.C.C. Co. 1713. "After graduating from high school I did not have a job or any prospects of getting one so I joined the C.C.C.," said Woods, a native of Elsinoe, Mo. Once he had settled into his barracks at what is now known as Camp Smokey, Woods was put to work in the rock quarry, located just west of the horse barn. Woods said all the rock used to build the park's natural stone buildings came from the on-site quarry. After working in the quarry, Woods was placed on the work crew in charge of digging a water line trench from the Camp Smokey well to the shelter kitchen. He was also selected to work on the bath house, now the Nature Center. Woods' final assignment at Roaring River was to serve as assistant educational advisor. In that capacity, Woods chronicled C.C.C. activities as editor of the monthly "Roaring River Ripple." On Nov. 1, 1939, work at Roaring River was considered complete and Co. 1713 was moved to Laclede, where they established a memorial park in honor of General John J. Pershing. Woods remained in the C.C.C. until his two-year enlistment ended on June 1, 1940. During his one-year stint at Roaring River, Woods met his wife, Maude Laney, a native of Exeter. They were married on Aug. 2, 1939, while Woods was still stationed at the park. Woods' ties to Roaring River were strong and eventually he and Maude moved back to Cassville in 1941. He worked for Bill Baker at the Farmers Exchange in Wheaton from 1942 to 1944, served in the Navy during World War II and eventually went into the insurance business. Woods loves to talk about his days in the C.C.C. and was honored to receive this year's first trout tag. "Roaring River is almost like a home to me," Woods said. "I met my wife here. I like the community, the people and everyone at the park."

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Meet the adorable Phestus! He is a black with white collie mix. His date of birth is Dec. 17, 2025. He's at that perfect age to bond with his new family and grow up knowing nothing but love and stability. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenoftheozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



Free Vaccine Clinic

Date: March 12th, 2026
 Time: 10:00AM - 2:30PM
 Location: Haven of the Ozarks
 9617 Farm Road 2190, Washburn, MO 65772

Provided Vaccines: Rabies (dog and cat), DAPP (dog annual), and FVRCP (cat annual)

Requirements: Dogs must be on leash, cats must be in individual carriers

Book appointments: Tinyurl.com/Petclinic2025

Appointments are recommended as walk-ins will only be taken after 11 AM with limited slots



**JESSIE MAE
"CHUBBY"
STARNES**

Jessie Mae "Chubby" Starnes, age 80, of Rogers, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on February 19, 2026. She passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Circle of Life in Bentonville, Arkansas.

She was born on July 29, 1945, in Rogers, Arkansas, to Manuel and Hattie (McCombs) Cotton. On July 31, 1971, in Exeter, Missouri, she was united in marriage to James Starnes, who preceded her in death. Also, preceding her in death were her parents; infant brother, Lazern Cotton; brothers, George Cotton, Ted Cotton, and Charlie Cotton; sisters, Hazel Bean, Margie Johnson, Gracie Pace, and Barbara Roberts. Though her departure leaves a void in her family,

Jessie's memory will be

forever cherished by the numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews who survive her.

Jessie spent her early years in Rogers, where she attended local public schools. In 1971, she married James and moved to Exeter, Missouri, a place that would become a significant chapter in her life. For over 32 years, Jessie worked for Tyson Foods in Monett, Missouri, before retiring. In 2021, she moved back to Rogers.

She had a passion for the excitement of casinos, the comfort of family gatherings, and the simple pleasures of talking on the phone and playing on her tablet. Her nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews were the light of her life, and she treated each one as if they were her own children, showering them with love and attention. Jessie was a member of the Church of Christ in Exeter.

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

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

Cassville.
PAID OBITUARY

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



LAVETA CROWE

LaVeta Crowe, 65, of Cassville, passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Mercy Hospital Cassville.

She was born on November 10, 1960, in Springfield to Jerry and Patricia (Norman) Rose.

She is preceded in death by her mother, one niece Tamara Corn, and Mason Lowe.

Survivors include her husband Stu Crowe; one daughter, Lyndsey Libertus of Exeter, Mo.; one son, Jerrod Archer of Cassville, Mo.; a very special nephew; two grandchildren; her father Jerry Rose and his companion Phyllis Long of Washburn, Mo.; two sisters, Coleta Rose of Seligman, Mo.; and Jeanne Young of Washburn, Mo.; two brothers, Pete Rose and his wife Kati of Washburn, Mo., and James Rose of Cassville, Mo.; and several nieces and nephews.

She graduated from Southwest High School in 1979.

She supported Stu and loved traveling to watch him in the Professional Bull Riders (PBR).

She was a dedicated business owner who proudly owned and operated CR-ose Cafe for 20 years, serving the communities of Washburn, Cassville, and Exeter.

A visitation was held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at White Funeral Home and Crematory.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

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

White Funeral Home
and Crematory
Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org
417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400

Call 847-2610
to subscribe



**ELBERT
"WAYNE" ALLEN**

Elbert "Wayne" Allen, 91, of Jenkins, Mo., passed away Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at his home.

He was born in Jenkins, Mo., the son of Elbert Franklin and Anna Marie (Terrell) Allen, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife, Anna Mae Hicks.

Survivors include his sons, Randy Allen and wife Kathy of Marionville and Gary Allen and wife Donna of Jenkins; daughter, Elberta McGowen and husband Daniel of Mustang, Okla.; brother, Jim Allen and wife Anita of Chestnut Ridge, Mo.; six grandchildren; five step-grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

He lived his entire life in Jenkins, a community he was proud to be a part of. He attended school in Cassville, Mo., then served in the United States Army from August of 1957 until August of 1963. Upon returning home he worked at Juvenile Shoe Corporation in Aurora, Mo., for several years from where he eventually retired.

He was a faithful member of Crane Bible Baptist Church.

Services with military honors were held at 2 P.M. Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at Fohn

Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Tony Ball conducted the services. A private burial at Allen

Family Cemetery in Jenkins, Mo. will be held at a later date.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



**AUSTIN LEON
DEANS**

Austin Leon Deans, 47, of Purdy, Mo. passed away on February 23, 2026, in Purdy.

He was born on November 28, 1978, in Rogers, Ark., to Henry Austin and Connie (Paul) Deans. Preceding him in death were his father; paternal grandparents, Jonathan "Sid" and Myrtle Deans and maternal grandparents, Leon and Charlene Paul.

Survivors include his mother and step-father,

Connie (Paul) Deans Hubrig and Bruce Hubrig of Washburn, Mo.; fiancée, Angel Tiner of Purdy, Mo.; son, Silas Deans of Joplin, Mo.; daughters, Martha King of Camdenton, Mo., Sydney Dudley of Springfield, Mo., Kyla Deans and fiancé, Landon McCracken of Granby, Mo., Kristal Deans of Springfield, Mo., Kaitlyn Tiner and husband Hunter Annecharico, of Exeter, Mo. and Addie Hill of Cassville, Mo.; brother, Philip Deans, and wife Jamie, of Rogers, Ark., and three grandchildren.

He grew up in Washburn, Mo., and attended Southwest High School. He was employed by Arning Companies, Incorporated in Cassville for 15 years as a welder. He made a profession of faith at church camp in the summer of 1988. He was a member of Washburn First Baptist Church and had recently attended Community Faith Chapel in Cassville.

Services were held Thursday, February 26, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Rick Cooper and Reverend Jim Erwin conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to the family in memory of Austin in care of Fohn Funeral Home.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



**CINDY ANN
GREATHOUSE**

Cindy Ann Greathouse, 59, of Shell Knob, Mo. passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Ark.

She was born in Denver, Colo., the daughter of Austin and Lee Ann (Boyer) Bowyer, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her grandson, Lucas Stott. Survivors include her husband, Hobart "Hoby" Greathouse; her sons, Andrew Greathouse and wife Athena of Shell Knob, Gregory Greathouse of Daytona Beach, Fla., and Bob Stott of Cassville; daughters, Miranda Greathouse of Mayfield, Ken., Sabrina Thompson and husband Jimmy of Lebanon, Brook Greathouse of Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., Beth Greathouse of Shell Knob and Mia Greathouse of Daytona Beach, Fla.; brother, Travis Bowyer and wife Sherri of Cassville; sister, Deb Banzhaf and husband Tom of Wichita, Kan.; six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She attended school in Cassville, Mo., graduating from Cassville High School. She was employed by Cassville Elementary

School in Cassville and R.J. Longstreet Elementary School in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., as a paraprofessional for several years. She was a firm believer in Jesus Christ.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday, March 6, 2026 at Vine Creek Cemetery in Golden, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor J.R. and Vickie Poulson will conduct the services.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



**BRIAN XEITLI
HAMILTON**

11/17/63 - 02/25/26

Brian Hamilton was born on November 17, 1963, in Grandview, Mo. to Len and Doris Hamilton, who preceded in death.

Also preceding him in death were his brothers, Randy Hamilton and Len Joseph Hamilton, and his sister, Sherry Hamilton.

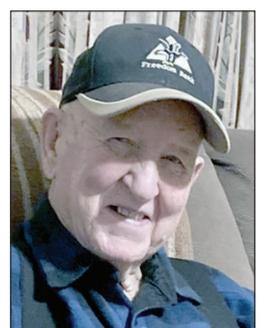
Survivors include his wife, Lisa Hamilton, his son, Matthew Hamilton and family, his son, Jacob Hamilton and family, his daughter, Katherine

Hamilton and family, his brother, Martin Hamilton and family, and his sister, Korbie Williams and family, and many other loving family members and dear friends.

He was raised in Grandview, Mo. He served his country in the United States Army from 1987 to 1995. He was honorably discharged after eight years, and he will be laid to rest at the VA National Cemetery in Fayetteville, Ark.

He will be honored with a final Honor Walk. Draped in the American flag, he will be escorted from the hospital as staff, veterans, and loved ones line the halls and sidewalks in silent respect, offering a final salute.

His Honor Walk at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center, was on Saturday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m.



**LOREN "LAVON"
RUSSELL**

Loren "Lavon" Russell, 88, of Monett, Mo. passed away Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at home.

He was born January 17, 1938, in Mineral Springs, Mo., the son of Calvin and Lora (Ennis) Russell, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death were his grandparents and brother, Calvin Russell, Jr. Survivors include his wife, Patsy Gage; his sons, Rick Russell and wife Becky of Verona, Mo. and Ted Russell and wife Minerva of Springdale, Ark.; daughters, Cindy Breazzeal and partner Donald of Cassville, Mo. and Vicky Russell and partner Jim of Golden, Mo.; brother, Doyle Russell of Monett, Mo.; 14 grandchildren; 24

WHITE FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY
196 Sale Barn Rd., Cassville, MO • 417-847-8400
Crematory on site
To view obituaries, go to www.whitefuneralhome.org

Masterpieces for Remembering.

POWELL
Traci (Hood) Oct. 23, 1943 Richard N. Feb. 27, 1943
Married Aug. 2, 1965

Monett Other Convenient Locations
201 West Broadway Aurora 1-800-346-9877
(417) 235-3444 Monett 1-800-346-9879
1-800-346-9879 Springfield 1-800-346-9875
& selected representatives throughout the Ozarks

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

Wommack
Monument Company

FOHN FUNERAL HOME

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

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

WHITE FUNERAL HOME
Local Death Notices

Mary Mink • Cassville • April 29, 1950—Feb. 23, 2026
LaVeta Crowe, Cassville • Nov. 10, 1960—Feb. 26, 2026
Billie Morse • Cassville • July 24, 1933—March 1, 2026

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

To view obituaries, go to www.whitefuneralhome.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A
great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

He grew up and attended school in Reeds Spring, Mo., graduating from Reeds Spring High School. His passions were farming, raising cattle and being a machinist.

Services were held Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jerry Nickle and Pastor Mike Tharp conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

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



MAVA BELLE WRITER

Mava Belle Writer, 78, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Friday, February 27, 2026 at her home.

She was born October 14, 1947 in Kingston, Ark., the daughter of Johnny and Edna (Norris) Randall, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death were her sisters, Gwendolyn Randall and Faye Moore.

Survivors include her husband Verlon Eugene "Gene" Writer; her son, Doug Writer and wife Sandy of Cassville; daughter, Mandy Barnes and husband Eric of Cassville; sister, Joyce Darby of Berryville, Ark.; six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

She graduated from Cassville High School and later continued her education, earning an associate degree. She worked for many years as an LPN at South Barry County Hospital and FASCO Industries in Cassville. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears will conduct the services. Burial will be at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Ronald McDonald House Charities of The Ozarks or The Arc of the Ozarks in memory of Mava.

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

Rollin' down Main



Cassville student Madi Yockey drives a tractor through the Cassville square on Feb. 24 during "Drive Your Tractor to School Day," part of the school's FFA Week celebrations. Gwendylan Harmon/Cassville Democrat Intern



Nine Cassville students participated in the "Drive Your Tractor to School Day" on Feb. 24, part of the school's FFA Week celebrations. Participants included, from left: Eli Anders, Madi Yockey, Izaak Henbest, Will Brooks, Tanner Thomas, Cooper Phillips, Hale Cox, Mason Long and Roper Taylor. Gwendylan Harmon/Cassville Democrat Intern

Craig promoted at Security Bank of Southwest Missouri

New Senior VP—Head of Operations brings 25-plus years experience

At Security Bank of Southwest Missouri, customers depend on clear systems, trusted leadership and a team that shows up ready to serve, said Jon Horner, bank CEO.

To strengthen that commitment, the bank has announced the promotion of Missy Craig to Senior Vice President—Head of Operations.

Horner said in her new role, Craig will guide the bank's operations department, overseeing staffing and customer experience across all three Security Bank locations.

"Craig brings more than 25 years of leadership experience from Walmart and Sam's Club,



CRAIG

where she served as Vice President and Regional General Manager," he said. "She also understands firsthand what it means to run a successful local business as a co-owner of Roaring River Resort & RV Park with her husband, Donald."

Beyond her professional background, Craig is deeply invested in the Cassville community. She actively serves with

the Cassville Chamber of Commerce, Cassville Industrial Development Corporation, Cassville High School JAG Program and the Cassville Rotary Club.

"We are thrilled to have Missy as a valued part of our leadership team," Horner said. "Her experience, leadership and heart for service provide the direction and vision our staff needs and the confidence our customers expect."

Craig is a graduate of John Brown University and holds a master's degree from the University of Arkansas.

Horner said all are invited to join Security Bank in congratulating Craig on the promotion as she helps guide Security Bank of Southwest Missouri into its next chapter of service and growth.

Hughes, McCullah awarded scholarships



The Cassville Board of Education has selected Misty Hughes and Cindy McCullah for the 2026 Board of Education Scholarships. The \$2,500 scholarships are awarded annually to two teachers in the Cassville School District who exhibit exemplary performance and a commitment to continued professional growth. Hughes joined the Cassville teaching staff this school year as a special education teacher. She plans to pursue her master's degree in special education. McCullah is the middle school art teacher and has served the district in that role for the past eight years. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Education Technology and Instructional Design (K-12) through Western Governors University and plans to complete her studies this Spring. In addition to teaching art, McCullah also serves as a member of the district's transportation team. Board of Education Scholarships must be used to further educational pursuits and should be in the area of certification or teaching field. From left: Hughes, Board Member Jill LeCompte and McCullah. Contributed photo

Man who called to file report arrested for meth

Individual allegedly admits to eating substance

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

An Eagle Rock man who called authorities to file a report was arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine.

Jason Carper, born 1975, of Eagle Rock, is charged with possession of a controlled substance.

According to a probable cause report filed by Deputy James Meyers, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on Feb. 2 at about 11:55 a.m., deputies responded to an address in Eagle Rock in reference to an individual wanting to file a report.

While speaking with Carper regarding the report he wanted to file, Meyers said Carper told him he did not remember the address, but he could show deputies where the house was if they gave him a ride.

Meyers said he advised Carper to give him a ride, deputies would have to pat him down for weapons, and Carper consented.

While another deputy was performing the pat down, he asked

Carper if he could check his pockets, and Carper consented. Roller then allegedly discovered what appeared to be a white crystal-like substance in Carper's jacket pocket.

Roller asked Carper if it was meth, and Carper allegedly said yes, and that he had consumed the methamphetamine by eating it.

After securing the substance and returning to the Sheriff's Office, Meyers field-tested the substance, which gave a positive result for methamphetamine.

Carper is being held in the Benton County, Ark., jail on a failure to appear warrant. In Barry County, his bond is set at \$75,000, cash only.

Meyers said in the statement he does not believe Carper would appear in court in response to a criminal summons, as Carper does not have a permanent address and stays at different addresses frequently.

Meyers also noted Carper has been convicted of numerous felonies, including second-degree murder, and his oral consumption of methamphetamine could have caused a danger to the community due to him having an altered state of mind.

Celebrate Agriculture: Thank a Farmer Week

The changing economy illustrates how agriculture impacts citizens lives now more than ever, a Missouri Farm Bureau press release said.

"Farmers and ranchers provide the food, feed, fuel and fiber that serves consumers in Missouri and around the globe," the release said. "Thanks to Missouri farmers, consumers have can also find locally sourced food and goods. Consumers around the world enjoy what our farmers and ranchers produce."

Missouri Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus throughout the state are joining forces to celebrate the importance of agriculture from March 1-7 during Celebrate Agriculture: Thank a Farmer Week.

According to the Missouri Department of Agriculture, a 2021 study of the economic contribution of Missouri agriculture and forestry showed that agriculture is a \$93.7 billion industry.

Missouri agriculture employs almost 460,000 people. The state is ranked in the top 10 for 12

commodities including, number of farms, goats, beef cattle, poultry, hay, rice and cotton.

"With all that they produce, it is remarkable that farm and ranch families account for less than 2 % of the U.S. population," the release said. "Across the United States, there are 2 million farms with 3.4 million farm operators. This number includes owners, their families, hired workers, tenants and renters or sharecroppers. Many farms today find multiple generations working together to produce food and fiber."

So, join Farm Bureau as we Celebrate agriculture and Thank a Farmer.

"Agriculture is important to our daily lives and our community," said Lana Couch, county Farm Bureau president. "Because 98% of the population doesn't farm, it is easy to take for granted the importance of our farmers. Celebrate Agriculture: Thank a Farmer Week is a great time to recognize the important contribution made by farmers."

Scholarships: Senior says to 'Buckle down'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

tion that can match them with multiple scholarship opportunities, rather than filling out separate forms for each one. Some scholarships may require additional essays or supplemental questions after the initial submission.

With general application and community foundation deadlines approaching in March, students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Many scholarships also consider community service hours. Students can gain service experience through organizations such as BETA Club, NHS, JAG, faith-based involvement, or other unpaid volunteer activi-

ties. Preddy said communication has also become easier in recent years, as ParentSquare has significantly improved outreach efforts.

"ParentSquare allows me to communicate with both seniors and their parents using one platform," she said. "It also allows parents to message me directly with questions or concerns."

This direct communication ensures families stay informed about deadlines and new opportunities, Preddy said.

Senior Randa Johnson, who has committed to Missouri State University and plans to major in pre-law, credits the counseling depart-

ment for helping her navigate the process.

"The counselors were a huge help," Johnson said. "There is a place located outside the counselor's office that has a lot of scholarships on paper to pick up and tells you what you would apply for, and the online resources helped too."

Johnson found that some applications became easier once she got started.

"For Missouri State, there were a lot of scholarships that once I filled out a question, it was kept in the forms and applied to others, making it easier to fill out," she said.

Still, balancing scholarships with other

responsibilities can be challenging. Johnson said one difficulty she faced was setting aside time while also working.

Her advice to underclassmen is simple — buckle down.

"Start early as a junior," she said. "Make a list of everything you've already applied for and the ones you still need to do so it's easier to keep track."

Johnson also emphasized the importance of planning ahead for reference letters, because many scholarships require them.

A direct link to the "Scholarships Hub" provided by the district is: <https://chs-scholarships.my.canva.site/>.

K Ken's Collision Center
THE AREA'S FINEST COLLISION REPAIR FACILITY
AND GLASS!
Pro glass repair - done by the Professionals at KEN'S!
WE DO GLASS!
712 W. 10th St. • Cassville, MO 65625 • 417-847-1200
facebook | www.kenscollisioncenter.com

Event Center Coordinator
The Monett Historical Museum currently has an opportunity available for an individual to manage the scheduling and facilitation of our Event Center. The successful candidate should have experience in managing independent projects with a high degree of responsibility and good communication skills. A strong commitment to and interest in promoting the Museum and Event Center would be a requirement. You must be 21 years of age to apply. For details, please contact Jeanne Ann, 417-669-3975.

LOCAL



Troy Feagan, left, of Carthage, helps his daughter, Sage Feagan, also of Carthage, unhook a trout while the pair fished on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Merely seconds after the start of trout season, Jeff Holtcamp, of Billings, pulled in the first trout in the pool across from where the gun was fired on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Jacob Eidel, of Humboldt, Kan., removes his 5.45-pound trout from the lunker weigh station on Opening Day. The 27-year-old said he's been fishing since he was 5, and this was his first-ever lunker. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Larry Quinalty fires the Opening Day gun to kick off catch-and-keep trout season at Roaring River State Park on Sunday. By the end of the day, 2,499 anglers had purchased trout tags. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Ensley Kuhler, 7, of Sarcoxie, was as bright as many of the baits being used at Roaring River State Park on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



John Newman, of Diamond, could not suppress a smile as he fished for trout at Roaring River State Park on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



James Plumlee, right, of Tulsa, pushes away Craig Bauman, of Tulsa, as Bauman gave him a good-natured ribbing for pulling in an impressive cluster of weeds instead of a lunker trout. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Brothers Bentley Henson, right, 11, and Aaron Marquez, 11, both of Joplin, found a perfect fishing spot together on Opening Day. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Opening: Purdy father hopes to pass tradition on to his 6-year-old son

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

time came up and hugged me and we took a picture, and I had not seen Rosario Keele in a long time. I met some people from Jefferson City who'd heard my name but not been here when I was here. My kids, a daughter and two sons, were also just as excited as I was. All three of them were in scouts."

Despite kicking off the season, Quinalty said he did not plan to fish on Sunday. Instead, he went to the Roaring River Restaurant for breakfast, then went to church."

Quinalty, who used to work at the Nature Center, said when it comes to memories at the park, his favorite revolves around youth.

"When I was asked to give tours for school groups for the first time, I took the group on Deer Leap Trail where they could sit but look out and see everything, and get a feel for how much there is here to enjoy," he said. "The group of third-graders were hyped up like crazy, and I stood there

and noticed when I spoke they all listened. I had them all close their eyes and not open them until I was done talking. They didn't make a sound. I got the nicest thank you notes from the teachers, and from then on when school groups came, they always requested the 'guy who can make the kids listen.'"

Young anglers were sprinkled throughout the park on Sunday, making memories with family and friends as they fished together. Jake Henderson, of Purdy, had his 6-year-old son, Corbin Henderson, with him on the banks on net duty.

"We come down quite a bit, and this is Corbin and I's second year together on Opening Day," he said. "I like to spend time with him here. I used to come with my dad all the time, and it means a lot to me, being an outdoorsman, to pass this on to the next generation. Patience is the best lesson."

Corbin Henderson said he enjoys the park because of the fish, though they

can be a bit tricky to catch, even with the net.

Just down the bank, Jeff Holtcamp, of Billings, was the first to reel in a trout in the pool across from the gazebo where Quinalty fired the gun, taking less than 30 seconds to do so.

"I've been coming here 50 years with family and friends," he said. "My dad and son-in-law are here with me, and my dad and I have been coming since the early 1970s. We come down several times a year to fish and camp. It's just a tradition. And you may not know people around you, but everyone helps on another all morning. We met some people from Indiana who came down for their son's senior trip because his grandpa did that — that's a story in itself."

A traveler from further away, Kevin Willey, of Wills Point, Texas — who had netted a couple trout within the first half hour — said he grew up in Joplin and came to Roaring River frequently with his par-

ents. "I always come to Opening Day and try to make it up here a couple times a year," he said. "I love being here with the crowd."

Troy Feagan, of Carthage, was fishing alongside his 20-year-old daughter, Sage Feagan.

"We try to come every Opening Day, but I don't know why because it's really crowded," he said. "But, I enjoy being around everybody. There's a lot of excitement on Opening Day."

Sage Feagan said she's been part of the Opening Day festivities since she was 7 or 8.

"My favorite part of the park is the trails," she said. "My favorite is Deer Leap because it's the shortest and not too hard to hike. I also enjoy being in the outdoors and with my dad."

"It's something to do together because I don't get to see her as much anymore," Troy Feagan said. "I especially enjoy it when it's nice weather, like today. We've been here

when it snowed."

While some families have decades of Roaring River memories, others are just getting started. Tyler and Keisha Kuhler, of Sarcoxie, are relative newcomers to the Opening Day scene with their two children, 7-year-old Ensley Kuhler and 10-year-old Easton Kuhler.

"Ensley caught her first trout this year, and it's her first time on opening morning, and Easton

limited out in 29 minutes," Tyler Kuhler said. "My family brought me down here years ago, and I brought it back last year. It's kind of stuck. We get to watch the kids fish, be excited, wake up early and feel the anticipation — it's a whole experience."

"I hope they make memories of spending time with family, and I want them to come back with their kids as they get older. It's a new tradition."

You don't buy life insurance for yourself

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

Terri DeGraffenreid Brattin
AGENT

Kamala Harris
AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

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

Shelter Life Insurance Company
Columbia, Missouri

MAKING HISTORY AT MIZZOU



Colton Roark completes a takedown of his opponent in the last 2 seconds of the first period of his championship match at state. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Roark becomes first two-time champion, 3 others medal

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

With 10 seconds left in the Class 2 175-pound title match, senior Colton Roark, defending state champion had only one thing on his mind — “I cannot get put onto my back right now.”

With a few seconds of escaping and a few more of grappling, Roark made Cassville wrestling history, becoming the first ever in the program to win two state titles.

“It feels amazing,” Roark said. “Unbelievable. Just like last year — it’s amazing.”

Roark, a four-time state medalist and now two-time champion, said his focus in the tunnel before the title bout was singular.

“I was thinking this is 6 minutes for the rest of my life, for the last time ever,” Roark said. “I have just got to go out on top having the knowledge of I might not ever step on a mat again. Might as well do it in a good fashion.”

The championship match was Roark’s only full six-minute bout of the tournament, having pinned his first-round opponent in 18 seconds and his quarterfinal opponent in 45 seconds, then getting a 15-0 technical fall over his semifinal opponent in 1:28.

However, in the championship against Savannah’s Kaiden Phillips, Roark said he adjusted his approach.

“Coach Fortner before the match told me he kind of likes tie ups a lot,” Roark said. “I knew I had to be careful a little bit more than with the other kids throughout the tournament. I kind of tried to slow down, have my own little slower pace. I definitely didn’t open up like normal, but I wish I could have.”

The final result, a 6-3 decision, hinged heavily on a takedown in the first period, with only 2 second remaining on the clock.

“He had that strong over hook, but I had perfect leverage with my

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8-9B



Colton Roark, right middle, celebrates his 175-pound Class 2 title with coaches Nathan Fortner, right, Chris Fortner, left middle, and Matthew Allen. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Exeter completes comeback title win over Wheaton



The Exeter girls basketball team celebrates their Class 1, District 4 championship win on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Lady Tigers claim first district championship since 2012

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Down by 7 early in the fourth quarter of the Friday’s Class 1, District 4 girls basketball championship against Wheaton, Exeter refused to give in, crafting an 18-point final frame to win the team’s first district title since 2012 with a 41-37 victory.

Jennifer Young, Lady Tigers coach, said despite scoring 10 more points than the Lady Bulldogs in the fourth quarter, defense was what won the game.

“Defense was what we talked about, and even though we got in some foul trouble, we played great defense,” she said. “We played better defense all week [throughout the tournament] than we have all year.”

Wheaton also relied on their defense to shut out for three quarters, shutting out Exeter’s top scorer, senior Shea Hilburn, for more than 20 of the 32 minutes.

“Our No. 1 scorer was heavily guarded, so someone else

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Exeter’s Shea Hilburn goes up for 2 in a win over Wheaton in the Class 1, District 4 championship on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

3/4 TBD (C4, D12 Tournament Semifinal) Away 7 pm

3/3 Monett (C4, D12 Tournament) Away 5:30 pm

Sater Pharmacy
 Medicare, Medicaid & Most Insurance Accepted
417-847-2315
 705 Main St., Cassville, MO 65625

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

SBSECURITY BANK
 OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
 Your Locally Owned Independent Bank
417-847-4794
www.sbswmo.com
 CASSVILLE EXETER WHEATON

T. Terry Mowing
 Serving the Cassville area
417-896-0261
 Leaf mulching and more!
 Affordable pricing!

Willis Insurance, Inc.
 Since 1887
 100 West 7th St. Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-3300 417-858-3747
www.willisinsured.com
800-556-2393

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

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN A. LEWRIGHT
 903 Main St., Cassville
417-847-2177

Cassville Democrat
 For coverage of all our local teams, and more, visit www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports.

BARRY COUNTY READY-MIX LLC
 3 Locations to serve you
 CASSVILLE: 417-847-3200
 EAGLE ROCK: 417-271-3200
 SHELL KNOB: 417-858-3200

Cassville Democrat
 For coverage of all our local teams, and more, visit www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports.

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

JOHNSON DJC CHIROPRACTIC
 Sports & Wellness Clinic
 907 Main St., Cassville
417-847-0388

Cassville Democrat
 For coverage of all our local teams, and more, visit www.cassville-democrat.com/category/sports.

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

Law Office of J. Michael Riehn
 104 W. 7th Street
 Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-1339

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

BLAKE FIELDS
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 605 Main St., Cassville, MO
 (417) 847-9999
 email@blakefieldslaw.com

SECURITY INSURANCE AGENCY
INSURANCE
 AUTO • HOME FARM • BUSINESS
417-847-8384

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

The Book of Life

If there is a personal, infinite God who created all things including human life (and I believe there is!)...and, if this infinite, personal God wants us to understand how we are to navigate through life understanding good from evil, right from wrong and even more importantly how we are to understand the truth about who God is and how He wants us to be in a genuine, loving relationship with Him, then the question we must ask is this: Could this God make Himself and His will known to us in an understandable way which is absolutely true — true for all people throughout all time?

I believe the answer to this important question is Yes! We have this communication by God in a book we call the Bible. I'll admit there are parts of the Bible which are not easy to understand, but its basic message is clear enough that a young child can understand it.



RANDY CRANE

That basic message is this: God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16) We should also understand that what it means to "believe in him" is not merely, "Oh yes, I believe Jesus Christ was a real person" but that we believe in the sense of being devoted to him, following him, seeking to be like him, and, believing that his death on the cross was a sacrifice for your own sins because you do not perfectly honor and obey God.

Though the Bible is written by people over time, its claim is to ultimately be a book of truth

handed down to us by God himself. Should that surprise us? After all, since God is infinite, personal, all knowing and wise, doesn't it stand to reason that He would communicate with us, His creatures, that He loves us and wants to be in real relationship with us?

One of the people in the early church used of God to communicate the truth He wanted conveyed was Luke (a well educated physician), from whom we have the third Gospel. He set about to compile an account of the life of Jesus Christ for an official named Theophilus. Luke's Gospel, based on eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life and teaching, has been found to be entirely accurate even by secular historians. Luke begins by clearly stating his purpose: Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4, NIV)

So that you may know the certainty — so that you might know the truth — so that you might also come to have eternal life, for that is what all the things Luke and the others communicated from God in their writings. The Bible really is, therefore, the Book of Life.

I'll close with a story conveyed through a mission organization our church supports, a true story of an amazing way in which God is still communicating with people to help them find eternal life in and through Jesus Christ.

A Christian couple smuggled some Bibles into Iran but were nervous about handing them out. Stopping for gas one day during their travels, the wife

said to her husband, "Do you see that man leaning against the building over there? I think we're supposed to give him a Bible." Her husband replied, "You mean the man with the rifle in his hands? Are you kidding? I'm not going to approach him!"

After wrestling with the Holy Spirit's surprising nudge, they eventually agreed to give the man a Bible. The husband held it out to the Muslim man. Leaning his rifle against the building, the man reverently took the Bible, held it to his lips and kissed it. Tearfully, he said, "The book of life! Three days ago, I had a dream: a man in a white robe came to me and said, 'Come to this place and wait right here, and somebody will soon give you the book of life.'" The Muslim man soon gave his whole heart to Jesus.

Rev. Randy Crane is the pastor at Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Monett. He may be reached at cranes5@hotmail.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

"He knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside."

— JOB 23:10-11

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

Ken's Collision Center
712 W. 10th St.
Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-1200
www.kenscollisioncenter.com

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

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

Able2 Products Company
— Serving The Area Since 1972 —
Hwy. 248, Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-4791

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of executions issued by the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Barry County, Missouri, arising out of a judgment entered by the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, in Case No. 25BR-CC00012, and to me, as sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of the plaintiff Servbank SB, and against the defendants

Cory R. Lebow;
 Elizabeth A. Smith;
 Midland Credit Management;
 John Doe (Tenant/Occupant);
 and Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant),

I have levied upon and seized all of the right, title, interest, and estate of the defendants

Cory R. Lebow and Elizabeth A. Smith in and to the following described real estate, situated in Barry County, Missouri, to wit:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 24, Range 26, Barry County, Missouri, thence West 265 feet, thence South 325 feet, thence Northeasterly approximately 290 feet to a point that is 190 feet South of the point of beginning, said point being on the West right-of-way line of C Highway, thence North along said West right-of-way line 190 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to an ingress & egress easement along the North 40 feet thereof commonly known as 20027 State Highway C, Cassville, MO 65625

which I shall expose at public sale to the highest bidder for cash on the 16th day of March, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, to satisfy said judgment and costs.

Date: January 30, 2026
 Danny Boyd, Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri
 Newspaper:
 The Cassville Democrat
 Advertising:
 February 18, 2026,
 February 25, 2026,
 March 4, 2026 and

March 11, 2026
 (dates for 4 weeks of publication)
 1st insertion 02/18/26
 6-9

FLAT CREEK SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT ACCEPTING BIDS

The Flat Creek Road District is accepting sealed bids for the following items: gas and diesel fuel, 12 +/- miles of chip and seal, asphalt oil MC250 per gallon, and 1" base rock. Bids for fuel and base rock should include delivery to the Flat Creek barn, 10106 Farm Road 2160, Cassville, Missouri, 65625.

All bids shall be marked "Sealed Bid" and with the "bid opening date" and can be mailed to PO Box 29, Cassville, MO 65625. Bids can be accepted no later than April 8th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. when bids will be opened at the road district meeting to be held at the Flat Creek Road District barn located at Highway 37 and Rodeo Road. Bids will be awarded to the lowest or best bidder.

Flat Creek Special Road District reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids or any parts thereof. Done by Order of Allen Sparks/Flat Creek Special Road District Commissioners
 Only insertion 03/04/26
 8

PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

In Re the Estate of: Leslie H. Lindsay, Estate No. 25BR-PR00091 Deceased

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

To all persons interested in the above referenced estate:

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

petition for an order approving final settlement of the estate together with a final settlement and proposed order of distribution in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court

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

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

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

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

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

character of their interest therein. Upon proof of compliance with the court's order of distribution by the personal representative, the court will discharge the personal representative and her sureties, if any, from further claim or demand by any interested person.

Dated: 2/9/2026
 Lydia Raska,
 Personal Representative
 James A. Pettit,
 Bar No. 66147
 P. O. Box 148
 Aurora, MO 65605
 417-678-2187
 james@pettitlawoffice.com

Attorney for Personal Representative
 For Publication:
 2/11/26,
 2/18/26,
 2/25/26,
 3/6/26
 1st insertion 02/11/26
 5-8

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

Case Number: 25BR-PR00190
 In the Estate of VIRGINIA RUTH MAYER, Deceased.

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of VIRGINIA RUTH MAYER, Decedent:

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

VIRGINIA RUTH MAYER, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court. The name and business address is:
 DAVID MAYER, 7146 S. UKRAINE ST. AURORA, CO 80016

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 FARES MASRI, 405 BROADWAY P.O. BOX 151 MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:
 SAMANTHA PRESCOTT, 405 E BROADWAY, MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period 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

PUBLIC AUCTION

Monday, March 9, 2026 — 10 a.m.

Location: Seligman, MO. Hwy 37 just South of Ruby's turn left on FR 2300 and go 1.4 miles to auction. (17401 Clantonville Road, Garfield AR)

AUTO'S – RIDING MOWER – TOOL'S – ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES – FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – SEWING NOTIONS – HOUSEHOLD & MISC.



Autos: 2012 Acura TL, AWD, only 105xxx miles – 1999 BMW, M3 convertible, only 101xxx miles (nice). **Mowers:** Cub Cadet LTX 1040 automatic, 19 hp, 42" riding mower – Toro Personal Pace, self propelled push mower. **Tools:** (2) elect pressure washers – elec Sunjoe front tine tiller – Homelite chain saw – misc hand tools – misc sm power tools - misc shop items, Kobalt roll around tool chest – more tools not listed. **Antiques & Collectibles:** old grinding wheel – galvanized water can - galvanized wash tub – drift wood from Idaho – old iron headboard – egg baskets – French wine box – (2) bent wood rocking chairs & (2) bentwood chairs – 10 gal milk can – old cream can – old iron wheel – old feed scoop - #4 crock – (2) sm iron wheels – Canon 35 mm camera – Capel wool area rugs – wood strawberry crate – sm wood rolling pin – metal pig – old match box – more items not listed. **Sewing Notions:** lots of sewing notions – fabric – (2) older sewing machines. **Furniture & Appliances:** Trump collection queen bed – large flat screen TV – TV stand – Deacon pew – occasional chairs – sofa – wood cabinet – sm metal round table – wall table – sm old secretary – old buffet – old sewing machine base table – oak display hutch – old oak table & 4 chairs – pine display hutch – padded stool – wood stool – oversized chair – twin bed – white desk – sm LG flat screen TV – wood desk – mirrors – white cabinet – dresser & matching night stand – chest of drawers – baby crib – wine racks – several area rugs – several pictures & Ducks Unlimited pictures – Amana washer – Whirlpool dryer – shop refrigerator – Kenmore SS side by side Refrigerator/Freezer. **Household & Misc:** Bose sound system – Bow flex workout system – Gold Gym Stride Trainer 300 exerciser – Weslo incumbent exercise bike – Rainbow vacuum – baskets – laundry basket – (2) dehumidifiers – laundry organizer – DVD player – yard art – wall hanging décor – household plants – lots of flower pots – misc dishes – table top oven – sm cast iron bird bath what knot – sm dehydrator – wrought iron table – plant stands – fishing poles – Schwinn women's bicycle – Trek 20" kids bike – bird feeders – wrought iron restaurant grade patio chairs – chimenea – Shepard hooks – patio table – feed buckets & empty mineral tubs – lgloo dog house – BBQ – wicker loveseat & ottoman – patio table & 4 chairs – yard bench – sm. Chicken coop – sm composter – rain barrel – misc chicken feeders & waterers, etc – wrought iron fencing – heat lamps – dog crate – portable chicken coop (needs work) – live traps – (4) wire animal panels – garden hose – misc kids toys – Santa Clause light display – animal cage – misc sm rolls of chicken wire – folding wagon – strawberry pot – patio storage box – pet dishes – garden beds – galvanized water tanks – fire ring – wire panels bent for tomato stakes – tomato cages – Concord grapevine plant – Blueberry plant – 4th year asparagus plant – Rubarb plant – many more items not listed. **Note:** See you Monday March 9th, 10 AM. Autos will sell approx. 11:30. Catering on site. **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 a check on the autos, autos will be held unless arrangements have been made with the auction company PRIOR to auction day. All sells as is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Vicki Forgey



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



www.stumpffauction.com
417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
 Parker Stumpff
 AR State Champion
 Auctioneer
 #2352

defendant ad litem pursuant to section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death:

26-DEC-2024

Date of first publication: February 11, 2026

Date of second publication: February 18, 2026

Date of third publication: February 25, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 4, 2026

BARRY COUNTY

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk

Deputy Probate Clerk

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

JARRELL DAVID RHEA, 236 S 485 W PROVIDENCE, UT 84332

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

JAMES JOSEPH RANDALL, 405 E BROADWAY, MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:

SAMANTHA PRESCOTT, 405 E BROADWAY, MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a

1st insertion 02/11/26
 5-8

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

Case Number: 26BR-PR00002
 In the Estate of LILY ANN PETERSEN, Deceased.

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of LILY ANN PETERSEN,

Decedent:

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

LILY ANN PETERSEN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court. The name and business address is:

JAMES JOSEPH RANDALL, 405 E BROADWAY, MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:

SAMANTHA PRESCOTT, 405 E BROADWAY, MONETT, MO 65708, 417-235-8688

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a

1st insertion 02/11/26
 5-8

February 11, 2026

Date of second publication:

February 18, 2026

Date of third publication: February 25, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 4, 2026

BARRY COUNTY

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk

Deputy Probate Clerk

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

1st insertion 02/11/26
 5-8

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

In the Estate of JAMES JOHN TONNIES, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00012

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

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

On February 6, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of JAMES JOHN TONNIES, decedent, by the Probate Division of

the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The name and business address of the personal representative is:

DAVID TONNIES, 3257 HIDDEN BROOKE COURT, NEW CASTLE, PA 16105

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

HARRY SCHWARTZ, P.O. BOX 276,

Date of first publication:

29-DEC-2025

Date of first publication:

INDOOR MOVING SALE

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

Cedar Towers Apartments

600 Monroe Street, Purdy, MO 65734

2 Bedroom Apts. Now Available!

Income Limits Apply
 On-Site Laundry Facilities and Playground
 Tenant responsible for Electric
 Rental Assistance Available

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:
417-442-3347
RELAY #711

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

www.bellmanage.com

LONG-TERM CUSTODIAN SUBSTITUTE

Shell Knob School is seeking a highly motivated individual for a long-term Custodian Substitute beginning immediately. Please complete an application at 24400 St Hwy 39, Shell Knob, MO 65747 in the front office of the school. If you have questions, call Lori Ewbank, 417-858-6743 x240. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The Shell Knob School is an equal-opportunity employer

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-847-2734

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

HARRY SCHWARTZ,
P.O. BOX 276,
CASSVILLE, MO 65625
417-847-2734

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

publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever

barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the

limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 20-JAN-2026

Date of first publication: February 18, 2026

Date of second publication: February 25, 2026

Date of third publication: March 4, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 11, 2026

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

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

the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

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

In the Estate of LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00018

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, Decedent:

On February 17, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

LESLIE MARICE GRYDER SR, decedent,

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

The personal representative's business address is:

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

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

MARC EDMONDSON, PO Box 491, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-846-0022.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within MIO months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedents death, as provided in Section

473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: Dec 18, 2025

Date of first publication: February 25, 2026

Date of second publication: March 4, 2026

Date of third publication: March 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 18, 2026

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

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

1st insertion 02/25/26 7-10

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

In the Estate of WILLIAM VERNON NICHOLS JR, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00017

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION)

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

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

WILLIAM VERNON NICHOLS JR, decedent,

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

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

The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

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

MEGAN ALFANO, 200 NE MISSOURI RD., SUITE 00, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64086, 816-774-1107.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 26-FEB-2025

Date of first publication: February 25, 2026

Date of second publication: March 4, 2026

Date of third publication: March 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 18, 2026

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

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

1st insertion 02/25/26 7-10

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

In the Estate of: TIMOTHY S. PETERS, Deceased

Estate No. 25BR-PR00095

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF

TIMOTHY S. PETERS, deceased:

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

to the personal/real estate of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, on or after April 8, 2026, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or

Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ, Attorney

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

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

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE IS NOT A COURT APPEARANCE DATE.

It is an estimated date as to when the Final Settlement can be filed with the court.

1st insertion 2/25/26 7-10

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

In the Estate of MARVIN LANCE MCCULLOUGH, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (SMALL ESTATE)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MARVIN LANCE MCCULLOUGH, Decedent.

On February 19, 2026 a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under

Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY Missouri.

All creditors of Decedent, who died on 20-MAR-2025, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo,

sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of Decedent. A creditor may request that this estate be opened for administration.

Receipt of this notice should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient may possibly have a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, may possibly be determined from the affidavit on this estate filed in the Probate Division of

the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY Missouri.

Date of first publication is March 4, 2026.

Date of second publication is March 11, 2026.

Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk 1st insertion 03/04/26 8-9

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

In the Estate of AUSTIN JAMES PRIER, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00022

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

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

On February 23, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

AUSTIN JAMES PRIER, decedent,

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

The personal representative's business address is:

JEFF PRIER, 27524 STATE HIGHWAY J, GOLDEN, MO 65658.

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

HARRY DANIEL SCHWARTZ, 702 WEST ST, 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: 04-FEB-2026

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

Date of first publication: March 4, 2026

Date of second publication: March 11, 2026

Date of third publication: March 18, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 25, 2026

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

1st insertion 03/04/26 8-11

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

In the Estate of CHAD C SPRINKLE, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00011

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of

EMMETT LENDELL COCKRUM, Decedent:

On February 25, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of

EMMETT LENDELL COCKRUM, decedent

by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The name, business address, and phone number of the personal representative is:

SAM MADSEN, 102 WEST STREET, SUITE 5, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-0541

CHAD C SPRINKLE, Decedent:

On February 19, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

CHAD C SPRINKLE, decedent,

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

The personal representative's business address is:

MAGGIE M SPRINKLE, 130 HODGE DRIVE, CASSVILLE, MO 65625.

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

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

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

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

period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 20-JAN-2026

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

Date of first publication: March 4, 2026

Date of second publication: March 11, 2026

Date of third publication: March 18, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 25, 2026

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

1st insertion 03/04/26 8-11

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

In the Estate of EMMETT LENDELL COCKRUM, Deceased.

Case Number: 26BR-PR00023

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of EMMETT LENDELL COCKRUM, Decedent:

On February 25, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of

EMMETT LENDELL COCKRUM, decedent

by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The name, business address, and phone number of the personal representative is:

SAM MADSEN, 102 WEST STREET, SUITE 5, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-0541

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

HARRY SCHWARTZ, 702 WEST ST, PO BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734.

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: 22-JAN-2026

Date of first publication: March 4, 2026

Date of second publication: March 11, 2026

Date of third publication: March 18, 2026

Date of fourth publication: March 25, 2026

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

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

any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 03/04/26 8-11

TRUSTEE'S SALES NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Reva M. Burke, dated March 29, 2024, and recorded on March 29, 2024, Document No. 202401513, in Book No. 24, at Page 1476 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee

will on March 18, 2026, at 11:00 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

Lot Fifty (50), Fairway Heights Subdivision to the City of Monett, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof, commonly known as 213 Miller Way, Monett, MO, 65708

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.

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

NOTICE Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 257189-1083611).

1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of that certain note secured by

LOCAL

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

ALL OF LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2), BLOCK TEN (10) IN MONETT TOWN COMPANY'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

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

S&W Foreclosure Corporation
 Successor Trustee
 Pub Commences
 February 18, 2026
 LLG File No.25-041329
 By: LOGS Legal Group LLP
 www.LOGS.com
 Servicelink
 Purported address: 201 North Elm Street, Monett, MO 65708
 Publication Dates:
 02/18/26,
 02/25/26,
 03/04/26,
 03/11/26
 1st insertion 02/18/26
 6-9

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE: James W King, a married person
 Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of

Trust executed by James W King, a married person dated November 16, 2022 and recorded in

the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 22, Page 7057 the

undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday,

March 17, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:50

AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell

at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in

said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:

LOT FOUR (4), BLOCK SEVEN (7), GRANDVIEW PLACE ADDITION TO MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SUBJECT TO ANY

EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS AND COVENANTS OF

RECORD OR FACT. to satisfy said debt and cost.

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

File No: 231035.031726.464733 FC NOTICE

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

concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer

given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Visit us online at: cassville-democrat.com

PUBLISH ON:
 February 18, 2026
 02/25/2026,
 03/04/2026,
 03/11/2026
 1st insertion 02/18/26
 6-9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by the Deed of Trust executed by

Bob Y. Lee, Unmarried Man, dated 7/12/2017, recorded on 7/13/2017, in Deed Book 17, Page 3750, in the Office of the Recorder of

Deeds for Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on 3/12/2026, between the

hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, starting at 2:00 PM at the Barry County Courthouse - East Door -

700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds

only) the below described real estate to satisfy said debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction.

Purchasers take property as is, without warranty. Lots 1,

2, 3 And Lot 4, Except The East Half (12.5 Feet) Of Lot 4 All In Block 20 In The Original Town Of Wheaton,

Barry County, Missouri. Subject To Any Easements, Rights Of Way Or Restrictions Of Record Or In Fact.

More commonly known as: 118 W Main St Wheaton, MO 64874 Notice To Bidders: Please be advised that the Trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information,

documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees

on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfers. These federal regulations will require reporting if a

trustee's deed is issued on or after March 1, 2026, even if the foreclosure sale is conducted prior to

March 1, 2026. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee

information and certifications can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5.Nestor

Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115

1st insertion 02/18/26 6-9

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To all persons interested in the estate of RICHARD L. OTT, deceased:

The undersigned, BRENDA K. DEVANEY, is acting as Trustee under a Trust, the terms of which provide that the debts of the Decedent may be paid by the Trustee upon receipt of proper proof thereof.

The address of the Trustee is as follows: Brenda K. Devaney,

Trustee
 80 S. Reindeer Rd.
 Surfside Beach, SC 29575

All creditors of the decedent are notified to present their claims to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred pursuant to Section

456.5-50S, RSMo. Date of first publication is: 02/18/26

Brenda K. Devaney, Trustee
 By: Carnahan Evans PC 2805S. Ingram Mill Road Springfield, MO 65804 6-9

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by the Deed of Trust executed by

Cristopher Green And Chelsey Green, Husband And Wife, dated 7/6/2023, recorded on 7/10/2023, as Instrument Number

202303387 and in Deed Book 23, Page 3320, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County,

Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on 3/26/2026, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, starting at 2:00 PM at the Barry County Courthouse - East Door -

700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the below described real

estate to satisfy said debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction.

Purchasers take property as is, without warranty. A Tract Of Land, Consisting Of One (1) Acre, More Or Less, In The Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of

The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Of Section 36, Township 25, Range 26, Barry County, Missouri, And More Particularly Described As Follows: Commencing At A Point 15 Feet North Of The Southeast Corner

Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Thence North 276 Feet, To A

Point On The East Line Of Said Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Thence West 158 Feet To A Point, Thence South 276 Feet To A Point, Thence East 158 Feet To The Point Of

Beginning. Subject To Easements And Rights-Of-Way Of Record. More commonly known as: 6949 Farm

Road 1182 Verona, MO 65769 Notice To Bidders: Please be advised that the Trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for

transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered

transfers. These federal regulations will require reporting if a trustee's deed is issued on or after March 1,

2026, even if the foreclosure sale is

conducted prior to March 1, 2026. Additional information regarding

these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5

Nestor Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115.

1st Insertion 03/04/26 8-11

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE: Billy T Sharp Jr and Emily Nicole Sharp, husband and wife

Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Billy T Sharp Jr

and Emily Nicole Sharp, husband and wife dated July 1, 2024

and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri as Book: 24

Page: 3322 and modified by Loan Modification Agreement (Deed of Trust) recorded on May 14, 2025 at Book: 25 Page: 2401 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, March 31,

2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:50 AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following

described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:

LOT THIRTY-NINE (39), FAIRWAY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI. SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS AN COVENANTS OF RECORD OR FACT.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

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

File No: 231008.033126.464687 FC NOTICE

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

concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer

given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON: March 4, 2026 03/11/2026, 03/18/2026, 03/25/2026 1st insertion 03/04/26 8-11

Exeter: Upset 3 teams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

had to score," Young said. "I think when she got those first couple shots in everyone took a breath."

Hilburn said after her scoreless first half, she had an internal conversation in the locker room.

"At halftime, I was thinking I have to push myself to score some baskets for my team, she said. "In the first half, I didn't make anything, and in the second half, I had to fight and push my way to the basket.

"We didn't have as many turnovers in the first half as the other team, and Breely [Willis] was putting in points and Beatriz [Alcaraz] was drawing fouls."

The game was entirely scoreless for the first 3 minutes, with the first quarter resulting in a 7-6 edge for Wheaton. Midway through the second, the led was 2 points, and at halftime, Wheaton was up 17-12.

The lead ballooned in the third quarter to 29-23, and with 5:29 remaining, the Lady Bulldogs were still enjoying a 5-point edge. With 3:45 left and a 4-point difference, Hilburn knocked down a 3-pointer to make it a one-possession game for the first time in the second half. She then stole an inbound pass and added another pair to give the Lady Tigers their first lead of the game.

Wheaton's Harmony Loftis took it back with a layup, but a Jaylee Hawkins 3-pointer put Exeter up by 2 with under 2 minutes remaining. The Lady Tigers' defense shut Wheaton out the rest of the way, with Hilburn and Alcaraz adding free throws on intentional fouls to provide the final scoreline.

Young said when the two teams met the week prior, a 48-39 game in the Lady Bulldogs' favor, film from that game proved pivotal.

"We watched the film on that game, and our shooting percentage was the worst of the year," she said. "But, I knew if we hit some baskets and played some defense, we could do it [in the championship]."

Jessica Dermott, Wheaton girls basketball coach, said though the game did not go in her team's favor, she was proud of the effort.

"We battled to the end, and we knew it would be a close game," she said. "We've got to do the little things, but I think we got tired and in our heads. At the free throw line, we were knocking them down, but the girls just ran out of gas and didn't do the little things that



Scan the QR code above to see all our photos from the championship game! Digital downloads only \$5, and prints start at just \$2.

win big games."

The Lady Bulldogs, who were seeded No. 4 in the tournament and upset No. 2 McAuley Catholic in the semi-finals, 37-31, turned in a near .500 season at 14-15.

"This season was a lot better considering e only won four games last year," she said. "It's really incredible because some came back to play and some did not, and i'm proud of the ones who stuck it out."

Exeter was the No. 5 seed and upset their way through the bracket, besting No. 4 Thomas Jefferson, 47-41, and No. 1 Liberal, 54-51, en route to the win over Wheaton.

"I told the girls everyone could get beat by anyone or compete with anyone," Young said. We knew we had a chance, but we had to play the best games of our lives. We matched up well with Wheaton one on one, and we knew defense would give the game.

"The girls worked hard all season, and we had a lot of downs. We just got our groove back and kept working."

Exeter, at 12-15 after the championship win, was also vindicated after having come up short in the title match with Hurley last year, 48-29.

"It felt good to redeem ourselves from last year," Hilburn said. "I was happy to push the team to come back from behind and get the win and the plaque on the wall."

Hilburn, who crossed the 1,500 career points mark this season, finished the game with 15 points — all in the second half. Willis had 11, Alcaraz put in 7, Hawkins added 5 (all in the fourth quarter), and Kahlan Fuller contributed a 3-pointer.

For Wheaton, Perla Hinojosa led the way with 15 points, followed by Loftis with 12. Hallie Potarf put in 6, Mallory Royer added 3, and Meyah Peckham put in a free throw.

Exeter faced Walnut Grove (24-4) in the round of 16 on Monday, with the result not available at presstime.



SB SECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Your Locally Owned Independent Bank

Cassville • Exeter • Wheaton

WILDCAT
PLAYERS
OF THE WEEK

 Reagan Doucet	 Cash Smith
 Trevor Garnett	 Bri Still



TALON MEDIA GROUP

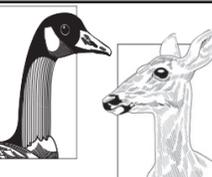
RADIO THAT COVERS AGRICULTURE AND YOUR HOME TOWN AS WELL AS PROVIDING YOU WITH LOCAL AREA AND BRANSON DISCOUNTS

TUNE IN TO OUR STATIONS & CHECK US OUT ON OUR WEBSITE

800-928-5253 235-6041 678-0416

www.radiotalon.com

KRMO AM 990 • KKBL 95.9 FM • KSWM AM 940 • KQMO 97.7 FM



Scott's Taxidermy

Birds • Fish
Gameheads
& Mammals Bases

417-835-2053
Exeter, Mo.

Professional Quality Guaranteed





DOT TO DOT

Start Here → 1

JUST kidding

Q: What kind of button won't unbutton?
A: A bellybutton.

JUST kidding

Q: Did you hear they're changing the flooring in daycare centers?
A: They're calling it infant-tile.

JUST kidding

Q: What did the triangle say to the circle?
A: You're pointless.

For the up-and-coming artist

Private eye

Which of these shadows matches the lizard?

ANSWER: SHADOW NO. 3

Sudoku 4 x 4

			2
	2	1	
	3	4	
4			

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 4, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

- a number can only appear once per row
- a number can only appear once per column
- a number can only appear once in each box of 4 squares

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

White Funeral Home and Crematory

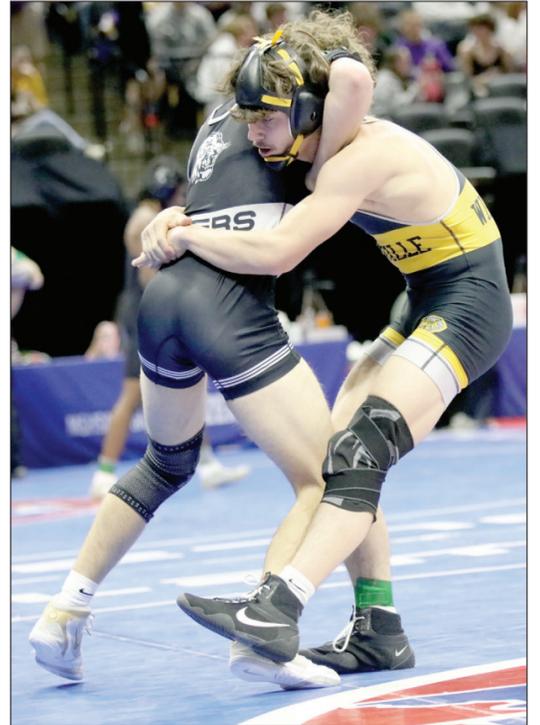
We are your locally owned funeral home and crematory, striving to treat everyone like family.

WE HAVE THE ONLY PET CREMATORY IN THE AREA.

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



Analeigh Winchell pins an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/kroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Kole Fry battles with an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/kroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Ethan Sizemore looks to gain ground against an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/kroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Rylen Holman grapples with an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/kroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wrestling: Seniors raise bar for program with more than 600 wins among 4

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

under and I saw his leg standing there," Roark said. "He's pretty heavy on his feet, so I thought if I was quick enough, I can get there and make something happen. It worked out for me."

In the closing seconds, Roark clung to the lead and to legacy.

"It was the last 10 seconds of my career," Roark said. "I cannot get put into my back right now. Survive. Do my best to stay on my feet. Go out on top."

For Roark, the fourth trip to state carried added weight.

"Football-wise, I want to do that in college, more than wrestling recently, so the fact that this could be my last time wrestling in front of friends, family and crowds [was on my mind]," Roark said. "Wrestling has a special place in my heart, and I just really wanted to go out with that big win at the end."

Roark said sharing the experience with a large Cassville contingent — seven other boys and one girl — left a major impact.

"It was awesome," Roark said. "I think that's the most we've brought my whole high school career. The ride up on the bus, the team bonding at the mini golf place, letting all these kids that are younger come see such a cool event — I just try to pave the way and show them a good way to go, and just try to be a leader."

Coach Nathan Fortner said Roark's championship run was the product of talent and preparation.

"Colton is just a very special wrestler," Fortner said. "He's got all the athletic ability in the world."

"When the lights come on, that kid can lock in," Fortner said. "He pays attention and watches matches and picks up on little things that his opponents do. He'll come up to me and talk to me about stuff they do before I even get a chance."

Fortner said as Roark surmised, the title bout required discipline.

"We knew it was going to be a tough match," Fortner said. "Colton wrestled a really smart match. He controlled the ties, he controlled the position. He was never really in danger."

Roark finished his career with 194 wins and joined an accomplished senior class that elevated the program standard.

"Between Colt, Tristan Thompson, Riley James and Ethan Sizemore, there was probably close to 600 wins between the four of them," Fortner said. "They really paved

the way and upped the bar for the wrestling program. A lot of thanks to them. They deserve it; they earned it."

Cassville's season as a whole set a new benchmark.

"I was really proud of my guys this year," Fortner said. "This was the best season we've ever had. From beginning to end. We were 12 and one in duals, and the only team we lost to we had beat earlier that year."

At districts, Fortner believed the Wildcats were peaking before injury shifted momentum. James, a senior three-time state qualifier and three-time medalist, suffered a knee injury that ended his career early.

"Districts, that first day and going into the second day, we had probably the best wrestling I had seen since I've been at Cassville," Fortner said. "We were up on the No. 1 projected team in the state, [Seneca, which finished in second place at state behind Odessa]. We had a lot of momentum and then Riley blew his knee out. I think momentum's a real thing in sports, even individual sports, and we fell apart a little bit from that moment on."

Even so, multiple Wildcats reached Day 2 at state, with Roark leading the charge with the title, junior Boni Lopez earning a fifth-place medal and senior Tristan Thompson taking sixth place.

"In the sport of wrestling, you can lose pretty quick," Fortner said. "There were just some matches that kind of got away from us, but the effort's always there with this team."

Lopez, at 106 pounds, reached the semifinals but fell in the next two, ultimately winning the fifth-place bout with a nearfall in the dying seconds to turn a 6-8 loss into a 10-8 victory. Lopez said he rebounded from last year's disappointment to reach the podium.

"Last year, I lost in the blood round at districts and didn't make it to state," Lopez said. "It feels pretty good to go out there and come back with the medal. I was feeling down after the two losses [in the semifinals and consolation semifinals at state], but my coaches just told me to keep wrestling, just to go out there and have fun."

"The experience has been pretty good. My teammates and coaches just helped me throughout the season cutting weight and everything. It's been a pretty good time."

Thompson, a four-time qual-

ifier at 165 pounds, battled back from injury to return for his final tournament, only to see it ended by the nagging knee. Thompson won his first two matches to ensure a medal, but in the consolation semifinals, his knee gave out.

Settling for sixth place, it was Thompson's third medal of his career.

"I was out from late December to mid-February, and it felt good to come back," Thompson said. "I was good, my knee was good, and getting back felt awesome. It had been a rough season so far, but it ended worse."

"Not many can say they made it all four years, so I was happy to be here, but it was not how I wanted it to go."

Thompson said for younger wrestlers hoping to make waves at state, the biggest quality needed is work ethic.

"Wrestle hard," he said. "Find a love for it, grind and grind, have faith in yourself, what you know and what you do, and everything will be good."

The fourth Cassville program medal went to the only female wrestler who qualified, junior Analeigh Winchell at 155 pounds. Reaching the semifinals with two Day 1 wins, Winchell fought a tough semifinal that resulted in a loss, and from there, she said it was tough to get back in the groove.

"It was more exciting this year being able to come to state, and I hope to come next year again with more girls," she said.

"It was a lot better here the second time because the nerves were not as bad. It's pretty fun with all the guys. They are very supportive, which I feel a lot of people might not expect since I was the only girl here."

"I think my mindset overall was not as good on Day 2. After my first match, I just went downhill and it was tougher to focus."

Despite the second-day disappointment, Winchell said the first day was a thrill.

"It was definitely overwhelming, and I feel I didn't show a lot of emotion, but inside, I was really excited I was guaranteed a placement spot after the first day," she said.

Casey Parsons, Cassville girls wrestling coach, said she's proud of Winchell's effort, and she is excited for what her senior year may bring.

"I am so proud of Analeigh," Parsons said. "I know she didn't end how she wanted, but to be

a two-time state medalist is a huge accomplishment. I believe this will light more of a fire inside her for her senior year!"

Zach Myers, at 190 pounds, was a returning state medalist competing in his second state tournament as a sophomore. This time around, Myers fell in his first match, won his second, but suffered a Day 1 elimination with a loss in the second consolation round. He said the experience will drive his offseason.

"It's not how I wanted it to go after I worked hard all season to get here," Myers said. "I have two more years, and going into the offseason I want to work 10 times harder. I want to push the pace. State was awesome, and it felt good to bring as many people as we did this year. It blows my mind how many we qualified. It helps that we wrestle together, support each other and push each other through each round."

Rylen Holman, a first-time qualifier at 126 pounds, dropped his opening match but won his next two to reach Day 2. However, a 4-2 decision left him one win away from the medals. Despite the disappointment, the junior is looking ahead to another run.

"It was awesome to get the opportunity to come," Holman said. "It didn't quite go as I would have liked, but I have another year to get back. I'm really glad I made it to Day 2. It was awesome to go out there with the couple seniors and wrestle with them one more time."

"I look up to the seniors because they are a good group, and I will try to follow in their footsteps. I like the team. They are all my friends, and I love the lineup and who we wrestle with."

Fortner said Holman's work ethic stands out.

"He did everything," Fortner said. "We did two-a-days starting in January. I went in early at 6 a.m. Ryland never missed a day. He did all the things right."

Junior Kole Fry, a first-time qualifier at 132 pounds, fell in his first two matches and was eliminated. He said the environment was memorable.

"It was a pretty cool and fun experience," Fry said. "I was really tired because I didn't eat much since I was over weight. It was a good experience being with all the seniors, and working with them in practice helped a ton."

Tyler Hodge, a freshman at 157 pounds, was pinned in his

first two matches, but he said the experience was memorable and educational.

"It was pretty fun," he said. "I went to state a few times with club, but high school is much different and much bigger. I felt like I was not so alone because I had people with me who had been there, and I can count on them. It was a big help with everything."

"For the most part, I feel pretty good about how I did. There's a few things I could change, but I did decent. Next year I feel I will have a better look going in because I've already been there, so I'll be more prepared."

Ethan Sizemore, 285-pound senior at his second state tournament, suffered the same two-match elimination fate.

"I'm happy I made it a second time because not a lot get to do that, but it definitely did not go the way I wanted," Sizemore said. "It meant a lot to be with the same group of guys I've always wrestled with and to see how people grow in that time frame, both as people and as wrestlers. The most fun part is the practice in Hearnesthe day before state starts. You get to see all the Mizzou stuff hanging."

Sizemore said to find success at the state level, a major necessary quality is consistency.

"Keep stacking the good days," he said. "Consistency is a key factor. Show up and put in the work no one else will see. That helped me leaps and bounds. I went from three wins my freshman year to qualifying for state twice. That takes hard work."

Each of the seniors had their own shout-outs to give after their matches. Thompson had a special message for a man who helped carry him through his prep career, Cassville assistant coach and his father, Troy Thompson.

"Thank you, dad," Tristan Thompson said. "I love you."

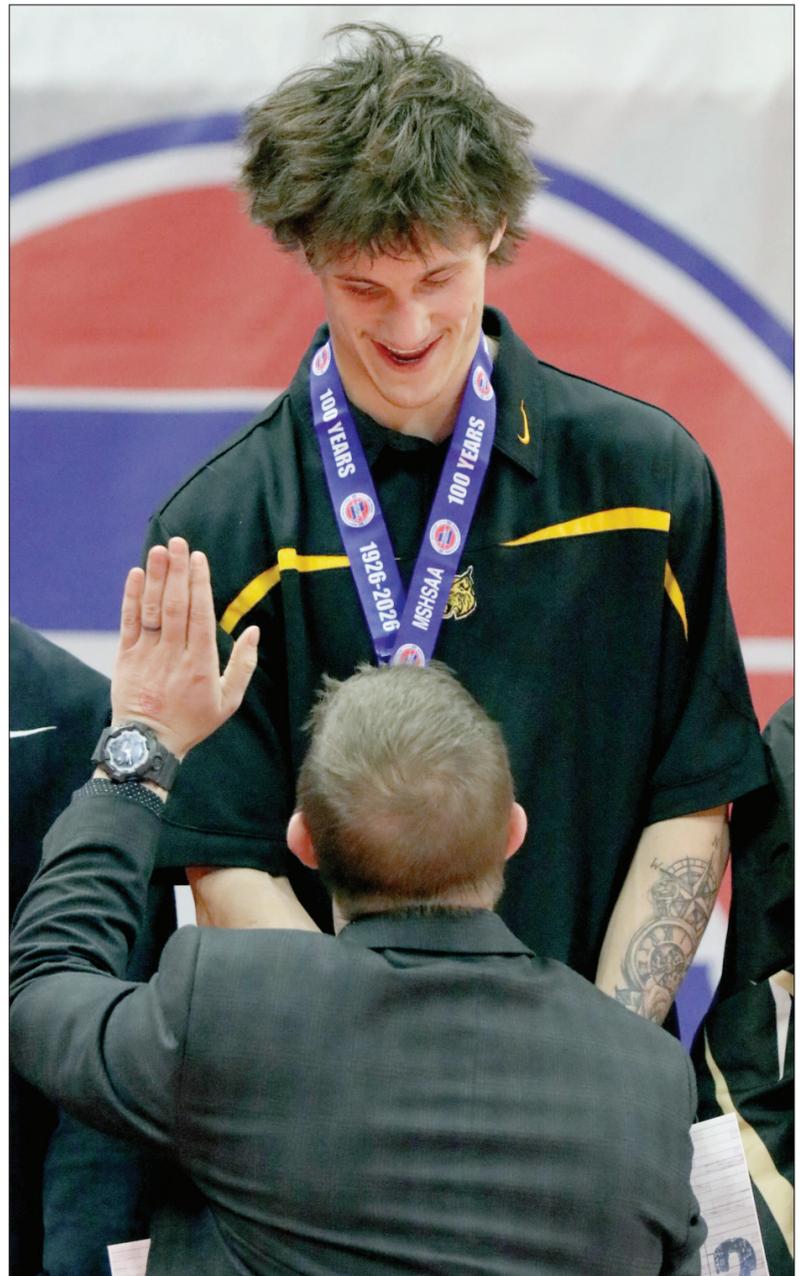
Thompson and Sizemore also wanted to credit two other coaches, Chris "Papa" Fortner and Matthew Allen, for their guidance over the last four years. Allen is taking a job at another district following this school year. Troy Thompson will also leave a vacancy in the assistant coaching ranks.

The final message came from the history-maker, Roark, who no matter what sport he is playing ends his interviews with the same four words.

"I love my mom," he said.



Colton Roark is flipped over his opponent during his championship match at state. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Colton Roark smiles as he receives his second state championship medal, becoming the first in Cassville history to accomplish the feat. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Tristan Thompson looks for an angle against an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Tyler Hodge battles an opponent at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Boni Lopez celebrates his last-second nearfall and 10-8 decision earning him fifth place at state. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Zach Myers looks to lock in a pin at the state tournament. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Colton Roark, center, walks in the Champions March ahead of his state title bout. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Analeigh Roak celebrates a quarterfinal win with coaches Casey Parsons and Chris Fortner. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

CONGRATULATIONS Cassville Wrestling!



Boni Lopez - 5th - 106 lbs.



Tristan Thompson - 6th - 165 lbs.



Analeigh Winchell - 6th - 155 lbs.



Colton Roark - 1st - 175 lbs.

Celebrate victory with....

Geraldi's
THE ITALIAN EATING PLACE

Cassville Shell Knob
397 Sale Barn Rd 23837 State Hwy 39
(417) 846-1000 (417) 858-0828

WAY TO WRESTLE,
CASSVILLE!

Barry Electric Cooperative **goBEC**
Your locally-owned cooperative FIBER NETWORK

4015 Main Street • Cassville, MO
barryelectric.com • goBEC.net

CONGRATS, 'CATS!

SB SECURITY BANK
OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Cassville — Exeter — Wheaton
417-847-4797
www.sbswmo.com

PROUD TO SUPPORT
CHS WRESTLERS

Burl Mitchell, Agent
58 Main St, Cassville
(417) 847-3128
(417) 847-3128

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. and its Operating Companies
6000 American Parkway, Madison WI 53763 ©2017 007250 - Rev. 11/23 - 24606750

Congrats Wrestlers!

Come On In And See Us!

Rusty Gate Flea Market
Antiques - Collectibles - Vintage Tools - Cast Iron -
Household Goods - Hunting/Fishing - Wildlife Mounts - Hides

Congratulations!

Willis Insurance, Inc.
Since 1887

100 West 7th St. Bridgeway Plaza
Cassville, MO 65625 Shell Knob, MO 65747
417-847-3300 417-858-3747
www.willisinsured.com

Well done, Wildcats!

Fohn Funeral Home

Fohn Funeral Home McQueen Funeral Home
1303 Main St., 524 Hurlbut St.,
Cassville Wheaton
417-847-2141 417-652-7268
www.fohnfuneralhome.com

Congrats, Cassville!

Mike's AUTO CARE

"Honest and Reliable Car Care"

417-228-6805
10010 Farm Road 2160 • Cassville, MO 65625

Scan to see our photos from state!

CONGRATULATIONS,
COLTON ROARK
AND CHS WRESTLERS!

ROARK

DIESEL PERFORMANCE

9061 Private Rd. 2143, Cassville
(417) 847-6560 • roarkdp@gmail.com

CONGRATS ON A GREAT
SEASON, WILDCATS!

WWW.CS.BANK
417-847-2000

BANK Member FDIC

89 STATE HWY 37, CASSVILLE