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 4 Cassville golfers score in top 10 at Cassville Golf Club. — **1B**



CASSVILLE Democrat

APRIL 15, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

FIREWORKS

When: June 5 at dusk
Where: Viewing from Cassville Aquatic Center Park
More: Cost is \$15,000, special surprise shots to be included

\$15K fireworks show at Trout Fest

Annual event to feature music, vendors, fireworks, free fishing and more

BY GWENDYLAN HARMON

Cassville Democrat Intern

Cassville residents can expect a night sky filled with color and sound, as this year's Trout Fest includes a fireworks celebration of the United States' 250th birthday on June 5 at the Cassville Aquatic Park.

While the event includes live music, food trucks and family friendly activities, city officials say the fireworks display will once again serve as the highlight of the evening.

The event, titled "Trout Fest Music and Fireworks," will begin at 6 p.m., with live entertainment leading up to the main attraction. City leaders have placed a strong emphasis on ensuring the fireworks display delivers both quality and value. During the March city council meeting, City Administrator Richard Asbill discussed the planning process behind this year's show, explaining that the city worked carefully within its budget to secure a high quality display.

According to Asbill, the city reviewed three bids, all for \$15,000. After comparing proposals, officials selected Display Pyrotechnics as the provider for this year's show. Asbill said the company stood out for its ability to deliver a strong, visually engaging performance while staying within financial limits.

"In the end, we felt like this one gave us the best bang for our buck," he said.

Officials hinted that attendees should be excited for a surprise element built into the performance.

"There are going to be some surprises in the show," said Rachel Freeman, with FullCourt Media, which handles economic development for the city. "We don't want to give everything away, but it's definitely something people won't want to miss."

This year's show will be launched by the Aquatic Center sports complex. Organizers say the setup will allow the fireworks to reach higher elevations and be seen from multiple vantage points around the park and surrounding areas.

Freeman encouraged residents to plan ahead when choosing where to watch the

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11% vote in April 7 election

SB3 passes in county, Washburn police tax fails with tie vote

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

A total of 2,701 ballots were cast among 23,810 registered voters in Barry County in the April 7 Municipal Election, which saw mixed results among county and municipal issues.

ELECTION RESULTS

What: April 7 Municipal Election
Turnout: 11.34%, 2,701 ballots cast among 23,810 registered voters

Highlights: SB3 passes, Washburn police tax fails, Seligman bond issue passes, Wheaton police tax passes

The countywide turnout came in at 11.34%, and only one issue was available to all voters — SB3. The property tax freeze measure, which is still being challenged in the court

system, passed with 1,641 votes in favor and 1,027 against.

In city issues, the city of Washburn 1% police sales tax failed by the narrowest of margins, a tie vote at 35 in favor and 35 against.

The city of Seligman passed its \$10 million water project bond issue, receiving 41 votes in favor and 22 against. The city of Butterfield, seeking a \$5 million bond issue for water projects, saw its measure fail, with 21 votes against and 18 in favor.

The last city issue was in Washburn, a 1% public safety sales tax, which passed with 93 votes in favor and 24 votes against.

Only one bond issue was floated at local school districts, a \$2 million proposal at the Wheaton school district for primarily HVAC, roofing, asbestos removal, debt refinancing. That measure passed with 212 votes in favor and 65 against.

Wheaton also had a con-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

Docudrama brings drunk driving impacts to life



Leia Crosby, right, exclaims, "You killed everyone," to the inebriated driver of the vehicle that caused a crash, a staged docudrama at Cassville High School on Friday showing the dangers of drunk driving. The docudrama, presented every four years by Students Against Destructive Decisions, includes local fire, police, EMS, the coroner and a towing company to show students what can happen in the event of a crash due to drunk driving. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

2 killed in wreck caused by vehicle hydroplaning

2 others injured in head-on collision south of Purdy

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Two Barry County residents were killed on Friday in a wreck at 12:45 p.m. on Highway 37, half a mile south of Purdy.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 65-year-old female was

driving a 2009 GMC Envoy northbound when her vehicle hydroplaned into the southbound lane and the passenger side of her vehicle struck a southbound 2005 Honda CRV, being driven by a 46-year-old female, of Noblesville, Ind.

The Shell Knob female and a passenger in her vehicle, a 41-year-old female, of Exeter, were both pronounced dead at the scene at 1:40 p.m. by Barry County Coroner Gary Swearingen. They were transported to Fohn Funeral Home in

Cassville.

The Noblesville female and a passenger in her vehicle, a 40-year-old female, from Columbia, each suffered serious injuries and were both taken to Cox South Hospital in Springfield.

All involved were wearing safety devices, and both vehicles were totaled.

These are the 34th and 35th fatalities for Troop D of the Patrol, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri, including Barry.

Sales taxes up slightly in March

General gains seen for first quarter of 2026

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

Sales tax to Barry County cities and county government bodies eked out an overall slight gain in March, with several major gains offsetting several drops, in part due to big jumps in use tax revenues.

The seven cities collecting sales tax, not counting the new tax in Seligman for police, showed a gain of 1% for the month. Monett, Purdy, Washburn, and Wheaton fell short of last March's totals.

SALES TAXES

What: Up slightly in March
Cassville: Strongest showing overall, up 10%
County: Up 7% for the month

Comparing the same taxes as last year, but adding in the revenues to Barry County and all the use taxes, revenues for the month rose by more than \$51,000 or 3%.

Cassville made the strongest municipal showing. Its 1% tax supporting the general fund generated \$113,057.38, up \$10,177.41 or 10% from a year ago, setting a new March record. The sum is up by more than \$33,000 from five years ago.

For the first quarter of 2026, Cassville's use tax also saw an 18% boost in revenues, on top of a 15% increase in sales tax income. That put tax income for the first quarter of 2026 up \$106,108.34, or 12%, from the start of 2025.

In contrast, Monett, the county's biggest sales tax generator, saw its sales taxes at 1% for its general fund generate \$209,258.53, its second consecutive drop, down \$4,255.75 from last March. Monett's general fund receipts are up 3% for the first quarter.

Monett's use tax revenues followed Cassville's example with a 26% gain for the first quarter. Adding together Monett's sales tax and use tax revenues

revealed a gain of more than \$151,000 or 9% from the start of 2025, and up 14% from the start of 2024.

Seligman's 1% sales tax for paying general bills yielded \$11,460.28 for the month, up \$76.31 to essentially hold even with last March. General fund revenues for the first quarter are up by 9%.

Total revenues for Seligman are up by 26% due to the addition of the new 1% sales tax for

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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Spring Hymn Festival on Sunday

The Spring Hymn Fest is on April 26 from 4-5 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Community Association Outdoor Pavilion. Join in singing old-time hymns. Chairs and light refreshments will be provided. The pavilion is located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. For questions, people may call 870-654-5231.

Blues & BBQ on Friday

The Cassville Band Boosters are hosting CHS Band's Blues & BBQ on Friday at 6 p.m. at the Cassville High School Football Stadium parking lot. This fun-filled evening will feature performances by the award-winning Wildcat Jazz Band and Middle School Jazz Band, a bike show and a meal. Admission is \$10. The event is sponsored by Fastrip, Battery Outfitters, and Shumaker Tire. All proceeds will benefit the Cassville Band Program.

Blood drives in Purdy, Cassville this month

The American Red Cross will host two blood drives in Barry County this month. The first will be at Purdy High School, located at 201 Gabby Gibbons Drive, on April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The second will be at Arvest Bank, located at 503 Main St. in Cassville, on April 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants at both drives will receive \$15 e-gift cards to their choice of merchant. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Pioneer Road District hosting quarterly meeting

The Pioneer Road District will hold its quarterly meeting on April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Wheaton Volunteer Fire Department, located at 407 E. Hurlbut in Wheaton.

Bake sale at senior living home

Aspire Senior Living Roaring River will host its annual bake sale on Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The facility is located at 812 Old Exeter Road in Cassville. Come buy some cakes, cookies and goodies of all kinds. Proceeds go to Aspire's 4th of July fireworks display.

'God Loves People' revival at Carr Lane Baptist

Carr Lane Baptist Church, located at 9276 Hwy. 86, south of Shell Knob, will host the "God Loves People" revival meeting April 19-22. The revival preacher will be Pastor Aaron Weibel. Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday evening services will be at 7 p.m. For more information, people may call 870-480-2764.

Events upcoming at Zone 4

Zone 4 Mini Golf & More will host East Coast Swing Dance Lessons at 7 p.m. on April 17, at \$10 per person; a Love & Marriage Game Show at 7 p.m. on April 18, free admission; and Trivia on the Patio at 6 p.m. on April 25, free to play.

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

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

Monett Historical Society program April 21

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

Capps Creek Road District to meet

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

Kings Prairie Cemetery Annual Meeting

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

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

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, handmade 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.

Reuter lands Beta Club scholarship



Cassville High School senior Claire Reuter has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Missouri Beta Club Scholarship. The one-time, nonrenewable \$1,500 scholarship will be applied toward her studies at Missouri State University. Reuter participated in the scholarship application and interview process during the Missouri Senior Beta Convention, held March 13-14. She was initially named an alternate, but was later awarded the scholarship after the original recipient was unable to accept. Missouri Beta Club scholarship recipients are recognized as well-rounded students who excel academically while actively participating in Beta Club activities. Scholarship winners demonstrate a strong commitment to their school and community through service and leadership. Claire is the daughter of Jayme and Ben Reuter, of Cassville.

Contributed photo

Election: Verona passes K.I.D.S.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

tested school board race, with county lines determining one winner. Elizabeth Goetz received the most votes with 170, and Lewis Royer took the next-highest amount at 140. In Barry County, Josh Kinnaman edged Tony Ball by a vote count of 137-135, but in McDonald County, Ball received 4 votes to Kinnaman's 1, giving Ball the third and final seat by a vote of 139-138.

Also running were Nikki Allen and Rodney Allen, who received 114 and 96 votes, respectively.

For the Purdy school district, David Wormington and Nathan Lamp each received 157 votes, and Kaley Thigpen took the third seat with 146 votes. David Young was left on the outside with 62 votes.

Finally, for the Monett School Board, Ryan Nestlerod reeled in 621 votes to finish atop a five-person race with an additional write-in campaign. Jennifer Lewis took second with 536 votes, and Jared Wormington was third with 383 votes. On the ballot in fourth and fifth were Ashley Bailey with 345 votes and Annie Smith with 316 votes.

Sean Kelley launched a write-in campaign, garnering 201 votes in Barry County and 127 in Lawrence

County for a total of 328, still 56 votes from upending Wormington for the third seat.

In other results, Jamey Smith defeated Kenny Tucker for Flat Creek Special Road District Commissioner by a vote of 199-192. Michael Blackburn defeated Neal Stanley for Sugar Creek Road District Commissioner, 53-42.

The Washburn Special Road District question, retaining its current levy, passed, 95-42; and an additional levy for the White River Road District Special Road and Bridge Levy Request failed, 76-75.

For the city of Wheaton, Jon Brattin defeated Kurt Hoemann for the West Ward Alderman position, 40-19. And, in the Village of Emerald Beach, Bob Langreder received 51 votes and Bruce Vonbusch 36 to be elected as trustees. Left on the outside was Shelley Neel with 23 votes.

For the Verona school board, Abe Sherwood, with 142 votes; Tina Jennings, with 138 votes; and Louis Carrasquillo, with 124 votes, were elected. Kevin Hilton and Beth Hilton received 83 and 79 votes, respectively.

Verona also passed its Proposition K.I.D.S. measure, receiving 162 votes in favor and 66 against.

Fireworks: Bring blankets, chairs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

show. "People should find seating facing west to get the best view," she said.

Event organizers are also advising attendees to arrive early to secure a good spot. With large crowds expected, lawn chairs and blankets are recommended for those planning to settle in for the evening.

"Definitely bring lawn chairs," Freeman said. "It's meant to be a relaxed, family-friendly environment where people can come out, sit back, and enjoy the show. The music and fireworks are part of a weekend-long event. We want people to come out not just for the show, but to enjoy the whole experience."

Freeman said concert lineup will be released in May.

"We can't announce it until May," Freeman said. "There's a radius clause in the contract, so we just have to wait until that clears."

As in previous years, the "Trout Fest Music and Fireworks" event serves as the kickoff to a broader weekend of activities that extend beyond Friday night. Since its start in 2020, Trout Fest has grown into a multi-day celebration aimed at highlighting outdoor recreation and community engagement.

Typically coinciding with Free

Fishing Weekend at Roaring River State Park, one of the key additions this year is a fishing derby, which Freeman said is intended to encourage families and individuals to take advantage of the area's natural resources.

"It'll be for everybody," Freeman said. "We're looking at having divisions for both youth and adults."

While final details for the derby are still being worked out, organizers expect it will include an entry fee. In addition to music, fireworks and fishing, another activity is a free swim day at the Aquatic Park on Saturday, offering families another opportunity to gather and enjoy the facilities.

Freeman said the overall goal is to create a "fun, family-friendly" and "busy weekend" that gives residents multiple reasons to participate.

"We want people to have things to do all weekend long," she said. "It's about bringing the community together and giving families something to look forward to."

As preparations continue, organizers encourage residents to stay updated as more details are finalized in the coming weeks. Additional announcements regarding entertainment, schedules and activities are expected ahead of the event.

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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 ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com.

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5th grade puts on 'friendship' program



From left, River Tyler, Lillian Artherton and Stella Rose perform with drumsticks and buckets during the recent "Friends Forever" music program. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Taylor Dyess, right, performs a speaking part in the "Friends Forever" music program with Caitlyn Tyler, seated. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville fifth-grade students sing a song during their "Friends Forever" music program recently. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



From left, Jett Kennedy, Braxton Decker, Jaxon Clifton, Neelei Johnson and Joslyn Moore laugh while playing drumsticks on buckets during the recent "Friends Forever" music program. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Purdy names new high school principal

Eagles to return to Ozark 7 Conference

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

Purdy will have a new high school principal next year.

Stephanie Heman, the former Monett High School principal, has been selected to take over, filling out the administrative team.

Superintendent Travis Graham announced Heman's selection in his newsletter. Graham has been serving both as superintendent and high school principal this school year to give the district time to find the right candidate.

Heman has 34 years of experience as an educator and 15 years in school administration. She has been engaged in high school operations, supporting areas such as student discipline, faculty evaluation, curriculum alignment and the development of policies and programs. Graham also noted Heman's experience in analyzing data to improve student outcomes, implementing instructional strategies and overseeing alternative education programs.

Graham also announced that with the 2026-27 school year, Purdy will return to the Ozark 7 Conference, leaving the Southwest Central League. The SWCL had two schools leave two years ago, leaving Purdy in with Blue Eye, Galena, Southwest, and Kirbyville. Graham said after continuing for another year, "it was evident that we needed to make changes to our conference organization."

Both Purdy and Southwest have been welcomed back into the Ozark 7. Other schools include more local teams: Exeter, Wheaton, and Verona, along with Thomas Jefferson in Joplin, College Heights, and Golden City.

The March school board meeting concentrated on financial concerns in the coming year.

Graham walked board members through the latest legislation before the Missouri General Assembly. HB 2780 proposed lowering the state tax levy for schools from \$2.75 per \$100 of assessed property to \$2.20. What that would do, Graham said, is lower revenue to the Purdy school district from \$1,168,799 to \$935,023, a loss of \$233,776 or 20%. Discussions have revolved around how that would reduce the per-pupil reduction.

Legislators are also talking about cutting income taxes, and how mandatory open enrollment would cut students attending in Purdy by 5%. Open enrollment would obligate the district to pay for sending its students to another school district of their choice, a significantly greater expense added to less funding.

Another bill, HB 2230, would mandate 70% of elementary work to be done by pencil and paper. The change

would theoretically address digital instruction resulting in lowered literacy rates. Lawmakers anticipated the change would come with a cost to district in books and time for teachers.

Uncertainty remains at the federal level where overhauls to education funding seem to be advancing. The total allocation, Graham noted, is only slightly less than the previous year, but with staffing in the Department of Education cut nearly in half, and talk continuing about moving education programs to different departments, it's not clear what will happen.

At the state level, local voters on April 7 will vote on freezing property tax increases on their primary residences. This would also reduce local school funding, which relies on property taxes. Those eligible for tax freezes would include senior citizens. The long-term effect of such freezes is as yet unknown.

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

In his staff newsletter, Graham reaffirmed his commitment to raise the salary schedule to reach the mandated \$40,000 minimum for certified teachers. Presently, Purdy pays \$38,000. He submitted seven different salary scenarios for the staff to review, and to see the extended impact over all the steps.

The main presentation at the board meeting came from special education director Darcy Brown. She reported the district presently has 73 students receiving special education, 8 in the preschool, and 14 deemed high needs students. Eleven students have one-on-one paraprofessionals. Two students have been placed outside of the district. Brown also reviewed the number of students receiving speech/language, occupational, physical, and visual therapy. The largest group receives speech/language therapy remotely through television. Two have orientation and mobility therapy.

A number of Purdy's special education students would be competing at Special Olympics in Carl Junction on April 8.

Elementary Principal Julie Dalton reviewed plans for Dr. Seuss Week. She noted the second preschool and kindergarten screening would be held on April 17.

Dalton noted the middle school volleyball team took second at the Southwest Volleyball Tournament.

At the high school, Courtney Patterson was commended for advancing to the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program's national competition in Salt Lake City in prepared speaking.

Graham announced the board would hold its reorganization meeting on April 9.

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Low turnout, big results

Municipal elections have a history of lower turnout, and while the April 7 election predictably followed that trend, the results will impact far, far more than those who cast the votes.

A few races and ballot measures are of note, the most impactful of which is SB3. A year ago, voters overwhelmingly approved SB190 — with 91% in favor — offering a tax credit for seniors on their homes, essentially freezing their property taxes at 2024 rates.

The impact of that vote, while it may save seniors a few tens of dollars every year, collectively will hit fire districts, road districts and other entities without bond obligations with a budget loss.

SB3 passed with a lesser margin, 1,641 votes in favor and 1,027 against (62% to 38%), however, if all property taxes are frozen for all homeowners — school districts with bond issues included this time — every public service we receive in Barry County will have to make some difficult financial decisions in the years ahead.

The bill is still working its way through the court system and may be overturned, but if it's not, schools, emergency services and any government entities funded by property taxes will feel the pinch of a lifetime.

Whatever the future holds, we'll be there to report the impacts.

Outside of SB3, the most intriguing Municipal Election vote occurred in Washburn. A 1-cent sales tax proposal within the city to support public safety tied — 35-35 — meaning it failed.

If there is ever an instance where one vote mattered, it was this one. Out of 240 registered voters, 70 cast ballots. A 29.1% turnout is what I would love to see out of the entire county, and had a 71st person cast a vote, that individual would have decided it definitively.

The nearly triple turnout compared to the county-wide turnout was to be expected. I was at the Washburn City Council meeting in March, specifically asked to come because there would be some “important questions for the council,” to paraphrase said request.

I've covered hundreds of city council meetings, school board meetings, ambulance district meetings, county commission meetings and more over my 15-plus years in journalism. I can count on a few fingers how many were that contentious.

By and large, the people in the gallery were upset at the city for even making such a proposal. In a sense, I see where they were coming from, but not for the reasons they were alleging. All the detractors' focuses were on issues, in my opinion, that didn't carry any weight.

The real question was: How will another \$40,000 that barely fully covers the police chief's salary going to truly have an effect on public safety?

The answer, again in my opinion: Dedicated sales tax dollars to public safety — even if it didn't allow the police department to stand on its own — would shift funding away from general revenue.

In the end, an extra \$40,000 to a city like Washburn, which nets around \$82,000 with three sales taxes already, would make an incredible difference.

That opens up \$40,000 in general funds that could be directed toward many of the issues Washburn is dealing with, streets for example.

Instead, in my opinion again, petty squabbling has kept the city at square one. Only nine businesses in Washburn collect sales tax. I hope residents of Washburn patronize those businesses as much as possible in years to come — they will only be helping themselves.

Comparatively, Wheaton passed a 1-cent tax for public safety easily, 93 votes to 24, a 79% to 21% margin. Where freed up general revenue funds from the addition of that tax go will be something to watch.

Beyond those most impactful results, the Monett School Board race was a doozy. Seats changes, and a write-in campaign came closer than I've ever seen in recent memory to being a success. The future of that board and the action it takes will be something for district patrons on which to keep a close eye.

The city of Seligman passed a much-needed water bond issue, to the tune of \$10 million. This will fund line replacements and a new water tower and well. I imagine when all that work is done, residents will enjoy those effects.

The Wheaton school district also passed its \$2 million bond issue for roofing, HVAC, debt refinancing and other wish list projects. I hope that school board is frugal with those funds to create the biggest impact.

Ultimately, the April 7 election was one to learn from, if we ever do. A total of 2,701 ballots cast among 23,810 registered voters leaves the decisions of many in the hands of a few.

I hope those who did not cast votes in this election understand the impact that has going forward — and inspires them to cast a ballot on the next Election Day.

I hear August will have some races of interest. I hope more than 11% show up to the polls.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



COMMUNITY VOICES

Barry County Community Garden opens: A new season of growth begins

The Barry County Community Garden officially opened for the 2026 growing season on March 15.

We have welcomed both returning gardeners and new participants eager to grow fresh, local food for themselves and the community. Located at 10160 Farm Road 2160 in Cassville, the garden continues its mission of providing education, access to healthy produce and a shared space where neighbors can work side by side.

March and April mark the true beginning of the gardening season in southwest Missouri's Zone 6b/7a, and excitement is already building. Garden organizers encourage anyone interested — whether experienced or brand new — to attend and get involved. Monthly meetings are the first Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Harvick Farms on Hwy 76 just outside of Cassville. Official workdays began April 1.

Garden organizers are at the garden Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Gardeners with personal beds are welcome to tend their gardens any day during daylight hours.

With spring underway, now is the perfect time to get seeds in the ground and establish strong habits for a productive season.

Early spring offers ideal conditions for cool-season crops. These plants can tolerate light frost and thrive in the milder temperatures of April. Gardeners can plant vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, kale, radishes, carrots, beets and peas directly into the soil. Onions — whether sets or transplants — can also go in the ground this month, along with potatoes. Broccoli and cabbage transplants are excellent additions as well.

While it may be tempting to plant warm-season crops like tomatoes, peppers and squash, these should be held back until after the danger of frost has passed. However, seeds can be started indoors for a jump start



on the season.

April is one of the most important months for setting the tone of the entire gardening season. Preparation and consistency now will pay off in the months ahead. Soil preparation is essential. Gardeners should loosen the soil, remove weeds and mix in compost or organic matter to improve fertility and drainage. Healthy soil is the foundation of a successful garden.

Cool-season crops should be planted in succession every couple of weeks to ensure a steady harvest rather than one overwhelming yield all at once. Watering becomes important as spring rains can be inconsistent. Seeds and young plants need consistent moisture to germinate and establish strong roots.

Weed control should also begin early. Small weeds are much easier to manage than established ones. Staying ahead of them reduces competition for nutrients and water.

Garden planning and labeling helps keep everything organized. Knowing what was planted and when makes it easier to manage harvests and replanting later in the season.

In Barry County, and much of southwest Missouri, the average last frost date falls around April 20. However, the weather can be unpredictable. Late frosts are still possible even after that date. Because of this, gardeners should stay vigilant throughout

April, especially when planting tender crops or early transplants. Preparation is key to protecting young plants from unexpected cold snaps.

Gardeners can take several simple steps to reduce risk. Covering plants is one of the most effective methods. Lightweight materials such as row covers, old sheets, or frost cloth can be placed over plants overnight to trap heat. It's important to remove coverings during the day so plants can receive sunlight and avoid overheating. Watering the soil before a frost can also help. Moist soil retains heat better than dry soil, offering a small but meaningful buffer against cold temperatures.

Mulching around plants provides insulation and helps regulate soil temperature. Straw, leaves, or grass clippings can be used effectively. For transplants or sensitive plants, using containers or movable trays allows gardeners to bring them indoors or into a sheltered space during cold nights.

The opening of the Barry County Community Garden is more than just the start of planting — it's the beginning of another season of learning, sharing, and giving back. Much of the produce grown in the garden is donated locally, helping support families in need.

As spring comes, the message is simple: grab your gloves, bring your seeds and join in. If you have questions, you can contact Melissa Hamilton at 417-592-0432 or follow the Facebook page.

A new growing season is here, and the Barry County Community Garden is ready to grow.

Melissa Hamilton is a dedicated volunteer with the Barry County Community Garden and a Barry County Master Gardener. She may be reached at melissa.hamilton1969@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY VOICES

History's pipe dreams

While many consider Barry County to be paradise on earth, one item that many residents of past have envied of their southwestern neighbors was an ample supply of oil bubbling from their own backyard.

For the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century an extensive search for valuable mineral resources has been made of the area, with limited results. Way back in 1895, the county thought they had struck it rich at the P.E. Roller farm between Seligman and Washburn, when an oil well was drilled under the direction of Col. G.W. Ervin of Exeter, previously of Texas, on the Sugar Creek Township farm.

According to an 1895 newspaper article, people had known of oil seeping from the ground for more than 30 years, and locals had used the supply “for axle grease and coarse lubricator.”

After drilling for 452 feet, it was reported that they found “28 feet of black shale that is heavily saturated with oil” and beneath that another 20



JEREMIAH BUNTIN

feet of oil-bearing sandstone. In February 1896, the newspaper reported that a depth of 900 feet had been reached at the P.E. Roller oil well with “prospects good,” but not good enough to mention again in future newspapers.

In 1922, there was a report of “quite a bit of enthusiasm about the oil well at Jenkins.” Apparently, oil sand was reached at a depth of 1,702 feet. Commercial Clubs at Crane, Monett and Aurora gathered pledges to enable continuing operations. However, an attempt to replace a leaking casing brought the mast down on the well.

Afterwards, it was decided that a more advanced rig was needed to complete drilling and the current rig was moved to Kansas. It doesn't

appear that work was ever resumed. The following year, a Monett merchant who had invested in the venture was selling parts of the well as fence posts.

Other local attempts at oil riches began in 1923, with a well drilled at the Garfield Maness farm near Stella in Newton County, and another near Jane in McDonald County.

In 1923 Bert Dennison of Ponca City, Okla., and member of the Osage Tribe, attempted to develop an oil well close to Washburn. A mining lease in an old abstract of title at the Barry County Museum lists the location as the W.L. Black farm in Township 22, Range 28, Section 33, less than a mile south of Washburn, with the agreement for 1/8 well royalty, notarized by G.B. Windes, Black's nephew.

However, William Black never lived to see any royalties, as he died that same year, and the lease sold to Perry Hoefler. In a newspaper account from 1924, Dennison claimed to have invested nearly \$40,000 in the venture. By 1926, the well had reached a depth of

3,500 feet.

By 1928, \$50,000 dollars — nearly \$1 million dollars today adjusted for inflation — had been sunk into the project. Local businessmen injected another \$2,000 in funds to keep the project going, but by 1929, all that remained of Dennison's company seemed to be unpaid bills listed in the court section of the local newspaper, such as a note due to the Bank of Eureka Springs.

He filed for bankruptcy in Oklahoma in 1930. According to his obituary, Bert Dennison died at the age of 87, in 1972 in Ponca City, returning to farming for the remainder of his life in the Osage.

Frances Bacon is credited with saying “Important families are like potatoes. The best parts are underground.”

History shows us that the opposite appears to be true when it comes to our dreams, the best ones are kept above the ground.

Jeremiah Buntin is a historian at the Barry County Museum. He may be reached at jrbuntin@barrycomuseum.org.

YOUR VIEW

No proof of any wrongdoing

Dear Editor:
A few months ago there was an incident in Washburn, Mo. There was a wreck. A car hit a motorcycle. A couple had seen it and drove into the nearest driveway to turn around to see if they could help until help could get

there.
As they did, the owner came out with a gun and the couple turned around and went back to the accident to see if they could help. The owner then chased them down and pointed a gun at them and threatened to kill them.

When the city marshal came, he realized a conflict of interest was involved and stepped back and called Barry County to come out because of that.

It's being said he is now accused of being corrupt. There is no proof

of that. Rumors are being said that are not true, and he is innocent with no proof of any wrongdoing.

If he's corrupt, where's the proof?

Joanna Morgan
Bella Vista, Ark.
(Washburn)

50 years ago

April 21, 1976
— CONDEMNATION AT STATE PARK
DRAWN PETITIONS

Condemnation of about one acre of commercial land in Roaring River State Park was ordered by Circuit Judge William Pinnell in court here Friday. Judge Pinnell said the Missouri Park Board had a right to condemn and purchase the land from the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Edmondson of Cassville. Also named in the petition filed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Box, lessees of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Box operate Fisherman's Inn. Judge Pinnell named three commissioners to view the property and assess damages that should be awarded the Edmondsons in the condemnation. Bill Edmondson of Cassville, Charles Main and Dave Whitlock of Monett are to report to Circuit Clerk Artie Spain on their appraised value by 10 a.m., May 6. In his signed order, Judge Pinnell said the state and Edmondson family could not agree on the proper compensation for the land, but that the state had a right to acquire the property. Involved is approximately one acre of land at the bottom of the Highway 112 hill that enters the park. It is presently the lone piece of private property in the park used for commercial purposes. Following action in the case, petitions being circulated in Joplin, Springfield, Kansas City and the Roaring River area became known this week, which protest the condemnation. The 11 pages of signatures designate themselves as regular visitors to the park. The cover sheet on the petitions says this is not the only private property in the park but is singled out for condemnation; that a loss in revenue will occur should the business be eliminated and that the Box couple will be deprived of their method of making a living. The petitions also allege a popular spot in Roaring River among visiting tourists would be eliminated with the state's acquiring the land.

— CHILD CENTER FORMS IN
SURVEY FOR CARE EFFORT

Due to the growth in the number of working mothers in this area, a survey is underway in order to document the need for a child care center, according to Mrs. Larry Seal of Cassville and Mrs. Johnny Fite of Washburn. Questionnaires are being submitted to working mothers in local business and industry. Boosters of the program have set a goal to involve the community in the care of its children and to offer quality child care to those who need it at a minimum cost. Major plant figures have an estimated 200 mothers employed at FASCO Industries and about 100 at Jumping Jacks Shoes. Proposed by the group is a building or house with adequate space for a playground. Also required would be time, money and materials from organizations and individuals. The center would be a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors. Operations would be five days a week, approximately 12 hours a day. Services of breakfast, lunch and two snacks would be included. A director, aides and cooks would also provide learning centers, planned activities and rest and quiet times. Initial review of the program possibilities

brought a comment from Bill Ward, Chamber of Commerce secretary, that hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't inquire about child care facilities. Mayor Bill LeCompte joined the effort, "feeling a center is needed, and I encourage its establishment." Persons desirous of working toward establishing a center should contact either of the two principals in Cassville or Washburn. Questionnaires used in the survey ask the names and ages of children whose parents are employed and what type of child care they have at present. Working mothers not being contacted through regular channels should request proper forms from those in charge of the efforts.

40 years ago

April 23, 1986
— STATE HIGHWAY SURVEY PARTY
STARTING SELIGMAN BY-PASS

Survey personnel of the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department are scheduled to begin this week making initial proposed relocation plans for a Route 37 bypass to Seligman. The work will be concentrated to the east of the present route that passes through Seligman on the way to the Missouri-Arkansas line. R. K. Stalcup, district engineer, said the work would begin this week. Crews have previously made survey of the Highway 37 relocation between Cassville and just north of Seligman. Survey stakes are in place for this project, scheduled for building late this year. The Seligman bypass, removed from the overall project two years ago when public hearings indicated a lack of interest in the community for the project, was reinstated late last year. Petition efforts in the Seligman area resulted in the highway commission taking a second look at the project. Bypass projects will run from the vicinity of Route 112 at the north edge of Seligman to south of the town, just short of the state line. The location as approved by the highway commission begins near the west city limits of Seligman and proceeds easterly on relocation, then crossing Route 112 about 550 feet east of the existing Route 37 intersection and continues southerly on relocation east of Seligman and rejoining the existing road about 800 feet north of the Arkansas state line. This location was discussed at a public hearing held October 24, 1985, is about three miles long and has an estimated cost of \$5.3 million. Seligman's status with the highway department will also include a project of widening a bridge in the center of town now used by Highway 37. The project, which includes filling a road under the bridge and elimination of railings, is a combined project of the department and the city of Seligman. Existing Highway 37 through the town of Seligman will remain in the county system as part of a road extension that now serves the area running west out of town, Route DD. Highway officials credited Mayor Johnny Corn with leading the effort to have the bypass project reinstated in the state's plans. In charge of the current work in the south part of the county is W. Campbell, survey party highway officials said care would be taken to observe the signs and the personnel working in the area. It might be that this crew has been starting on Missouri Route 37



50 YEARS AGO: RAINS FLUSH CREEK, CAUSE CAVE-IN
— Much welcome rains, measuring up to six inches in some areas, produced many a smile in the county since it began last Friday. The rainfall also flushed out Flat Creek and caused a backyard cave-in. The photo above shows a waterfall over the low-water crossing of Flat Creek at East Seventh Street. Some debris washed on both sides of the stream. The photo at right shows Mrs. Henry Beeson of 99 Gravel, looking into a six-by-six-foot cistern whose top gave way in the soaked ground. With her is Jim Bowers, Gas Service Co. supervisor for the community. Soaked ground around a concrete top gave way, revealing the carved water storage long since abandoned at the old Price property here. Democrat file photo

in Cassville and Seligman the past two weeks establishing initial right-of-way limits for improvements of that portion of route.

— RURAL PROPERTY IN BURGLARY
INCREASE STATUS

One of every seven Missouri farmers was robbed last year, three times the robbery rate of city dwellers. In addition, 9 percent of farm operators reported at least one incident of vandalism to property. "The larger the farm, the more likely that an incident of vandalism or theft occurred," said John Holik, University of Missouri-Columbia rural sociologist. "Approximately 22 percent of the farmers operating 1,000 acres or more were robbed, compared to 10 percent of the operators of farms 50 acres or less. The figures for vandalism were 13 percent for large-farm operators and six percent for small-farm operators." Holik said the rate of theft on Missouri farms — 13,930 per 100,000 population — is 2.75 times the rate reported in Missouri cities with populations greater than 250,000. Only 40 to 50 percent of rural crimes are reported to law enforcement officials, according to Rural Crime Victimization research. According to Holik, the 1985 Missouri Rural Life and Farm Poll respondents reported an average loss of \$690 due to theft between July 1, 1984, and July 1, 1985. The

highest loss reported was \$150,000; the lowest was \$3. Cost of damages due to vandalism ranged from below \$3 to \$5,000. The average cost was \$396.

— 49 TURKEY IN FIRST DAYS OF
HUNTING SEASON

Monday's opening produced 33 checks at Roaring River, a record according to hatchery superintendent Charles Curry. By comparison, last year's opening had 12 checked. First day checks were by: Jack Wogoman, David Counts, Kent Arnaud, Steve Pendergraft, John Cross, Ken Wroblewski, Lavelle Horn, Gordon Denny, Boian, Johnny Speck, Mary Kevin Holloway, Dale Craig, Roger McClintock, Mike Shockley, James King, Don Bailey, Philip Cole, Randall Pendergraft, Glen Foster, Brett Harmon, Walter Houk, Larry Turner, Skip Doak, Clarence Still, Alfred Saunders, John Goodman, William Dodson, Jim

Hayworth, Kevin Murdock, Doug Goostree, Jerome Rutherford, Arlie David and Brent Endicott. Tuesday's second day check totaled 16 after morning temperatures dipped below freezing. Included in the names were: Kenneth Holloway, Landon Fletcher, Johnny Howard, Charles Marshall, R. G. Edmondson, Loy Rose, James Roder, Randy Davis, Calvin Schultz, Waborn Phillips and Steve Rose. Hunters will have the remainder of this week to down their first bird of the season. The second week of the season will permit another bird to be taken. Curry said last year's check through the Roaring River State Park facility was a total of 81 gobblers. Largest bird of the first two days was a 25-pounder taken by Steve Pendergraft of Washburn. David Counts' bird was a 23-pounder, said Doak, with an Independence hunter taking a 23 1/4-pound bird. Asked where the heaviest concentration of birds were reported, one hunter-check station operator said, "They are all over Mark Twain National Forest," after indicating it wouldn't do any good to ask a hunter where he got his bird. "If he knew exactly where he was he wouldn't tell you," Doak said.

30 years ago

April 17, 1996
— MOTHER NATURE DELAYS ANNUAL
DOGWOOD DISPLAY IN COUNTY

Mother Nature's failure to provide moisture and her late-season cold blasts have caused a two-week delay in Barry County's annual dogwood blooming season. Rick Linebarger, with the Mark Twain National Forest's Cassville Ranger Station, said the normal full leafing of native trees also had been delayed. This phenomenon typically occurs by the second week in May. The consensus at the Cassville Ranger Station is that dogwood trees should be in full bloom beginning the last weekend of April and continuing through the first weekend in May. "Dogwood is set back, but probably not damaged," Linebarger said. Scattered sightings of white have been spotted in nearby forests, and redbud painted the woods with pink over the weekend. Linebarger said there could be an "explosion" of dogwood due to the delay, which he says is Mother Nature's way of protecting trees from freezing temperatures and drought-like conditions. Fire danger in the area has placed Forest Service personnel on "extra hours" during very high to extreme fire conditions. High winds across the area have contributed to fire danger levels. In addition to public reports of fire, Linebarger said Missouri Conservation Department's forest division personnel have been extremely active patrolling the forests by air. Ruth

Johnson of Shell Knob is flying most of the fire watch missions. Linebarger said fires during this time of year could result in unusually high damage to trees due to the fact that sap is beginning to rise. Those in search of magnificent dogwood displays should visit Cassville, southwest Barry County, Roaring River State Park and the Table Rock Lake area of the county. Conservation Commission officials predict that peak dogwood blooming will coincide with the arrival of spring turkey hunting season, April 22 through May 5. They also noted this week that redbud trees were more sensitive to weather than dogwoods. State forestry people echoed local Forest Service's wildfire concerns, citing an ample supply of fallen leaves, which, exposed to dry winter wind and bright spring sunshine, provide tinder waiting for a spark.

— DOGWOOD CAR AND TRUCK FESTIVAL WAS A SUCCESS

The 10th annual Dogwood Car and Truck Festival was a blooming success, according to the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the event. Tom Koehler, event chairman, reported that 96 vehicles entered the show. The effort netted the chamber approximately \$1,500. Complete reorganization of the festival allowed contestants to register their vehicles in Cassville, then parade through downtown to the show site at Roaring River State Park. Once the vehicles arrived at the park, judging began. Winners of the new Dogwood Dozen awards were: Sharyn Crouch, 1930 Model A; Andy Staugaard, 1965 Mustang; Glenda Rose, 1994 Chevrolet; Don McGowen, 1931 Ford; Bud Rieck, 1951 Ford; Floyd McGary, Jr., 1976 Chevrolet; Dave Kelley, 1953 Chevrolet; Ron Cendroski, 1962 Chevrolet; Michael Losh, 1986 Mazda; Michael J. Brookshire, 1968 Chevrolet; Ike McRoberts, 1929 Ford; and Ruth Wayne Pendergraft, 1954 Nash. Dignitary awards were also presented. Winners were: Paul Herd Award — Roger Brandy, 1965 Corvette; Kustom Kemp Award — Harrell and Nyla Brabant, 1941 Oldsmobile; Mayor's Choice — Darryl Irion, 1967 Corvette; Senator Emory Melton's Award — Bill Abrams, 1934 Plymouth; Rep. Sam Gaskill's Award — Larry Thomas, 1977 Corvette; Sheriff Ralph Hendrix's Award — Mickey Bryan, 1950 Mercedes; and Fire Chief Millard Andrews' Award — Nancy Zimmerman, 1956 Chevrolet. Best engine honors went to Jerry Krob for his 1957 Chevrolet. Lynn Falkner and his 1936 Ford won best interior, and Bill and Billie Pohl claimed the best paint award. The Outlaws and Inlaws Car Club won the club participation prize. They were chosen out of 17 clubs represented at the car show.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Thayer is an American Staffordshire Mixed Breed. His date of birth is Sept. 1, 2025. Thayer and his siblings were abandoned but they deserve to find loving homes. Thayer plays well with other dogs. Come out and meet Thayer to see if he is a match for your family. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and micro-chipped. For more information, people may email havenozarks-sanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



Attention Pet Parents!

Upcoming Clinics

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

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


 Haven of the Ozarks
 Animal Sanctuary
 A 501(c)(3) Facility

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

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



**JILL HOLMAN
LECOMPTE**

Jill Holman LeCompte, age 60, of Cassville, Missouri passed away Sunday, April 5, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on November 14, 1965, in Monett, Missouri, the daughter of Calvin and Delphia Lorene (Perme) Holman. On May 15, 1987 she was united in marriage to the love of her life, Michael Zane LeCompte, I, who preceded her in death on November 4, 2020. Also preceding her in death were her mother, Del Holman and her sister, Terri Edna Holman.

Surviving are her father, Calvin Holman of Cassville; her son, Michael "Zane" LeCompte, II and his wife Jillian of Cassville; daughters, Victoria Zane Henbest and her husband Drew of Cassville, and Jillian Micol LeCompte of Cassville; brothers, Rod Holman and his partner Gwyn Plumlee of Exeter,

Audy Holman and his wife Bettie of Cassville, and Stuart Holman and his wife Diana of Cassville; sister, Calla Bacon of Exeter; her precious grandchildren, Bonnie Zane Henbest, Jillie Sue Henbest, Calvin Michael Henbest and Madelyn Elise LeCompte and many nieces and nephews.

Jill was raised in Cassville, where she graduated from Cassville High School. She went on to pursue her education at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, earning a Specialist in Educational Leadership degree. Jill devoted her career to serving her community in many capacities. She dedicated many years to the Cassville School System, first as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal positions, and later as assistant superintendent, leaving a lasting impact on countless students, colleagues, and families.

In addition to her work in education, Jill served as the county clerk and was the owner of Michael's Hardware, where she poured her heart into supporting and strengthening her community. She also served on the Cassville School Board, continuing her lifelong commitment to education and the people of Cassville.

She found happiness in the simple and meaningful moments in life. Jill was an enthusiastic

supporter of Razorback athletics, faithfully watching games and cheering on her team. She loved spending time outdoors, taking pride in yard work, land improvement, and beautification projects.

The holidays held a special place in her heart, as they brought her family together—times she cherished deeply. She also enjoyed watching The Wizard of Oz, collecting Cassville school memorabilia, blow molds, rocks, and extravagant handbags, as well as relaxing with a good book by the pool in the warmth of the sun.

Above all, Jill's greatest love was her family. She cared for them with unwavering devotion. Her presence brought comfort, strength, and joy to those closest to her. Jill was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, where her spirit of kindness and service was evident to all. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her, and her memory will be treasured always.

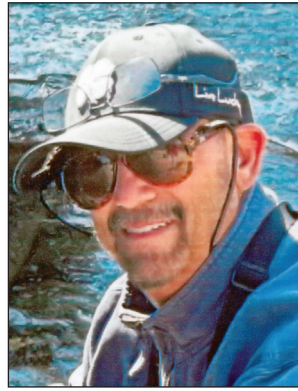
Services were held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, April 11, 2026 at First Baptist Church in Cassville, under the direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor James Weaver conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri.

The family received friends Friday from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Share Your Christmas or Generations Project in memory of Jill. **PAID OBITUARY**

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



**ROGER FORREST
BROCK**

Roger Forrest Brock, 54, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Monday, April 6, 2026 at his home.

He was born April 16, 1971 in Kansas City, Kan., the son of Daryl and Nova Kay (Hart) Brock.

Preceding him in death was his father, Daryl Brock and an infant son, Roger Dallas Brock.

Survivors include his mother, Nova Kay Finocchiaro and husband Kevin of Cassville, Mo.; grandparents, Georgia Lee Hart and husband Bud of Eagle Rock, Mo.; the love of his life and life partner, Kristy Lawrence of Cassville, Mo.; daughters, Paighton Nikole Evans and wife Stephanie of Bristow, Oklah. and Raegan M. Brock of Cassville, Mo.; brother, Danny Morris Brock of Cassville, Mo.; stepsisters, Kristyn Finocchiaro of Nixa, Mo. and Julia Finocchiaro of Nixa, Mo. and granddaughter, Hanna Jayde Evans.

He attended school in Cassville, where he graduated from Cassville High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo. He dedicated several years of service as the administrator of the Barry County Health Department.

He devoted many years to coaching Legion Baseball and also assisted with a traveling softball team. He was of the Baptist faith.

Graveside services were held Friday, April 10, 2026 at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears and Brother Tony Ball conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society in memory of Roger.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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

See more obits online at: cassville-democrat.com

'Boardinghouse' takes the stage

SKITS is taking the stage again with a mad-cap comedy that feels like a house full of secrets and a little bit of soup — warmed, seasoned and occasionally exploded.

Miss Harriet's boardinghouse is clean and cozy on the surface, but behind the wallpaper is a parade of personalities loud enough to fill any theater.

Miss Harriet presides with quiet competence, attempting to keep order while the perpetually terrified Tweenie scurries behind her like a startled shadow. The boarders, however, are where the trouble — and the laughter — truly begin.

Mr. Richards, a poet with the eccentric habit of "practicing dying" to coax inspiration from the beyond, stages a dozen little melodramas that never go according to plan. Gladys Klotz, the taxidermist with a direct line to the spirit world, prefers her men preserved and is never shy about voicing her opinions.

Martha Willis, who catalogues every imaginable illness as if they were badges of honor, revels in her ailments with gleeful the-

atricality.

Hortense, forever trying to keep up, is tragically earnest and deeply sympathetic, while Ivy — a free-spirited "artist" with a penchant for painting faces uninvited — creates masterpieces and mayhem in equal measure. Into this curious menagerie stride Dirk Shadow and his sister Veronica, suave, mysterious, and on the scent of Captain Schnook's rumored pirate treasure buried in the basement. Or is it merely the leftovers from dinner? The question propels every comic beat.

When the chaos reaches a fever pitch, enter the clever, ever-vigilant Dr. Sni-fell, whose sleuthing stitches the disparate threads into a riotous revelation. The result is a rapid-fire comedy of character, timing, and absurdity — a show that delights in the strange and celebrates the wonderfully peculiar people who inhabit it.

Performances are Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on at 2 p.m. The play is staged at the Central Community Methodist Church. Tickets can be purchased at skitsmo.com.

Taxes: County up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

law enforcement. Counting the city's use tax but only comparing taxes collected a year ago, revenues from tax sources rose by more than \$8,000 or 8% for the first quarter of 2026.

Purdy's 1% sales tax for general use received \$5,868.75 in March, down \$56.30 for the month, or less than \$113 for all three of the city's sales taxes. It was the first drop this year. Tax revenues for the quarter are up by 7% for the year. That represented a \$2,000 gain from last year, but still down \$2,400 from two years ago.

Wheaton's 1% sales tax received \$5,202.93 in March, down \$2,855.24 from last March, the second drop this year. That put receipts for the general fund down 8% for the first quarter. Wheaton's half-cent sales tax for transportation was back to its old tricks in March, generating only 39% of the one-cent tax. Combining all Wheaton's sales and use taxes, revenues for the first quarter were down \$2,382.51 or 8% from a year ago.

Exeter's 1% tax for its general fund generated \$2,646.39, up \$692.97 for its second gain in three months. General fund revenues are nonetheless down 19% compared to the start of 2025. Exeter's use tax has seen a 14% rise in income this year. That cut the total drop for the first quarter from both taxes to a little over \$1,200 or 8% compared to the start of 2025.

Washburn's 1% sales tax for paying general bills received \$2,116.34, down \$906.58 from last March, the second drop this year. General fund revenues for the quarter are down by 9%. Revenues from Washburn's use tax spiked by 18%. That meant that with all tax revenues combined, Washburn's tax receipts are down only \$251.51 from the start of 2025.

Barry County's county-wide taxes took the collective performance of the cities for a solid March gain. The county's two half-cent sales taxes for general operations and road maintenance each generated \$227,080, each up more than \$8,322 for the third consecutive monthly gain. That pushed the total for the first quarter up by 15%.

Barry County's use tax saw a 7% rise for the quarter. Adding the county's four sales taxes and use tax together, revenues for the quarter are up by almost \$126,000 or 10% from the first quarter of 2025. Combining all Barry County's sales and use taxes, income for the first quarter of 2026 is up by nearly \$186,000 or 7%, when the increase between the first quarter of 2025 and 2024 was only \$17.36.

Barry County's separate .385% sales tax supporting central dispatching and 911 service produced \$170,309.19 in March, up \$6,243.05 from last March. That raised the 2026 sum above last year's pace by 7%.

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

What do I really need?

As we pass through the Easter season and spring begins across the Ozarks, the trees begin to green up, and the lake seems a little bluer than it did a week ago.

Everything seems fresh and new. If we are honest, this feels more like the start of the year than January does. Let's do some spring cleaning and bring things to the local church for the garage sale. We clean up and streamline and try to get back to the basics, and we ask ourselves why do I have this stuff, and, "What is really essential in my life?"

We're starting a new series today called Back to Basics. What do I really need? That's a great question, isn't it? If you really think about it, a whole lot of us are living on the hamster

wheel of this world.

Running fast through all these things, the world told us were important. And the faster we ran, the more exhausted we became and the less progress we made. And we just kept running, striving, struggling, achieving, performing, earning, grinding, doing all these things to become someone, all these things the world told us were essential, we're going faster and faster and faster, getting exhausted and overwhelmed and tired.

But, Easter comes, and maybe you spend more time with your family, you focus on relationships, and you come to church, and you sit down, enjoy a meal together, and you think, "Wow, that was really nice; we should do that ...more often." And the next day, you jump



GREG ARMSTRONG

back into that hamster wheel and start running again. And you are left asking yourself, "What is it I really need?"

We are running so fast, trying to gain the world, trying to do all the things the world told us were important. And in the process, we were losing ourselves. Maybe that Easter pause is really a gift from God, giving us a moment to pause because we don't dare to stop it ourselves. So God is

saying, "There is a better way?"

God has already given you everything you need. He has given you everything that's essential. You don't have to go find it, you don't have to go get it, you don't have to earn it. He has already given it to you. And it all starts with God's grace.

Grace is the essential of your life. It's grace that made the sun rise today. It's grace that there is air to breathe right now. It's grace that your heart is beating and that you're alive. Grace created you. Grace sustains you. Grace redeemed you. It's grace that sent Jesus to the cross. It's grace that opened your eyes to see your need for a savior. It's grace that gave you a future and a destiny. It's grace that you're here right now.

And, what you have to

remember is that grace is not a concept; he's a person, and his name is Jesus. Grace is God speaking over your life, saying, I want you, I love you, I chose you, I accept you, I have empowered you, I will take care of you, I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Grace is being included in Christ, included in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, receiving his blessing, his inheritance, and his life. Grace brings you home. And grace is all you need.

So before you run off into your week, just take a moment to take in His Grace.

Greg Armstrong is the lead pastor at Lakeside Christian Church in Shell Knob. He may be reached at lccskminister@gmail.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

— ROMANS 3:23-24

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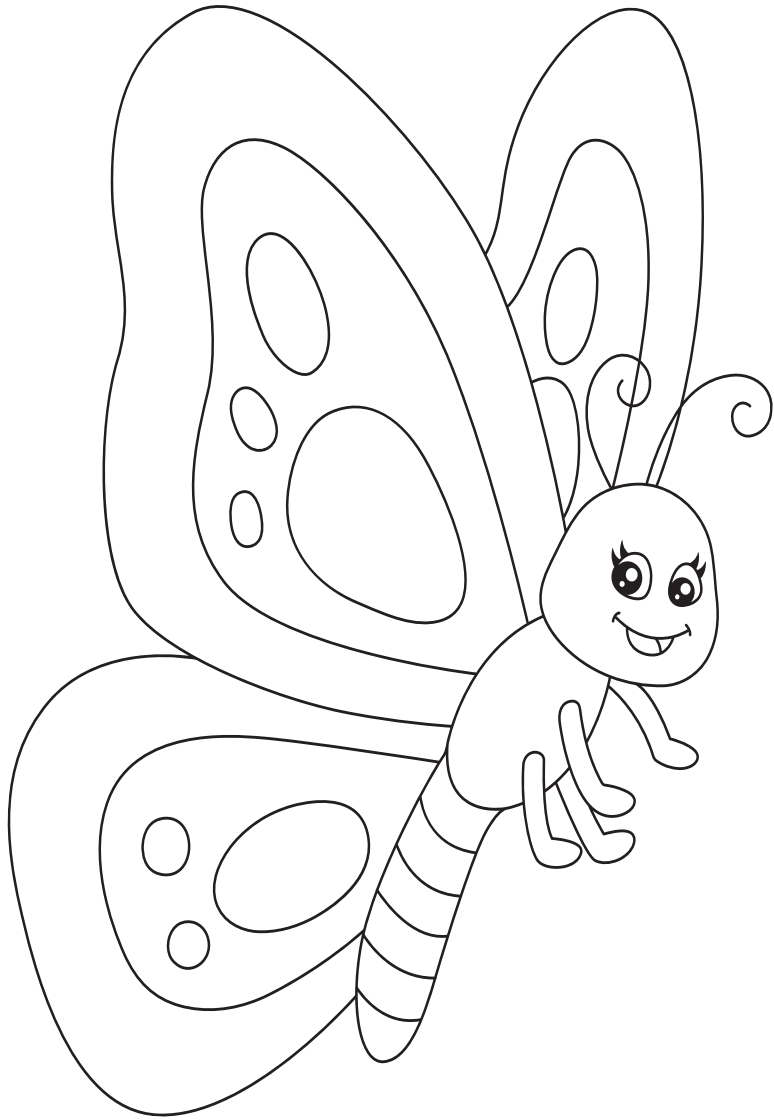
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Q: What do you call a baby monkey?

A: A chimp off the old block.



JUST kidding

Q: How do you shoot a killer bee?

A: With a bee-bee gun.



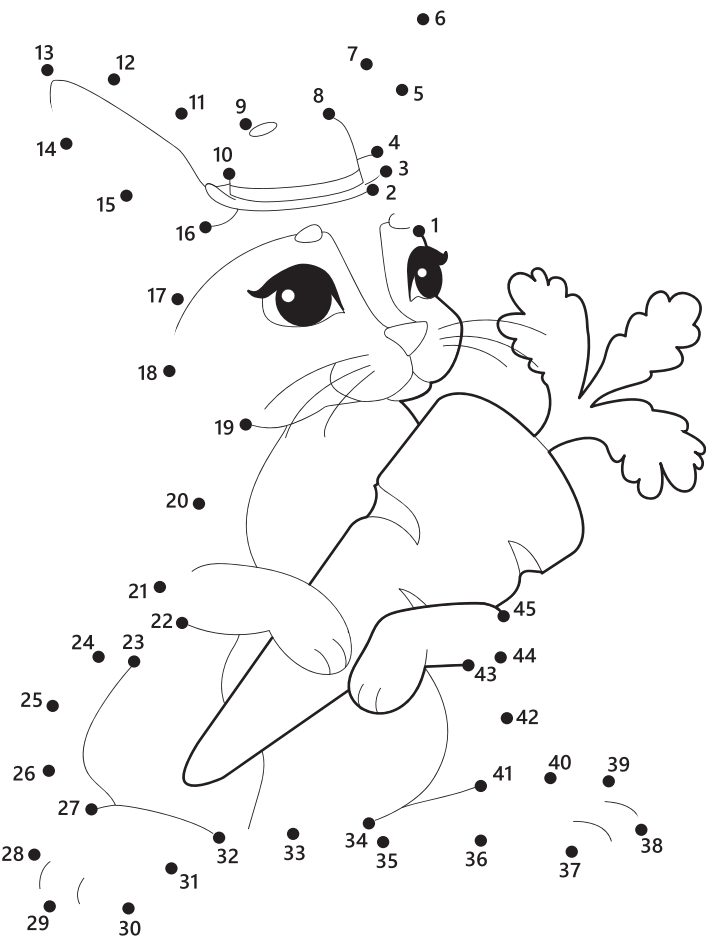
JUST kidding

Q: Why did the tree go to the dentist?

A: To get a root canal.

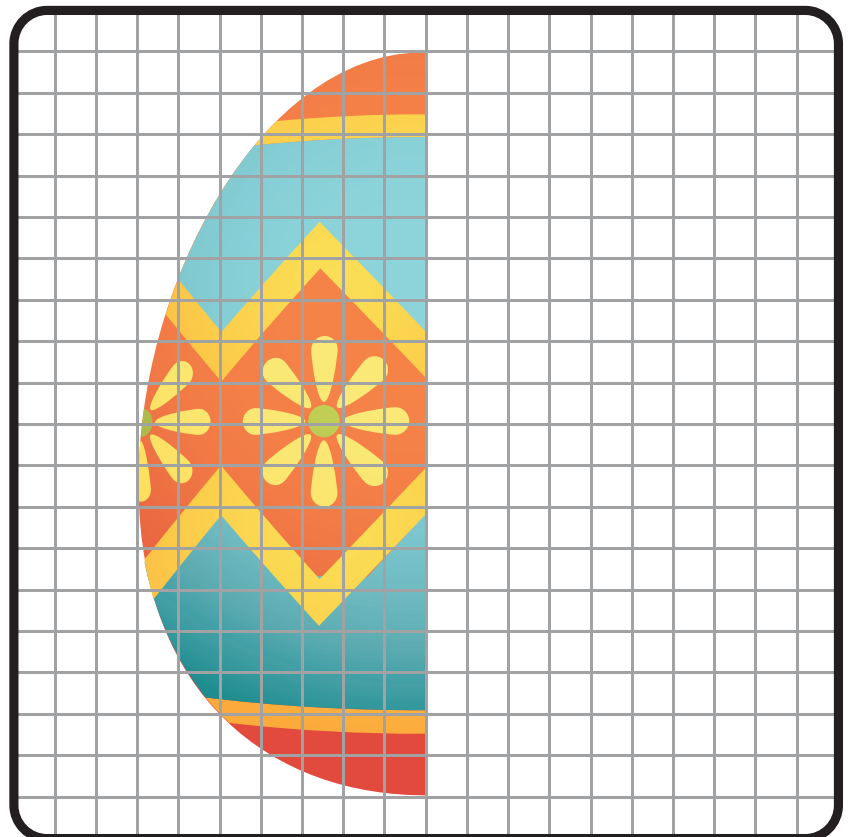


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DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



Sudoku 6 x 6

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◇	+		□		
	□		+		○

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

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

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×	▽	□	○	+	◇
□	○	◇	▽	×	+
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Biker injured in Hwy. 76 collision

Motorcycle overturns on curve, slides into another vehicle

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com
A Monett man was injured in a wreck at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday on

Highway 76, three miles northeast of Shell Knob. According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 55-year-old male, of Monett, was driving a 2025 Harley Davidson westbound when his vehicle overturned while going around a curve and slid into the front of an eastbound 2013 Subaru Outback, being driven by a

57-year-old female, of Cassville. The Monett man suffered serious injuries and was flown to Cox South Hospital in Springfield. The Cassville woman was not injured. The Monett man was not wearing a safety device, and the Cassville woman was. The Harley was totaled, and the Subaru sustained extensive damage.

Docudrama brings drunk driving impacts to life



Cassville firefighters use the jaws of life to release a victim in a staged drunk driving crash at Cassville High School on Friday. The docudrama, presented every four years by Students Against Destructive Decisions, includes local fire, police, EMS, the coroner and a towing company to show students what can happen in the event of a crash due to drunk driving. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com



Ethan Sizemore, right, wobbles backward as he is given a sobriety test by a state trooper as part of a staged drunk driving crash at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com



Isaac Luney performs in the drunk driving docudrama at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com



Shelby Knoefler, right, holds the hand of Kenzie Davis, on the stretcher, as she is wheeled into an ambulance by EMS and Cassville Fire personnel as part of a staged drunk driving crash at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com



Cooper Hendrix, whose head can be seen at the top of the bodybag on the coroner's stretcher, played one of the victims in a staged drunk driving crash at Cassville High School on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

Barry County Health Corner



Detailing the Environmental Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11th Annual Home Run Against Hunger underway

The number of Missourians facing hunger would fit into Busch Stadium more than 20 times over.

Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance recognizes the need to obtain and distribute food to hungry families across the state. For the eleventh consecutive year, insurance agents, customer service representatives, regional coordinators and many volunteers are accepting donations from April 1-24, 2026 at area county

offices.

The 2026 Home Run Against Hunger campaign is one of several events Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance organizes annually to help those in need.

Unfortunately, one in every five Missouri children are faced with not knowing when they will eat their next meal on a regular basis. Local residents can help provide hope by donating. Missouri's food banks are working to provide relief

to many families struggling to make ends meet but they can't do it alone. A donation of only \$25 can provide up to 100 meals to our neighbors in need.

"Help us fight hunger in our county," a Farm Bureau press release said. "The most-needed items include: canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, rice, cereal, peanut butter, soups and pasta. Drop off your donations (food or funds) at our office between

April 1, 2026 and April 24, 2026 at 601 West St. in Cassville, the office of Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance Agent-Chad Yarnall."

During the campaign's final days, each Missouri Farm Bureau Insurance office will deliver donations to a local pantry. A statewide grand total of donations in pounds will be announced along with total monetary donations.

Last year's efforts garnered nearly 1.5 tons of food and over \$17,500.

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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

19 inducted into Cassville NHS



Brynn Whittenburg, left, smiles as she lights the Candle of Leadership during the Cassville High School National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on April 7. Looking on, at right, is Leadership Representative Nevaeh Johnson. Izaak Henbest lit the Candle of Character, and Audrey Kennedy lit the Candle of Service. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



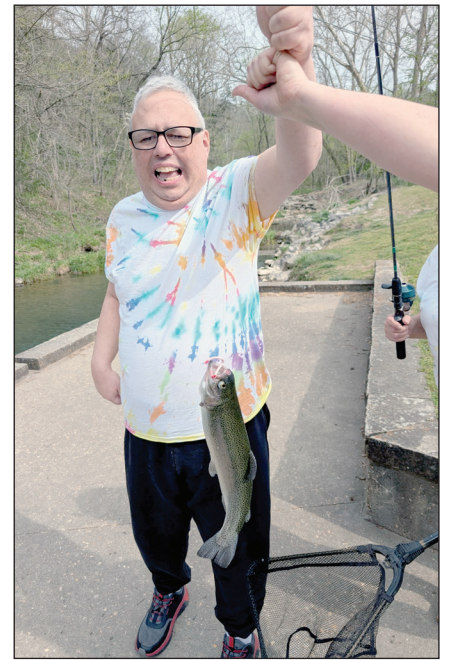
Tomi Blankenship signs the book as she is inducted into the Cassville High School National Honor Society on April 7. To be considered for membership, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.34. Those who meet this academic requirement complete an application highlighting their service, character and leadership. The National Honor Society exists to inspire scholarship, encourage community service, promote leadership through action and develop strong character in the next generation. The Cassville Chapter has upheld these values since 1958. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Kameron Stough smiles as she lights the Candle of Scholarship during the Cassville High School National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on April 7. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



David Rehbach, standing, receives applause as he is announced as the 2026-2027 National Honor Society president at Cassville High School. Next year's secretary is Taylor Yarnall, and next year's vice president is Cheney Kelley. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Seniors cast lines at 'First Hole'



About 15 residents of Aspire Senior Living Roaring River, in Cassville, were treated to an outing to Roaring River State Park on March 31, where they enjoyed fishing and a picnic lunch. According to Aspire activities director, Lindsay Harris, they were accompanied to the park by six employees of the residential care facility. The Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) "First Hole" program provided fishing license and tag-waivers for the nursing home residents, plus the poles and tackle used for fishing. According to Roaring River Hatchery Manager, Brad Farwell, the First Hole program is available for special groups, including children ages 15-and-under, people with disabilities, veterans, and residents of senior living facilities. For more information about the program, people may contact Farwell at 417-847-2430, extension 1932. Contributed photos

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By: Vern Harden

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Apr. 19.....2:00pm

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3-MEET WEEK FOR CASSVILLE TRACK TEAMS



Cassville's McKenzie Wall clears the bar in the high jump at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

'Cats, Lady 'Cats compete in Seneca, Monett, Mt. Vernon

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville boys and girls track teams competed in three meets last week, flexing their muscles in Seneca, Monett and Mt. Vernon.

For the boys, highlights include a trio of first-place finishes, two by the same athlete. Logan Parsons took first place in pole vault in Seneca and Mt. Vernon, clearing 4.11 meters and 3.8 meters, respectively. Kamden Beebe also took home a gold, winning the 200-meter dash at the Cub Relays with a time of 23.8 seconds.

On top of a third-place team finish in Seneca, Cassville had three runner-up finishes at the Indians' meet, as well as three runner-up finishes in Monett and two in Mt. Vernon.

For the girls, Shelby Knoefler was the only first-place finisher, taking top honors in shot put in Seneca with a throw of 9.57 meters. Two other Lady Wildcats took runner-up finishes in Monet and Seneca.

Full boys results

- Mt. Vernon Track Meet**
1st Place
Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.80m
2nd Place
Jacob Hudson, 800m, 2:16.96
Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 3.65m
3rd Place
Jacob Hudson, Preston Driskill, Dade Zajac, Clay Williamson, 4x800 Relay, 9:17.74
4th Place
Jacob Hudson, 1600m, 5:05.53
Cash Smith, Dade Zajac, Colton Beebe, Mace Bredeson, 4x400 Relay, 3:41.91
5th Place
Cash Smith, Kamden Beebe, Corbin Rhoads, Mace Bredeson, 4x100 Relay, 46.13
6th Place
Kamden Beebe, 100m, 12.11



Cassville's Corbin Rhoads completes a vault at the Cub Relays on April 7. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

- Kamden Beebe, 200m, 24.26
 Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 13.17m
 Vincent Buttrum, 3200m, 11:46.23
7th Place
Tyler Rattigan, 110m Hurdles, 18.09
Ricky Norris, Javelin, 41.87m
Cub Relays
1st Place
Kamden Beebe, 200m, 23.8
2nd Place
Vynnie Arguelles, Javelin, 41.93m
Preston Driskill, 3200m, 10:57.81
Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 4.10m
3rd Place
Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 12.76m
Kamden Beebe, 100m, 11.76
Jacob Hudson, Preston Driskill, Dade Zajac, Clay Williamson, 4x800 Relay, 9:26.64
4th Place
Jacob Hudson, 1600m, 5:08.85
5th Place
Ricky Norris, Javelin, 39.84m
Tyler Rattigan, 110m Hurdles, 17.91
Preston Driskill, 1600m, 5:16.43

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3B

TROJANS BASEBALL

Record: 3-9
Returning: Five lettermen from last season
More: Defense, depth strengths for squad as season goes on

Leaning on defense, depth

Trojans tally trio of wins in first dozen games

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Southwest baseball team is sporting a mix of returning experience and young talent, aiming to build consistency and compete in the postseason.

Five varsity lettermen returned to a squad, and Coach Derek Mann said on the mound, the Trojans will rely on a senior leader and a group of developing arms.

"Senior Logan Gregory will be our No. 1 on the mound," Mann said. "He throws it very well and competes every time on the mound. He mixes his pitches very well with a very good arsenal that keeps hitters guessing. Sophomore Ayden Flippo throws from a different arm angle than the rest of our guys which gives him some more unusual movement on some pitches that hitters don't see normally."

"We also have sophomore Domenick Sierra, junior Jason Foster and sophomore Hunter Patterson that will see a lot of innings. Domenick throws it well with a good mix of pitches and could see some varsity starts. Hunter is our change of speed guy who throws it a little bit slower than the rest which keeps hitters off balance. Jason is our main guy out of the bullpen and will see a lot of innings."

Behind the plate, multiple players are competing for the starting role.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7B

BULLDOGS BASEBALL

Record: 7-3
Last result: Loss to Walnut Grove, 6-3, in Wheatland baseball tournament
More: Coach says pitching staff is deep

Bulldogs eye district contention

Wheaton relying on experience early in season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Wheaton baseball team opened its campaign with five straight wins and the Verona Tournament championship, aiming to continue its pace with a strong returning core and depth on the mound.

Seven lettermen return to the Bulldogs, and Coach Nathan Jones said pitching is expected to be a strength, with multiple arms capable of contributing in key situations.

"Guys that will see the most time are senior Riley Roller, who does a very good job of mixing speeds and filling up the strike zone; junior Bodie Lauderdale, who is our go to guy when it comes to must win big games; as well as junior Brody Bateman," Jones said. "Our other two juniors, Mitchell Shockley and Logan Brattin, give us a ton of depth and usually do a great job closing out games for us."

Behind the plate, Wheaton will rely on a pair of juniors.

"Brattin and Bodie Lauderdale will see most of the innings behind the plate," Jones said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3B

Wildcats take 2nd in tourney by single stroke

4 Cassville golfers in top 10 at home event

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville boys golf team was a stroke away from sharing the title at the Cassville Invitational on Thursday.

The Wildcats turned in a team score of 327, one back from Monett's 326. Cassville tied with Neosho, Mt. Vernon took fourth with a 328, and Nevada was fifth with a 331.

Individually, four Wildcats cracked the top 10, with Cheney Kelley and Kaleb Artherton tying for 3rd with 80s, and Kyle Brown and Daichi Kezuka tying for 9th with 81s.

"Getting four in the top 10 is very exciting, especially for a player like Kaleb that was playing in his first varsity individual event of the year," said Clayton Bagby, Cassville golf coach. "Hopefully we can all keep improving on those scores and put us in a good position come districts on our home course."

WILDCATS GOLF

What: Cassville Invitational
Team result: Second place with a 327, one stroke behind winner Monett at 326
Individual: Cheney Kelley, Kaleb Artherton tie for 3rd with 80s; Kyle Brown, Daichi Kezuka tie for 9th with 81s

Bagby said three golfers consistently used their knowledge to avoid big numbers, and a fourth started rough but steadied the ship.

"Between Cheney, Kyle and Kaleb, those three were able to avoid high numbers on the day, make a bunch of pars and take advantage of the home course knowledge," Bagby said. "Daichi had slow start being 6 over through three, but then ran off nine straight pars to turn it into a solid round overall."

In other Cassville results, Tyson Bohmke was 13th with an 82, Dennis Craig was 20th with an 84, Aiden McBroom was 35th with an 88, Will Brooks was 61st with a 97, and Trevor Brookes was 64th with a 98.

Bagby said as the season

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Kaleb Artherton gets back on the fairway while playing in the Cassville Invitational on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Track and Field

4/16	East Newton Track Meet	Away	4:00 pm
4/21	Cassville Wildcat Relays	Home	
4/30	Big 8 Conference Meet	Away	
5/9	District Track Meet	Away	
5/16	Sectional Track Meet	Away	
5/22-23	Class 3 State Track Meet	Away	

Baseball

4/16	Monett	Home	4:30 pm
4/17-18	Pleasant Hill Baseball Tournament	Away	
4/21	East Newton	Away	4:30 pm
4/23	Aurora	Home	4:30 pm
4/24	Diamond	Away	5:00 pm
4/28	McDonald County	Home	4:30 pm
4/30	Nevada	Away	4:30 pm
5/1	Hollister	Home	4:30 pm
5/4	Clever	Home	1:00 pm
5/5	Seneca	Home	4:30 pm
5/7	Reeds Spring	Away	4:30 pm
5/11	Blue Eye	Away	5:00 pm

Girls Soccer

4/21	Monett	Home	5:00 pm
4/28	McDonald County	Away	5:00 pm
5/4	Marshfield	Home	1:00 pm
5/5	Aurora	Home	5:00 pm
5/7	Fair Grove	Home	4:30 pm
5/11	Greenwood	Away	5:00 pm

Boys Golf

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

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Cassville's Andon Goutney lets a discus loose during the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Kamden Beebe sprints across the track in the 100-meter dash at the Cub Relays on April 7. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Lyndsie Vanderhoff makes a throw in shot put at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Makiah Colf sprints across the track in the 100-meter dash at the Cub Relays on April 7. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Track: Knoefler takes first place in shot put at Seneca meet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Dade Zajac, 800m, 2:11.71
Cash Smith, Kamden Beebe, Corbin Rhoads, Mace Bredeson, 4x100 Relay, 46.18

Cash Smith, Dade Zajac, Colton Beebe, Tyler Rattigan, 4x400 Relay, 3:51.54

6th Place
Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.65m

7th Place
Tyler Rattigan, 300m Hurdles, 47.02

8th Place
Mace Bredeson, 200m, 24.22

Vincent Buttrum, 3200m, 13:18.62

Brextin Sprague, Triple Jump, 11.28m

Carlos Barrientos, Javelin, 35.93m

Seneca Track Meet (Team 3rd place overall)

1st Place
Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 4.11m

Dade Zajac, 800m, 2:16.59

Preston Driskill, 3200m, 10:57.06

Preston Driskill, Dade Zajac, Kaid Williams, Jacob Hudson, 4x800 Relay, 9:05.46

2nd Place
Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 13m

Jacob Hudson, 1600m, 5:10.74

Cash Smith, Dade Zajac, Colton Beebe, Mace Bredeson, 4x400 Relay, 3:43.15

3rd Place
Tyler Rattigan, 110m Hurdles, 17.62

Preston Driskill, 1600m, 5:12.08

Kamden Beebe, 200m, 23.99

Cash Smith, Kamden Beebe, Corbin Rhoads, Mace Bredeson, 4x100 Relay, 46.87

4th Place
Kaid Williams, 1600m, 5:23.82

Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.35m

Vynnie Arguelles, Javelin, 41.65m

5th Place
Kamden Beebe, 100m, 11.88

Colton Beebe, 400m, 57.59

Mace Bredeson, 200m, 24.29

Kaid Williams, 3200m, 12:30.78

Carlos Barrientos, Long Jump, 5.64m

Ricky Norris, Javelin, 41.47m

6th Place

Andon Goutney, Long Jump, 5.46m

Cash Smith, Pole Vault, 2.89m

7th Place
Mace Bredeson, 100m, 12.04

Andon Goutney, Discus, 34.26m

8th Place
Tyler Rattigan, 300m Hurdles, 48.12

Vincent Buttrum, 3200m, 14:06.52

Brextin Sprague, Triple Jump, 11.45m

Jack Chappell, Discus, 31.34m

Carlos Barrientos, Javelin, 35.01m

Full girls results

Mt. Vernon Track Meet

3rd Place
Shelby Knoefler, Shot Put, 10.1m

6th Place
Brynn Whittenburg, Molly Cox, Abbi Yamall, Claire Reuter, 4x800 relay, 12:48

7th Place
Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, McKenzie Wall, Claire Reuter, 4x100 relay, 56.22

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn

Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x200 relay, 2:02

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x400 relay, 4:53

8th Place
Shelby Knoefler, Discus, 27.71m

Cub Relays

2nd Place
Molly Cox, 3200m, 15:57

4th Place
Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Estrella Garcia, Claire Reuter, Pole Vault, Hopelynn Thompson, 4x400 relay, 4:54

5th Place
Shelby Knoefler, Shot put, 9.73m

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, McKenzie Wall, Claire Reuter, 4x100 relay, 56.22

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x200 relay, 2:02

6th Place
Shelby Knoefler, Discus, 24.97

8th Place
Abbi Yarnall, 400m, 1:12

McKenzie Wall, High Jump, 1.37m

Ella Wheeler, Long Jump, 4.17m

Seneca Track Meet

1st Place
Shelby Knoefler, Shot Put, 9.57m

2nd Place
Hopelynn Thompson, Pole Vault, 2.50m

3rd Place
Shelby Knoefler, Discus, 24.68m

4th Place
Elizabeth Fohn, Javelin, 22.71m

Estrella Garcia, Abbi Yarnall, Brynn Whittenburg, Claire Reuter, 4x400 relay, 4:50

5th Place
Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, McKenzie Wall, Claire Reuter, 4x100 relay, 55.86

6th Place
Claire Reuter, 200m, 30.03

Estrella Garcia, Analeigh Winchell, Makiah Colf, Abbi Yarnall, 4x200 relay, 2:06

8th Place
Estrella Garcia, 400m, 1:17

McKenzie Wall, High Jump, 1.32m

Wheaton: Leadership anchored by senior Roller who sets tone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

The infield features a mix of experience and youth across multiple positions.

"When Roller isn't on the mound, he will primarily play third base," Jones said. "Bateman will be our starting short-stop, freshman Kaman Kinnaman did most of the work at second base this fall, and sophomore Casen Bolton is our starting first baseman."

In the outfield, leadership and competition for playing time will shape the lineup.

"Our other senior, Evan

Pyle, will lead our outfield in center field, with Shockley in left and sometime in center, and three guys fighting for playing time in right field in junior Senji Chang, sophomore Matt Young and freshman Jayden Eggleston," Jones said.

Leadership will be anchored by a senior who sets the tone for the program.

"Roller is our leader on and off the field," Jones said. "He is the type of guy that isn't afraid to tell guys when they need to pick their energy and effort

up. He is someone that everyone looks to when things go wrong to right the ship. Him, along with Bateman and Brattin, will be who keeps our team in the right mindset all year long."

Jones said the team has made strides collectively during the offseason.

"I think as a team last fall and all winter, we had guys really buy in to what we were trying to do as a program," Jones said. "They have all put in great hours off the field and in the weight room to improve all the areas of

their abilities which lead to us having a successful fall and into this spring."

Depth on the mound gives Wheaton confidence heading into the season.

"I think our pitching staff is very deep," Jones said. "We have five guys I'm not afraid to throw against anyone at any time that I think will give us a great chance to win any game."

Consistency at the plate will be a focus moving forward.

"We need to be more consistent up and down the entire lineup with

our at bats at the plate," Jones said. "We had some guys at the top really carry us this fall and for us to be more consistent the whole team will need to improve."

The Bulldogs aim to establish a disciplined, resilient identity.

"I think we will be a no-excuse type of team," Jones said. "We have put in a ton of effort in maturing as a team and understanding everything isn't going to go our way and we can't control the other team, we just have to control the controllables

and produce the best outcomes we can."

At 7-3 so far, expectations remain high as the season continues.

"I think if we build off our positive steps from the fall into the spring I believe we can be one of the best teams in our district this year," Jones said. "It will be up to us to go out on the field and prove it."

Wheat last fell to Walnut Grove, 6-3, in the Wheatland tournament. The Bulldogs next travel to Southwest on Monday for a 5 p.m. first pitch.

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 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.

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MISCELLANEOUS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given to all citizens and parties in interest that the Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING On Monday, April 20, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 Main St., Cassville, Missouri. The hearing will be conducted to ascertain public opinion regarding the following:
 1. Case Number 2026-01 A zoning request from R-2 (Two-Family Dwelling District) to C-2 (General Commercial District) of the following described real property:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
 Lots 1,2,3,4 in Block 10 in S.M. Mitchell's Second Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri.
 And any such additional business as required. Copies of the agenda may be obtained by contacting Monzell Hagins, City Clerk, City of Cassville, 300 Main St. Cassville, MO 65625; 417-847-4441; mchagins@cityofcassville.com
 Posted - City Hall Wednesday, March 25, 2026
 Published - Cassville Democrat Wednesday, April 1, 2026
 Monzell Hagins
 City Clerk
 City of Cassville
 1st insertion 04/01/26 12-14

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CASSVILLE
 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF Beth Fournier Harrell
 Petitioner,
 Case No. 26BR-DR00051

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME
 Public notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of April 2026, by an Order of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, Case No. 26BR-DR00051, the name of Beth Fournier Harrell was changed to Beth Anne Fournier Filed April 3, 2026
 Craig Williams
 Circuit Clerk
 Judge
 Jonnie E. Cox
 1st insertion 4/15/26 14-16

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE
 SHARLEENE KOLSET, Plaintiff,
 VS.
 LOWELL F. LEATHERS; LOWELL F. LEATHERS, TRUSTEE OF THE LOWELL F. LEATHERS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1997; ROSE MARIE LEATHERS; ROSE MARIE LEATHERS, TRUSTEE OF THE ROSE MARIE LEATHERS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1997; BOB C. NEELY, TRUSTEE OF THE ROSE MARIE LEATHERS TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1997, and THE LOWELL F. LEATHERS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1997; AND THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, BENEFICIARIES AND ASSIGNS, Defendants.
 26BR-CC00054

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
 THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO:
 Defendants, Lowell L. Leathers, Lowell L. Leathers, Trustee, Rose Marie Leathers, Rose Marie Leathers, Trustee and Bob C. Neely, Trustee, if they shall be deceased, then their unknown heirs, grantees, consorts, spouses or successors of those of them who shall be deceased.
 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Barry, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to quiet title to the following described property in Barry County, Missouri:
 Lot 3 and 30 feet off the

North side of Lot 6, Block 2, Townsend's Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri.
 AND ALSO,
 The East 75 feet of Lot 3, Block 3 and the West 85 feet of Lot 6, Block 3, Townsend's Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri.
 The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Donald L. Cupps, P.O. Box 276, 702 West Street, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
 YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 15th day of April, 2026 judgment by default will be rendered against you.
 IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
 A true copy from the record
 WITNESS my hand and seal of the Circuit Court this 8th day of April 2026.
 CRAIG WILLIAMS, Circuit Clerk
 By: Kami Stanton
 Deputy Clerk
 1st Publication: April 15th, 2026
 2nd Publication: April 22, 2026
 3rd Publication: April 29, 2026
 4th Publication: May 6, 2026
 1st insertion 04/15/26 14-17

PROBATE

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI
 Judge or Division: PROBATE
 In the Estate of ANNA SUE ROSE, Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00037

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)
 To All Persons Interested in the Estate of ANNA SUE ROSE, Decedent:
 On March 20, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of ANNA SUE ROSE, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The personal representative's business address is:
 WILLIAM LESTER ROSE,
 27050 FARM ROAD 1015,
 WASHBURN, MO 65772.
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 HARRY D SCHWARTZ,
 PO BOX 276
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
 417-847-2734
 All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
Saturday, April 18 — 1:30 PM
Location: 23219 Cedar Way, Shell Knob MO

Real Estate: 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Attached garage. Directly across from turkey mtn 1 airport. We will also offer a boat slip immediately after offering the house. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.





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BOAT SLIP AUCTION
Saturday, April 18, 2026 — 2 PM
Location: Shell Knob, MO. Turkey Mt. Estates #1 area. Auction on site at (23075 Oak Lane, Shell Knob MO)

Boat Slip: 12'x32' slip with boat lift, Cedar Creek Dock, Permit #7677. **Note:** WOW, look at the size of this slip up for auction. Slips of this size don't come up for sale very often. We will sell the slip on site at 2:00 PM on Saturday April 18th. Don't be late, the slip is the only thing selling so the auction won't take long. Call 417-847-2507 for further information. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with current photo ID. If paying by check, 2 checks will be required. Balance will be paid in full day of auction. Buyer will receive a bill of sale when funds have cleared. 10% buyer's premium will apply. Any announcements made day of auction will supersede any and all printed material.




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the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo. Date of the decedent's death:
 06-DEC-2025
 Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk
 by S. Parker, Probate Clerk
 Date of first publication: April 1, 2026
 Date of second publication: April 8, 2026
 Date of third publication: April 15, 2026
 Date of fourth publication: April 22, 2026
 Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the

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

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUDGE OR DIVISION: PROBATE
 In the Estate of PAMELA L KOHN, Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00025
NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION - NON-RESIDENT FIDUCIARY)
 To All Persons Interested in the Estate of PAMELA L KOHN, Decedent:
 On March 19, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of PAMELAL KOHN, 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:
 RYAN KOHN,
 3778 WEST STATE HWY 41,
 CORTLAND, NE, 68331
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 CODY FENTON,
 500 W. MAIN ST. SUITE 401,
 BRANSON, MO 65616,
 417-335-3550
 The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:
 CODY FENTON,
 500 W. MAIN ST. SUITE 401,
 BRANSON, MO 65616,
 417-335-3550
 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:
 28-AUG-2025
 Date of first publication: April 1, 2026
 Date of second publication: April 8, 2026
 Date of third publication: April 15, 2026
 Date of fourth publication: April 22, 2026
 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 04/01/26 12-15

Blue Ridge Apartments
 500 Hill Street, Wheaton, MO 65781
NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENT!
 2 Bedroom Apartments
 Rental Assistance Available!
 Rent Based on Income
 On-Site Laundry Facilities
 Playground

 Call for Info:
 417-652-3000
 Relay 711
 www.bellmanage.com
 "This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"

HELP WANTED
 The City of Washburn is accepting applications for a Water Utility Position. This role supports the daily operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the municipal water and wastewater systems. Preferred Qualifications (Not Required):
 • Level D Wastewater Treatment Certificate
 • DS Water Distribution Level 2 Certificate
 Compensation: Pay will depend on experience
 How to Apply: Applications available at Washburn City Hall, 321 Main St, Washburn, MO 65772
 Completed applications must be turned in to the City Clerk at Washburn City Hall For Questions Contact Washburn City Hall at 417-826-5242.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION AT CASSVILLE
 In the Estate of: CAROL A. GIRTH, deceased
 Estate No. 26BR-PR00043

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
 NOTICE OF LETTERS
 OF ADMINISTRATION
 GRANTED
 (SUPERVISED
 ADMINISTRATION – NON-
 RESIDENT FIDUCIARY)

To All Persons Interested
 in the Estate of
 CAROLA GIRTH,
 Decedent:

On APRIL 2, 2026, the
 Application for Letters
 of Administration having
 been filed with the court,
 the following individual
 was appointed personal
 representative of the estate
 of CAROLA GIRTH,
 decedent by the Probate
 Division of the Circuit Court
 of Barry County, Missouri.
 The name, business
 address, of the personal
 representative is:

GREGORY GIRTH,
 806 W. CENTRAL AVE.,
 BENTONVILLE, AR
 72712.

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

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ,
 ELLIS, CUPPS &
 HERRIN,
 P. O. BOX 276,
 702 WEST STREET,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
 417-847-2734.

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

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ,
 ELLIS, CUPPS &
 HERRIN,
 P. O. BOX 276,
 702 WEST STREET,
 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
 the 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 decedent's death:
 11-MAR-2026

Date of first publication:
 08-APR-2026

Craig Williams
 by Savannah Parker
 Probate Clerk
 1st insertion 04/08/26
 13-16

TRUSTEE'S SALES

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:
 William Cordale Writer
 and Rylee Writer,
 husband and wife

Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment
 of debt and performance of
 obligation secured by Deed
 of Trust executed by William
 Cordale Writer and Rylee
 Writer, husband and wife
 dated January 17, 2023
 and recorded in the Office
 of the Recorder of Deeds
 of Barry County, Missouri
 in Book 23, Page 338 the
 undersigned Successor
 Trustee, at the request of
 the legal holder of said
 Note will on Tuesday, May
 12, 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:

LOTS 7, 8 & 9 IN
 TROUGHBERG SECOND
 ADDITION TO THE CITY
 OF MONETT, BARRY
 COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS
 PER THE RECORDED
 PLAT THEREOF, EXCEPT
 THE EAST 5 FT THEREOF.

to satisfy said debt and
 cost.
 MILLSAP & SINGER,
 P.C.,
 Successor Trustee
 612 Spirit Drive

St. Louis, MO 63005
 (636) 537-0110
 File No:
 232478.051226.467548 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:
 April 15, 2026
 04/22/2026,
 04/29/2026,
 05/06/2026
 1st insertion 04/15/26
 14-17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

FOR DEFAULT in the
 payment of debt secured by
 a Deed of Trust executed
 by

Julie Franklin
 and Braxton Franklin,
 formerly husband and
 wife,

dated May 24, 2016, and
 recorded on in Book 16, at
 Page 2709, in the office of
 the Recorder of Deeds of
 Barry County, Missouri, on
 May 6th 2020 the property
 was Quit Claim Deeded to

Julie Franklin
 and Shawn Hall,
 now husband and wife,
 and recorded on in Book
 20, at Page 2599, in the
 office of the Recorder of
 Deeds of Barry County,
 Missouri, the undersigned
 Trustee will on May 15,
 2026 between the hours of
 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.,
 specifically at 10:00 a.m.

at the East Front Court
 House Door in the City of
 Cassville, County of Barry,
 sell at public venue to the
 highest bidder for cash the
 following described real
 estate located in Barry
 County, Missouri, to-wit:

Address:
 17655 Farm Road 1090
 Cassville, MO 65625

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

ALSO commencing at
 Northeast corner of the
 Northeast Quarter of the
 Southwest Quarter Section
 25, township 23, Range
 20, Barry County, Missouri;
 thence South 982 feet to
 the centerline of a 20 foot
 roadway thence West along
 said centerline 208 feet
 to the point of beginning;
 thence North to a point
 on the south right of way
 line Of another existing
 roadway which said point
 is 208 feet West and 515
 feet South of the Northeast
 corner of said Northeast
 Quarter of the Southwest
 Quarter; thence West
 along the south line of said
 roadway 497 feet; thence
 South to the centerline of
 the 20 foot roadway first
 referred to herein above;
 thence Easterly along the
 centerline of said roadway
 to the point of beginning,
 LESS and EXCEPT:

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

EXCEPT: Beginning at
 a point 515 feet South of
 the Northeast corner of
 the Northeast Quarter of
 the Southwest Quarter,
 Section 25, Township 23,
 Range 28, being South of
 Private Road 2175, thence
 west 208 feet to the point
 of beginning, thence

South 208 feet, thence
 Southwesterly 74 degrees
 250 feet thence North 281
 feet to Private Road 2175,
 thence East 200 feet the

point of beginning, Barry
 County, Missouri.

ALSO EXCEPT
 Beginning at a point 515
 feet South of the Northeast
 corner of the Northeast
 Quarter of the Southwest
 Quarter, Section 25,
 Township 23, Range 28,
 being South of the private
 Road 2175, thence West
 550 feet for a Point of
 beginning thence South
 281 feet thence West 135
 feet, thence North 281 feet,
 thence East 135 feet to the
 point of beginning, Barry
 County, Missouri.

EXCEPT: Beginning at
 a point 982 feet south of
 the Northeast corner of
 the Southwest Quarter of
 Section 25, Township 23,
 Range 28, Barry County,
 Missouri to the centerline
 or private Road 2176, thence
 West along said roadway
 to the Southeast corner Of
 property owned By Patrick
 and Nikki Caddell recorded
 in the Recorders Office of
 Barry County, Missouri,
 filed in Book 14 at Page
 2629 thence North 180
 feet, thence East 144 feet
 thence South 180 feet to
 the centerline Private Road
 2176, thence Northwesterly
 along said road to the point
 of beginning.

EXCEPT: Beginning at
 a point 982 feet South of
 the Northeast corner Of
 the Northeast Quarter Of
 the Southwest Quarter to
 the centerline of Private
 Road 2176 In section 25,
 Township 23, Range 28,
 Barry County, Missouri,
 thence West along
 centerline of said road 374
 feet for point of beginning,
 thence continuing West
 along centerline of said
 road 164 feet thence North
 200 feet thence East 158
 feet thence South to point
 of beginning.

to satisfy said debt and
 trust.

John Horner, Trustee
 Security Bank of
 Southwest Missouri
 Blake B. Fields, Attorney
 for Trustee Law Office of
 Blake B. Fields, LLC
 605 Main street,
 Cassville, MO 65625
 Please publish:
 April 15, 2026
 April 22, 2026
 April 29, 2026
 May 6, 2026
 1st insertion 04/15/26
 14-17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

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

Eldon W. Gillenwater and
 Susan M. Gillenwater,
 husband and wife,
 TS No. 2026-22509-MO

as tenants by the entirety
 and not as tenants in
 common, dated 12/15/2014,
 recorded on 1/5/2015,
 in Instrument Number
 002622000018 and/or
 Deed Book 15, Page 28, in
 the Office of the Recorder
 of Deeds for Barry County,
 Missouri, the undersigned
 Successor Trustee will on
 May 7, 2026,

between the hours of
 9:00 am and 5:00 pm,
 specifically at 2 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. Lot
 5 And The West 1/2 Of Lot
 6, Roaring White Eagle
 Estates, A Subdivision In
 Barry County, Missouri.

More commonly known
 as:

27015 Farm Road 1197
 Eagle Rock, MO 65641

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
 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

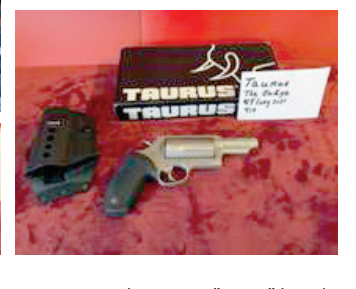
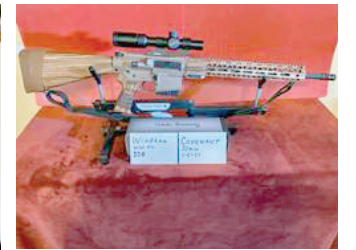
GUNS, AMMO & MORE AUCTION

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10 AM

Location: 28929 Fr 1250, Golden, MO (Sunshine Acres)

GUNS – APPROX 35,000 ROUNDS AMMO –
 HOLSTERS – SLINGS – SCOPES – SAFES – WWII
 RIFLE BAYONET W/SCABBARD – ACCESSORIES
 & MORE

Guns: Stag Arms AR 15, 5.56/223,
 16" barrel, purchased new 2012,
 have manual, Burris 3x9x40 scope
 w/box & manual – Century Arms
 VSKA, AK47, purchased new
 2021, custom sling, removable
 padded recoil w/manual – Ruger
 American Gen 2 bolt action,
 7.62x39, purchased new 2025,
 w/manual, w Burris 3x9x40
 scope – Ruger mini 14 ranch
 5.56/223 w/Ruger custom sling,
 purchased new 2021 w/manual
 & Vortex Diamond back tactical
 scope 4-12x40 VMR- 1 MOAA
 reticle – Inland Manufacturing MI
 30 cal. carbine w/bayonet lug. 18"
 barrel, walnut stock, custom sling,
 purchased new 2021 w/Ozark
 Armaments 1x30 red/green dot
 scope – Savage Arms, Stevens 320



Security 12 ga pump shotgun, 18.5" barrel 2 3/4" & 3" – Mossberg 500, 12 ga pump shotgun 24" & 28" barrels,
 2 3/4" & 3" – Henry Lever action 410, 2 1/2", purchased new 2024, w/manual, tube load – Mossberg M46 bolt
 action, 22 LR, 1943 Army Training rifle, has all 3 flip up front sights, original US Army sling, tube feed – Ruger
 10/22 Copper Mica stock, 18.5" barrel, purchased new 2024, Bushnell 1.5x4.5-32mm scope – Henry Lever action
 22 S/LR.20" octagon barrel, purchased new 2019, Burris 3x9x32 scope, purchased new 2022 – Ruger 77/17,
 17 HMR bolt action, purchased new 2012, Simmons 3x9x40 scope – Marlin 336 lever action 30-30, purchased
 new 2004, Bushnell Banner 4x12x40 scope – Ruger gun site scout, 308 bolt action, 16.5" barrel, purchased new
 2016, Cabela's multi turret 3x12x40 scope – Hi Point mdl 4095 carbine 40 S&W, extra mag holders, purchased
 new 2022, BSA 4x32 scope, Hi Point sling – Ruger Mark IV mdl 22/45, 22 LR, 5.5" barrel, purchased new 2023
 – Taurus G3C, 40 S&W, 3.25" barrel, 10 round mag, purchased new 2024 – Taurus Judge 45LC/410, 3" Magnum
 purchased new 2017 – Taurus Circuit Judge 410/45 LC, w/sling, 18" barrel, 5 shot cylinder, purchased new 2020 –
 Windham AR 10, 308/7.62x51, 18" barrel, walnut stock and hand grip, purchased new 2022, w/Covenant 30 mm,
 1-8x24 scope – Palmetto State Army AR 10, 308/7.62x51, w/sling, 20" barrel, purchased new 2021 w/Sling
 Mark 4x 16x44 scope – Heritage Rough Ride single action Western 22 LR & 22 mag purchased new 2011 – Beretta
 PX4 Storm 40 S&W, 4" barrel, 14 round mag, purchased new 2019. **Bayonet:** WWII Rifle Bayonet w/scabbard.

Accessories: Asst. holsters, slings, scopes, tripod, gun cleaning kits, Bushnell range finder, Vista Pix 8x32 binocular & digital camera, hunting chairs, tactical vests & more. **Ammo:** 22
 LR approx. 7000 rounds, Winchester, Federal, Browning, CCI & more – 22 cal. pellets approx. 1300 rounds – 45 LC
 approx. 1000 rounds, 230 gr, 250 gr, 185 gr. Remington, Sig Sauer, Winchester, Hornady, HSM & more – 7.62x39
 approx. 3900 rounds, Wolf, Barnaul, Hornady & more – 17 HMR approx. 1400 rounds, Hornady, Winchester, Federal,
 CCI – 40 S&W, approx. 3400 rounds, Winchester, PMC Bronze, Precision One, Federal, Browning, Hornady, Sig
 Sauer & more – 5.56x45 and 223 approx. 4200 rounds 223, approx. 2000 rounds 5.56x45, Winchester, PMC
 Bronze, Hornady, & more – 30 carbine, approx. 2400 rounds, Remington, Wolf, USA & more – 7.62x51 approx.
 1800 rounds, Winchester, Federal, Hornady, American Eagle & more – 410 approx. 650 rounds, Winchester, Federal,
 Remington, 2 1/2" & 3" slugs, defense, 8 shot, 9 shot, buck shot, etc. 30-30 approx. 600 rounds, Remington,
 Winchester, American Eagle – 12 ga approx. 1475 rounds, 2 3/4" & 3", Winchester, Remington, Royal Buck, Federal
 & more. **Note:** We will be selling a nice personal collection for Mr. & Mrs. Smith. These guns are in like new
 condition, along with many nice accessories and approx. 35,000 rounds of ammo. We will be selling only guns,
 ammo, safes & accessories. See you there Saturday April 18th, 2026. Auction starts at 10:00 AM. Terms: Cash or
 credit card "ONLY". Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. If paying with credit card a 5%
 convenience fee will apply. No out of state buyers on handguns unless FFL is provided. All terms on bidders card
 apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made day
 of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Ken & Connie Smith



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



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
 Parker Stumpff
 AR State Champion
 Auctioneer
 #2352

LAKE FRONT REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10 AM

Location: Shell Knob, Mo. From the Shell Knob plaza, go South on Hwy 39, 9/10 mile.
 Turn right on Senator Rd. Follow to auction. (25339 Senator Road, Shell Knob MO)

LAKEFRONT, GENTLE WALK DOWN WITH (2)
 BOAT SLIPS WITH BOAT LIFTS – SHOP BUILDING
 ON A LOT – TRI TOON BOAT – UTV – ROD
 AND REELS – TOOLS – GOLF
 CART – FURNITURE – MISC



Real Estate: Very nice Table Rock Lake Front, gentle walk down to the lake, where you will find (2) 10'x24' boat
 slips with boat lifts. 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Enter this home under a covered front porch into a large open
 living room with vaulted ceilings with a balcony on the 2nd level overlooking the living room. The living room is
 open to the dining area and the kitchen. The dining area has ceiling fan and a French door leading out to a nice
 big screened in back deck overlooking Table Rock lake and the 2 boat slips. The kitchen is a modern kitchen with
 white cabinets, roll around large center island, large SS sink with garbage disposal, built in SS Frigidaire dishwasher,
 Frigidaire smooth top SS & black oven with built in hood/microwave, a very nice Samsung side by side refrigerator/
 freezer and a pantry. From the kitchen is a large full bathroom with double vanity, a utility room area and a walk
 in closet that wraps around to the master bedroom. Upstairs a nice sitting area, could be an office, bunk room, TV
 room, etc. with ceiling fan and a French door leading out to a large raised back deck overlooking Table Rock Lake,
 the boat slips and a peek of the Shell Knob bridge. Upstairs is also a full bathroom and a bedroom. Downstairs,
 you will find a large family room with dual ceiling fans, a gas fireplace, a wet bar area with counter top space,
 cabinets, refrigerator, small sink, a sm pantry closet and a French door leading out to a back patio overlooking
 the lake and the boat slips. Also downstairs is a full bath and 1 bedroom. **Outside Amenities:** A very hard to
 find gentle walkdown lot with (2) boat slips in a 2 party private 4 slip dock with views of the Shell Knob bridge,
 a detached oversized 2 car garage, screened in main level deck, upper deck and lower patio area. Both slips will be
 sold with the home. **Tract #2:** Sets directly across the street from the home. A lakeview lot with a 24'x30' garage.
 That will be offered separate. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval.
 Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and
 sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells
 as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting
 own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This
 property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals,
 or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real
 Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Gay Taylor Moss



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



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
 Parker Stumpff
 AR State Champion
 Auctioneer
 #2352

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 04/15/26
 14-17

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Jose Munoz; Tina K. Munoz, dated December 17, 2001, and recorded on December 26, 2001, in Book No. 01, at Page 8653 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on May 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

Lot No. 3 in Block 3 in Townsend Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri EXCEPT the East feet of Lot 3 in Block 3 in Townsend Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, EXCEPT an easement for ingress and egress for Block 3 of said addition adjoining the right of way of a public road, thence in an Easterly direction along the South boundary line of said Lot 70 feet for a point

of beginning, thence in an Easterly direction along the South boundary line of said Lot 15 feet, thence North 13 degrees East 25 feet, thence in a Southwesterly direction to the point of beginning, commonly known as 1105 Townsend, Cassville, MO, 65625 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: April 15, 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. 255473-1090158). 1st insertion 04/15/26

14-17

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE for default in the payment of debt secured by a Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") executed by Willard Bellon and Bonnie Bellon, husband and wife, as Grantors, in which Arvest Bank is named Lender ("Original Lender") and James Kevin Checkett, was named as original trustee (Book 22, Page 3012); and Deed of Trust executed by Willard Bellon and Bonnie Bellon to Tammy Willhoit, Trustee for Arvest Bank, recorded on March 13, 2024 (Book 24, Page 1143); and Sarah Dalton, is named as successor trustee (instrument recorded March 17, 2026 in Book 26, Page 1330), all filed for record with the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri (the "Records"):

The undersigned Successor Trustee will on April 21, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., more particularly at

1:00 p.m. at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 102 West Street, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash paid:

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

Commencing at the NE Corner of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 23, Range 27; thence S 368'; thence N 89°56' W 896' to a point of beginning; thence N 89°56' W 412.41', to an existing fence; thence Northerly along said fence to the SW Corner of Lot 39 in Southern Hills Subdivision; thence Easterly 411.23' along the South side of Lots 39, 36 and 27 in said Southern Hills Subdivision to a point North of the point of beginning; thence S 363' to the point of beginning and being a part of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 23, Range 27, Barry County, Missouri.

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

Barry County, Missouri.

The sale of all of the foregoing property shall be "AS IS, WHERE IS", for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust, and shall be subject to all conditions of title, of records and in fact and neither the Successor Trustee, nor any other party makes any representation or warranty of any kind or nature regarding the condition of, the description of, or title to the property.

Sarah Dalton Successor Trustee 503 Main Street Cassville, MO 65625 (417) 846-1500 Published in the Cassville Democrat Publication Dates: March 25, April 1, April 8 and April 15, 2026 1st insertion 03/25/26 11-14

TRUSTEE SALE

In Re: Thomas Eugene Loftis, a single man. TRUSTEE'S SALE -

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

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

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



Cassville's Kyle Brown tees off during play at the Cassville Invitational on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Daichi Kezuka plays an approach shot during action at the Cassville Invitational on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Cheney Kelley chips onto the green during play at the Cassville Invitational on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Golf: Districts in Cassville May 7, state May 18-19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

continues, each shot has its own significance.

"Every shot matters," he said. "We fell 2 shots short of winning the tournament, so while we are very proud of the second-place finish, we are going to be back at our home course on May 7 hosting 18 teams for districts, including Monett and 10 others that were

there Thursday. "It is going to be very competitive tournament and we have to make sure we are staying focused for 18 holes to give ourselves the best shot at qualifying as many people as possible, or the team, for state competition."

With only the top five golfers on the team participating in the postsea-

son, Bagby said his athletes are competing day in and day out to nail down one of those spots.

"We have a lot of competition within our team for those five that will get to represent us that day," he said. "Kyle and Kaleb both finished top 10 in the tournament, but they came into it as our sixth and seventh players over-

all, so there will be a lot to shake out before that comes along."

Cassville has tournaments in Ozark, Carthage, Willard, Marshfield and Monett before the Big 8 Tournament. The Class 3, District 3 Tournament in Cassville is on May 7, and the Class 3 State Tournament is May 18-19.

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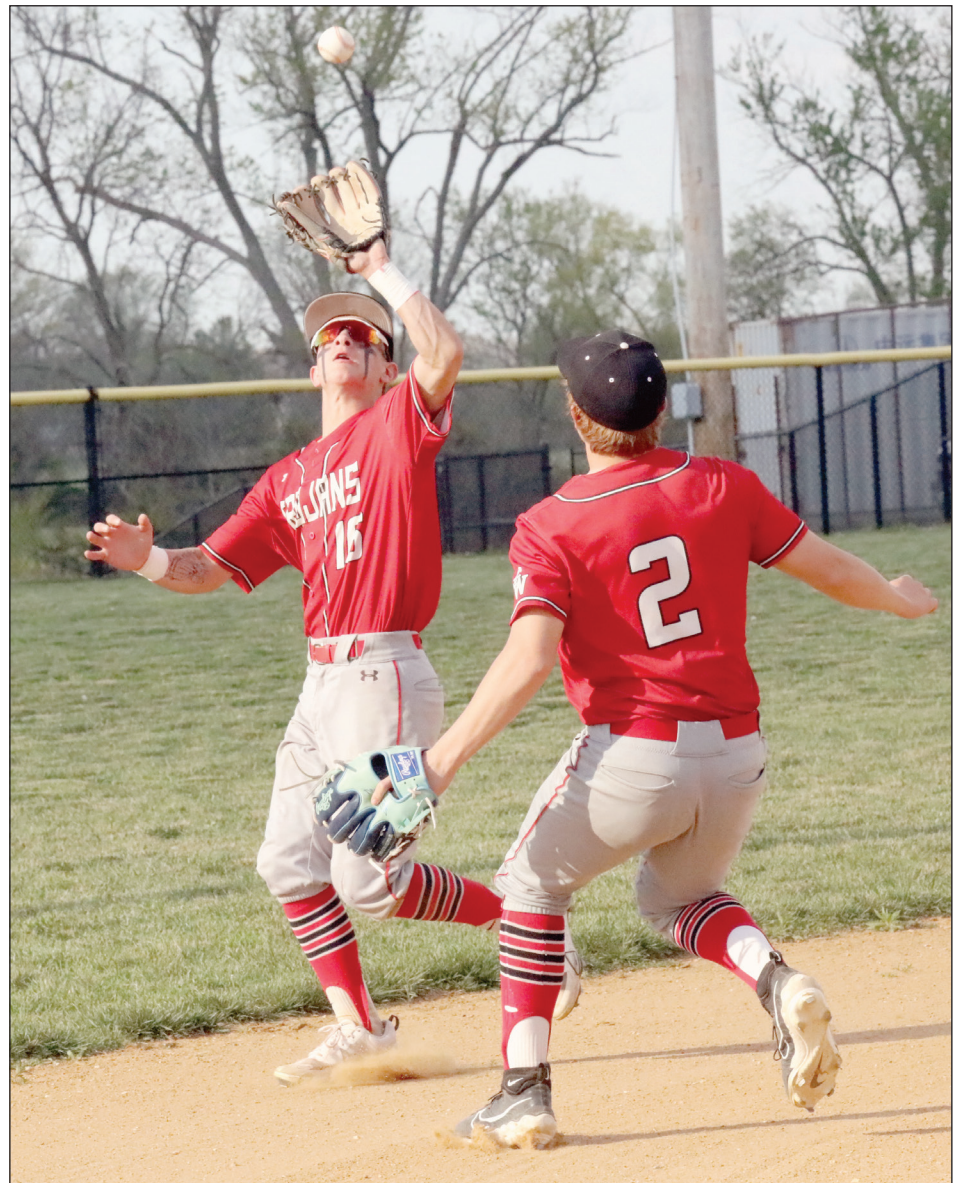
Advertisement for SB SECURITY BANK OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI. Your Locally Owned Independent Bank. Cassville • Exeter • Wheaton. WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK. Tyra Sturgell, Masin Bryan, Kamden Beebe, Tyler Rattigan.



Southwest's Hunter Patterson checks back to first during a win over Exeter on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Southwest's Hayden Wilson slides safely into second base in a game against Exeter on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Southwest's Logan Gregory reels in an infield fly during a win over Exeter on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

Southwest: Defense a strength with players who play positions well

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"We will be looking at Gregory, junior Aiden Barnett or sophomore Dakota Cotton to fill that role," Mann said.

Across the infield, Southwest returns a young but experienced group.

"First baseman is Sierra, at second is sophomore Lincoln Keates, at shortstop is Gregory and at third is senior Jason Foster," Mann said. "Patterson will fill in a utility role."

In the outfield, the Trojans will rely on underclassmen, with additional competition for playing

time.

"Flippo is at left field, sophomore Hayden Wilson is at center field and sophomore Andy Day is at right field," Mann said. "Patterson, Barnett and senior Wyatt Taft are also fighting to fill some time out there as well."

Leadership will center around a veteran presence who has been a fixture in the program.

"Gregory is a four year starter for us in the infield and on the mound," Mann said. "The guys look to him to set the tone day to day. He leads by example

and keeps our guys level headed."

Mann said one player has made notable strides heading into the season.

"Sierra has become a very reliable defensive first baseman and a middle of the order guy for us," Mann said.

Defense and situational offense are expected to be strengths for the Trojans.

"Defensively we are a very strong team," Mann said. "We have a lot of guys who know and play their positions very well. We also play very good team baseball on the offensive side getting guys

on, getting them over and getting them in."

Limiting strikeouts will be a key focus moving forward.

"One of our biggest struggles is strikeouts," Mann said. "As a team, we strikeout way too much, and I would like us to put the ball in play more often to put more pressure on teams."

Mann said the team's identity will center on a collective approach at the plate.

"Our identity this year is going to be a team baseball identity," Mann said. "We don't have any guys

who are going to go up there and hit a lot of home runs so we are going to rely on getting guys on, getting them over and getting them in any way possible."

The Trojans enter the season with familiar goals.

"Expectations are always the same, we want to keep playing into late May and early June," Mann said. "Also, I just want our boys to compete every day, leaving it all on the field while also having fun playing the game of baseball."

Southwest also brings added depth compared to

previous seasons.

"We are a young team, but we have a lot more depth this year than we have in the past, and I am excited to go through this season with this group of boys," Mann said.

Mann enters his fourth season at Southwest and ninth overall as a head coach. He also approaches a milestone in his coaching career, 14 wins away from 100 career wins.

Southwest defeated Exeter, 5-2, on Thursday to move to 3-9 on the season. The Trojans next host New Heights Christian on Thursday at 5 p.m.

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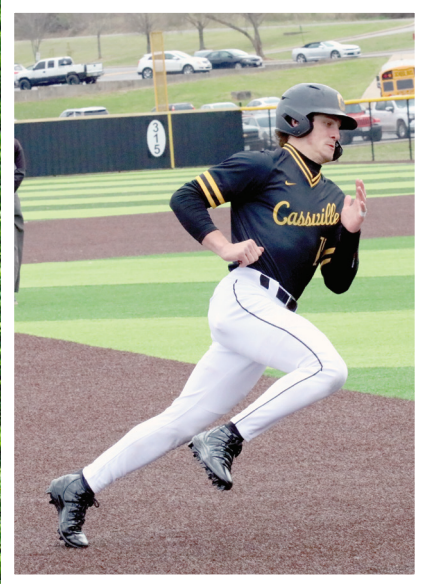
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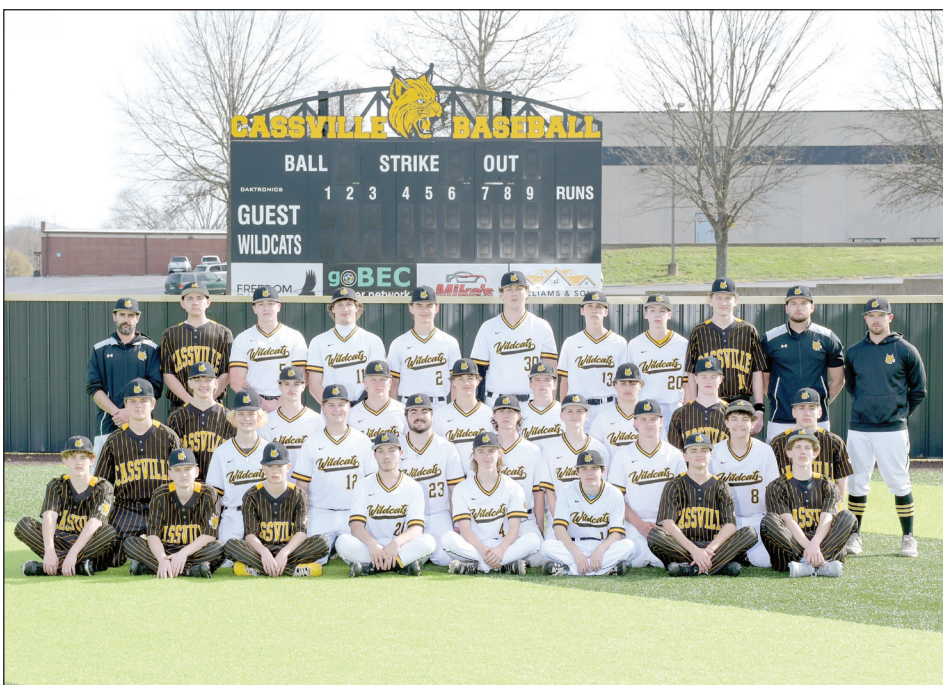
2026 SPRING SPORTS

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2026 WILDCATS BASEBALL

2026 LADY WILDCATS TRACK



Members of the Cassville baseball team include: Blayden Baker, Jayden Barker-Ritchie, Dylan Bohmke, Masin Bryan, Jadon Castleberry, Baxton Cornell, Hale Cox, Spencer Drollinger, Lawton Kole England, Mquade Farris, Wylan Farris, Brendan Flynn, Zaiden Hall, Ellis Hobbs, Bodie Hodge, Lucas Hudson, Easton Hughes, Wesly Lowery Jr., Kanaan Madison, Tyler Matthew, Tucker McCorkle, Larry Privett, Dominic Reed, Brandt Reuter, Colton Roark, Chase Ruark, Braydyn Sizemore, Kayden Skeen, Jaren Stearns, Grant Varner, Kellen Weldy, Logan Williams and Michael Winchell. Photo courtesy of Wagner Portrait Group

Members of the Cassville girls track team include: Kayli Anderson, Keely Bailey, Makiah Colf, Molly Cox, Elizabeth Fohn, Estrella Garcia, Shelby Knoefler, Claire Reuter, Kailyn Speer, Hopelyne Thompson, Lyndsie Vanderhoef, Mckenzie Wall, Ella Wheeler, Brynn Whittenburg, Analeigh Winchell and Abbigale Yarnall. Photo courtesy of Wagner Portrait Group

2026 LADY WILDCATS SOCCER

2026 WILDCATS TRACK



Members of the Cassville girls track team include: Kendal Allison, Cynthia Alonso, Diana Arguelles, Briley Artherton, Makayla Conolley, Libby Corter, Lydia Cupps, Raegan Doucet, Riley Doucet, Gracy Farsungchin, Emily Gray, Arianna Greathouse, Liberty Hilburn, Ava Hinson, Kierstyn Kalbaugh, Sadie Koehler, Brooklyn Krallman, Alexis Lands, Anabele Mills, Reanna Royalty, Liliana Ruiz, Tyra Sturgell and Anna VanDerhoef. Photo courtesy of Wagner Portrait Group

Members of the Cassville girls track team include: Peyton Anderson, Vyncent Arguelles, Carlos Barrientos, Colton Beebe, Kamden Beebe, Mace Bredeson, Vincent Buttrum, Johnny Chappell III, Noah Driskill, Preston Gauge Driskill, Wesley Garner, Andon Goutney, Wyatt Parker Hollingsworth, Brody Howell, Jacob Hudson, Ryan Knight, Isaac Luney, Donovan Mikesch, Zachary Myers, Richard Norris, Logan Parsons, Jarrett Paul, Tyler Rattigan, Corbin Rhoads, Ethan Sizemore, Cashis Tyler Smith, Brextin Sprague, Kaid Williams, Clay Williamson and Dade Zajac. Photo courtesy of Wagner Portrait Group

Good luck to our Wildcats!

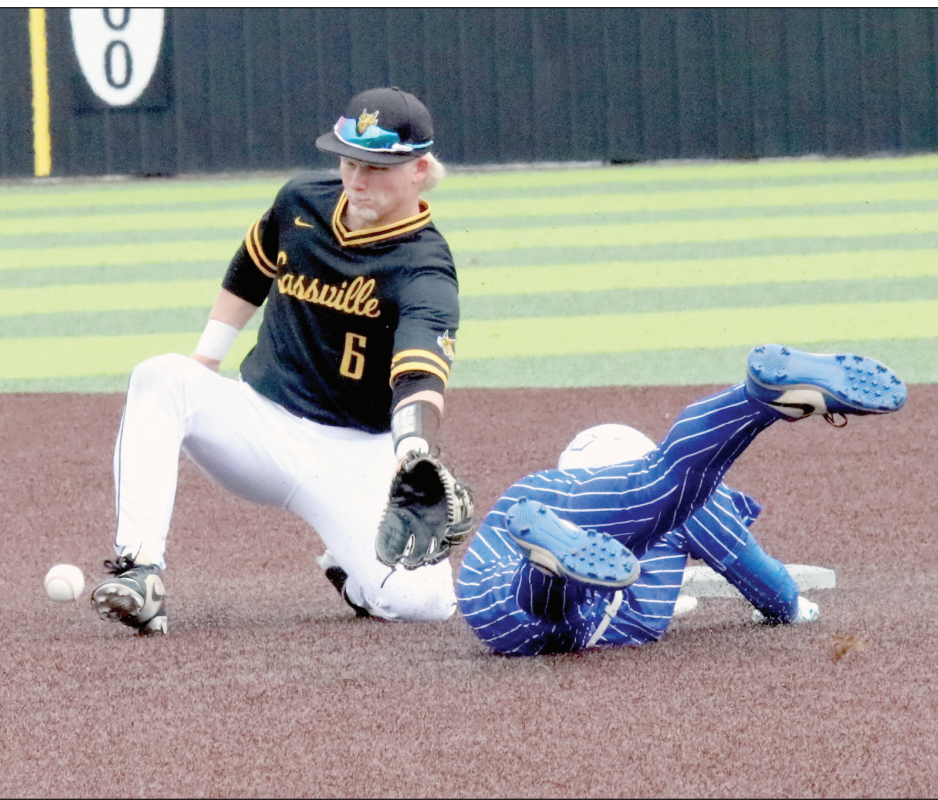
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2026 WILDCATS GOLF



Members of the Cassville girls track team include: Kaleb Artherton, Tyson Bohmke, Trevor Brookes, Will Brooks, Kyle Brown, Dennis Craig, Cheney Kelley, Daichi Kezuka and Aiden McBroom. Photo courtesy of Wagner Portrait Group



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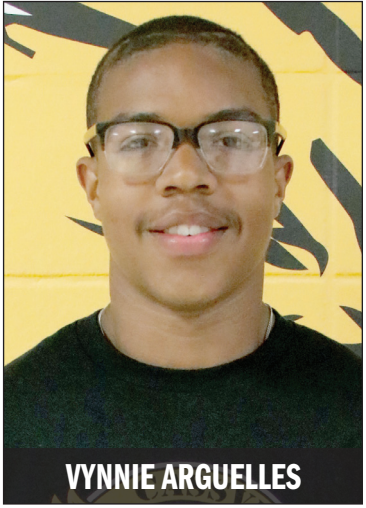
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