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Cassville baseball bags wins over Monett, Lamar in Big 8 play. — 1B

# CASSVILLE Democrat

APRIL 22, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

## PROPERTY TAXES

**What:** SB190 passed last year  
**Now:** Letters mailed to residents to opt into to credit  
**More:** 275 seniors have applied so far

## Property tax freeze available to seniors

BY SHEILA HARRIS  
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Barry County residents of all ages have been receiving a document from the collector's office in the mail, titled "Barry County Senior Tax Credit."

However, it's not because Collector Skylar Bowman believes that every homeowner is old enough to qualify for the credit.

"We don't have a way in our tax system to distinguish the ages of residents," Bowman said. "So, we had to mail the form to everyone."

The form applies to Barry County property-owners who were 62 years old as of Jan. 1, 2024. Those who fall into that category are eligible for a property tax freeze, retroactive to 2024. Depending on when applicants turned 62, the year upon which their freeze will be based will be 2024, 2025 or 2026. Property owners who turn 62 by Jan. 1, 2027, will be eligible to apply in 2027, with 2027 set as their base year.

The collector's office will be accepting applications from qualified residents through June 30, 2026. As of Monday morning, 275 applications had been received, up 225 from the previous Tuesday.

The Barry County Senior Tax Credit (freeze) comes as a result of the passage of Missouri Senate Bill (SB) 190 in the April 8, 2025, General Municipal Election.

In order to be eligible for the tax relief, applications must be filled out and returned to the Collector's office by June 30, 2026, accompanied by the forms of identification designated on the application.

The application has been a bit confusing to some. Although it states that one form of ID will be required, the county is asking for both a Missouri driver's license and a voter ID card: the first to prove age, and the second to prove Barry County residency.

A passport or birth certificate can also be used to verify age.

If desired, residents can register to vote at the county clerk's office the same day.

The Barry County assessor's office will verify property ownership, without the need for a person to bring in proof of ownership themselves, Bowman said.

Mark Ingram, of Purdy, took his application to the collector's office the day after he received it in the mail, and was surprised to discover that, although the form is supposed to be signed in front of a notary public, there was no notary available to witness his signature.

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## Malone guilty of murder

Sentencing on June 9 after four counts all receive guilty verdict

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com  
An Exeter man has been found guilty of four felonies — including first-degree murder — by a Jasper County jury following a three-day trial April 14-16.

Aaron Malone, 24, of Exeter,

### GUILTY VERDICT

**Who:** Aaron Malone, 24, of Exeter

**What:** Found guilty in jury trial of first-degree murder, abandonment of a corpse, tampering with physical evidence and armed criminal action

**Sentencing:** Set for June 9 at 11 a.m. in Jasper County

was found guilty of first-degree murder, abandonment of a corpse, tampering with physical evidence and armed crim-

inal action, charges stemming from the death of Malone's girlfriend, Aspen Lewis.

According to a press release from Barry County Prosecutor Amy Boxx, Malone was charged on Nov. 24, 2024 with Lewis' murder, causing multiple injuries to her hear and neck.

"The evidence at trial was that Malone had struck the victim in the head multiple times, strangled her and shot her in the head," Boxx's release said. The investigation was con-

ducted by the Barry County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Criminal Investigations Unit. The case was heard in Jasper County following a change of venue, and Assistant Attorneys General Melissa Pierce and Michael Schafer assisted Boxx in the prosecution.

According to the original probable cause statement, deputies were dispatched to a residence located in Exeter in re-

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## Wildcat Jazz sparks toe tapping at Barry Electric annual meeting



Jonah Cupps plays a clarinet solo during one of the Wildcat Jazz songs at the Barry Electric Annual Meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Cassville super brings suit against MSHSAA

Feds seeks to intervene in lawsuit against MSHSAA over board eligibility rules

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com  
The U.S. Attorney General's office has moved to intervene in a federal lawsuit — brought by Cassville Superintendent Merlyn Johnson and Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway — challenging eligibility rules used by the Missouri State High School Activities Association Board of Directors, arguing the policies

violate constitutional protections by classifying candidates based on race and sex.

The motion, filed April 2 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, seeks permission for the federal government to join an existing case brought by the State of Missouri and Johnson.

According to the filing, the lawsuit centers on MSHSAA rules governing two at-large seats on its 10-member Board of Directors. Those rules require candidates for the at-large positions to represent "the under-represented gender of the current Board, or an under-represented ethnicity." Johnson, who was nominated for an

at-large seat in 2025, met all other eligibility requirements but was rejected as a candidate. According to the filing, since Johnson is a male, he was not eligible to be a candidate for the at-large board position because males already constituted a majority of the Board.

The filing states Johnson is a Caucasian, non-Hispanic male, and that his candidacy was disqualified on that basis.

The U.S. Attorney General's office argues the case involves significant violations of the U.S. Constitution and qualifies as a matter of general public importance, allowing federal intervention under the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

## Purdy school board welcomes new members

Ken Terry named board president

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat  
The Purdy school board reorganized at its April 9 meeting, returning one incumbent and adding two new members following the April 7 election. Board secretary Kristy Cook swore in returning incumbent Nathan Lamp, back for a second term, and first-time members David Wormington and Kaley Thigpen. The sudden

death of board president David Young opened a third vacancy.

Rather than seek an appointment, board members opted to accept all three candidates on the April ballot, filling Young's seat with Thigpen.

In the vote for officers, the board tapped Ken Terry for president, a post he held years ago. Mason Roller was named vice president.

In board action, members hired Pamela Peterson as a new high school math teacher, and approved Cailyn Ridenour's resignation as an elementary teacher.

Three paraprofessionals and two food service staffers resigned. All the remaining classified staff and two new paraprofessionals were hired for the coming school year.

Superintendent Travis Graham walked the board through the latest machinations by the Missouri General Assembly over new legislation impacting public schools. He reviewed the proposal to reduce the voter-approved minimum tax levy from \$2.75 per \$100 of assessed property to \$220, a move that would cost the Purdy district \$233,756. The

legislature has not fully funded the State Adequacy Target, an amount supposedly set for the next three years. At full funding, Purdy would receive \$7,145 per student. Currently, Purdy receives \$6,900 per student. Graham expects that to fall to \$6,740 next school year.

While open enrollment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A



# LOCAL

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Sleep in Heavenly Peace hosting bed build

The Exeter Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace will host a bed build at Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 821 Old Exeter Road in Cassville, starting at 9 a.m. on May 2. The organization is seeking volunteers to help with the build. Supplies and instructions will be provided, and no training or tools are needed. Children under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

### 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.

### 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, today (Wednesday), 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 Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Wheaton Volunteer Fire Department, located at 407 E. Hurlbut in Wheaton.

### 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.

### 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, hand-made crafts, baked goods and more. Those interested in becoming a vendor may contact Chad Sprinkle at 417-846-3539.

### Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

### OATS rides available in Barry County

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



The Middle School Jazz Band has also enjoyed a successful season. The group competed at Pittsburg State University for its first contest of the year, earning a 2+ rating. Contributed photo

The Cassville High School Jazz Band is off to a strong start in its 2026 competitive season, earning top ratings and individual honors at multiple collegiate festivals across the region. Contributed photo



# CHS jazz band earns top honors in competitive season

The Cassville High School Jazz Band is off to a strong start in its 2026 competitive season, earning top ratings and individual honors at multiple collegiate festivals across the region.

The season began in February with a clinic at Southwest Baptist University, giving students an opportunity to work with college clinicians and refine their performance skills. Since then, the High School Jazz Band has competed at both the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg and Pittsburg State University, where the ensemble

earned the highest possible rating of 1 — equivalent to a Gold rating — at each event.

In addition to the outstanding group performances, several CHS musicians were recognized for exceptional musicianship. Students receiving individual honors included Caiden Edie on drums, Maura Boise on trombone, Sterling Zucca on trumpet, and Aubrey Conrad on vibraphone.

The High School Jazz Band wrapped up its competitive season on Saturday with a final performance in Neosho.

The Middle School Jazz Band has also enjoyed a successful season. The group competed at Pittsburg State University for its first contest of the year, earning a 2+ rating.

At the Pitt State festival, Trystan Moore earned that exceptional musicianship award for the middle school jazz band.

Both jazz band shared their music with the community at the 6th Annual Blues & BBQ event on Friday. The event serves as a fundraiser hosted by the Cassville Band Boosters, with proceeds benefiting the district's band program.

# Suit: MSHSAA says policy promotes inclusion

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Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Whenever an action has been commenced in any court of the United States seeking relief from the denial of equal protection of the laws under the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution on account of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, the Attorney General for or in the name of the United States may intervene in such action upon timely application if the Attorney General certifies that the case is of general public importance," the filing said.

The federal government contends it has both a statutory right and a vested interest in intervening, citing its role in enforcing constitutional protections.

The lawsuit alleges MSHSAA's policies violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by conditioning eligibility for board seats on race and sex. It also claims violations under multiple federal statutes, including 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1983.

According to court documents, MSHSAA is a non-profit association made up of hundreds of Missouri public and private schools, responsible for regulating interscholastic activities. Its Board of Directors includes eight district representatives and two at-large members

elected by member schools.

The association defended its policy in communications referenced in the filing, stating the at-large provisions are intended to promote inclusivity and broader representation.

"The constitutional language related to at-large board positions is deliberately designed to promote inclusivity while avoiding any form of exclusion or rigid identity-based quotas," the filing said. "It expands access, rather than restricts it."

MSHSAA further argued the policy functions similarly to geographic representation rules and does not prevent individuals from running for district-based seats.

"Any individual, regardless of gender or ethnicity, is free to run for a seat on the board from their respective board district," the filing said.

The association also asserted that even if the policy is considered discriminatory, it meets legal standards.

"Ensuring inclusive representation on a statewide regulatory board that impacts 720 public and private school communities is a legitimate and compelling interest," the filing said.

The U.S. Attorney General's office disputes that claim, arguing

the policy constitutes unconstitutional discrimination and is not narrowly tailored.

"By conditioning eligibility for seats on its governing Board on the candidates' race and sex, MSHSAA has engaged in systematic unconstitutional race and sex-based discrimination and violated the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause," the filing said.

The federal filing also argues that the outcome of the case could affect not only Johnson, but other potential candidates who may face similar restrictions.

The original lawsuit, filed Feb. 4, seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as damages and attorney fees. The United States similarly seeks a court order declaring the policies unconstitutional and prohibiting MSHSAA from enforcing race- and sex-based eligibility requirements for board positions.

If granted, the motion would allow the federal government to participate directly in the case alongside the existing plaintiffs.

The filing is signed by former U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi, who was fired by President Donald Trump on April 2. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche is acting as interim Attorney General.

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

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

# Malone:

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erence to a possible abduction. Upon arrival, Deputies made contact with Malone, who reported Lewis, 24, was missing.

“Malone provided deputies with a verbal and written statement of Lewis being possibly abducted,” Boyd said in a November 2024 press release. “A criminal investigation began into the disappearance of Aspen Lewis. Inconsistencies were located in Aaron’s statement.”

According to a probable cause statement file by Det. Abby Parsons, physical evidence allegedly pointing to Malone included a blood stain on the roadway behind Malone’s truck, blood stains on his truck and disturbed parts of the gravel driveway where jewelry pieces were located on the ground.

Surveillance video also allegedly showed Malone’s truck arriving at the residence at 11:35 p.m. on Nov. 24, 2024. Shortly after, Parsons’ report said, screaming can be heard, and Malone left the residence at about 1:35 a.m. on Nov. 25, 2024, returning at about 4:10 a.m.

Malone made a 9-1-1 call before returning to the residence, Parsons reported.

On Nov. 26, 2024, Boyd and Maj. Angela Cole met with Malone and advised him they wanted to locate the victim, Boyd’s release said. Malone allegedly took authorities to where Lewis was located, deceased and covered with leaves and sticks in a wooded area near Shell Knob.

Parsons’ report said Lewis had suffered extensive head trauma, and the remains of a burnt pink wool article of clothing, appearing to be a shirt, was also located in the roadway.

“Malone admitted to an altercation taking place and disposing of the body,” Boyd said.

Following the jury’s guilty verdict on all four counts, Malone was ordered to be held without bond and remanded to the custody of the Barry County Sheriff’s Office.

A sentencing assessment is to be filed before June 1, and sentencing is set for June 9 at 11 a.m. in Jasper County Circuit Court, Judge David Allen Cole presiding.

Malone is also facing a third-degree assault charge for an altercation in the Barry County jail, allegedly showing the victim and causing him to fall and hit his head on a metal stool. Malone then left the cell and shut the door, which locked it. The victim sustained a laceration to the top right of his head and received medical treatment.

# Wildcat Jazz sparks toe tapping at Barry Electric annual meeting



Saxophone players in the Wildcat Jazz play during the band’s performance at the Barry Electric Annual Meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Kiley Stringer, with Barry Electric Cooperative, sings the National Anthem at the start of the organization’s annual meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Aubrey Conrad, member of the Wildcat Jazz, waves to a person in the crowd in between notes on the slide whistle during the band’s performance at the Barry Electric Annual Meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



David Cupps, president of the Barry Electric Cooperative Board, speaks at the annual meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Jennifer McBroom, Barry Electric Cooperative CEO, speaks at the annual meeting on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

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# COMMENTARY

## STAFF VIEW

# Sludge is in the air: We ain't seen nothin' yet

After a relative lull, sludge is back in the spotlight this spring as the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prepares to announce a public meeting, a preliminary step before issuing new operating permits for three storage tanks which can hold over 800,000 gallons of meat and food-processing residuals.

One of those tanks will be located two miles north of Cassville. (A previous article mistakenly stated "one mile.")

As dismaying as the idea of a local sludge-storage tank may be, what lies on the horizon for Barry County residents could be more unsettling yet.

DNR Water Protection Program Director Heather Peters said after the storage tank permits are approved, her department will get on with perfecting the language of the sludge land-application operating permits, which have been pending for over two years.

In 2023, Synagro Central and HydroAg Environmental, LLC, submitted applications to the DNR to land-apply processing residuals to almost 9,000 acres in Barry County. However, approval of those permits was put on hiatus after the Missouri legislature enacted changes to the Clean Water Law in July 2024. Since then, Peters' department has been developing new language for those permits that reflects the changes in law.

Meanwhile, growing season is upon us, and free sludge — offered as "fertilizer" — sounds appealing to many area farmers when compared with the cost of commercial fertilizer.

You get what you pay for, and the same goes for sludge. By whatever name, sludge consists of industrial cast-offs: the byproducts of meat and other food-processing that can't be sold, and can barely be given away. Residuals include the likes of raw meat scraps, fat, blood, feathers, and whatever else might hit the floor and get washed down the drain during processing — in addition to the grease clumps, chemicals and dissolved air flotation (DAF) skimmings (globby solids) removed during wastewater



**SHEILA HARRIS**

pre-treatment.

Speaking as a former insider in our local chicken plant, washdowns are not one-time events during an eight-hour shift. Rightfully not. Without constant — almost ongoing — washdowns, floors would quickly become covered and caked with the debris that occurs with bird slaughtering and processing.

Some details from my time at George's Processing remain with me.

The "Picking Room," as it was known, was the scene of all-out slaughterhouse carnage, and was arguably the smelliest area of processing. Birds, hanging by shackled feet, met their demise as their dangling heads exposed their necks to the to the swift blade of a constantly-circulating bandsaw. Blood exploded from the birds, splattering the surrounding floors and walls and draining into floor-channels designed to carry it away. Seconds later, partially (or fully) decapitated birds, still shackled, plunged into and out of scalders, and feathers joined the blood flowing through the floor channels below. The picking room reeked of death.

The sweet-sour odor of fresh blood, made riper by the hot temperatures created by the scalders, enveloped a person. The stench permeated nostrils, clung to clothing, and followed a person home at the end of the day.

I suspect that this same smell of death, mingled with decay and the chemicals used in wash-downs and wastewater pretreatment, are what neighbors who live close to properties where sludge has been land-applied take notice of.

The smell may only be part of the problem.

Disease is also a concern. Spreading decaying body parts on open fields provides a ripe vector for the likes of avian flu, among many other nasty possibilities. There's a valid reason why we bury our dead and otherwise dispose of animal carcasses.

Some people point out that farming is an inherently smelly business. Sure, it is. But most farm smells emanate from bodily excrements, not from dead bodies themselves — unless you're talking about a pile of dead chickens pulled from a broiler house or a dead cow in a field.

Dumping massive quantities of raw, dead body-parts called "meat-processing residuals," the majority from out of state, on farmland in southwest Missouri is a relatively new practice, one ushered in when voters approved Missouri's "Right to Farm" bill in 2014.

During the following years, Denali Water Solutions (with headquarters in Russellville, Ark.) carved out two 15-million-gallon storage lagoons in rural Newton County, then proceeded to fill them with foul-smelling sludge hauled in from states with tighter regulations. Due to Missouri legislative changes, those lagoons are now in the process of being emptied. Land-application of sludge in the state, however, will continue.

I fear that, in Barry County, we ain't seen nothin' yet.

Synagro, a sludge-hauler in good standing, has continued to operate under the "enforcement discretion" of the DNR in Barry County. However, the approval of new land-application permits will open the door for Barry County newcomer, HydroAg Environmental, who applied in 2023 to apply its refuse to over 5,000 acres here, in addition to the 3,000-plus acres Synagro applied for. It's unknown whether Denali Water Solutions has permits pending for Barry County. A 2023 application indicates that, then, they intended to land apply in Lawrence and Jasper Counties.

According to wording in the DNR's

past proposed permits, sludge-haulers will be allowed to add acreage to their site-permits under certain conditions.

Wait, though, it gets smellier! HydroAg doesn't propose to limit their sludge content to chicken-processing waste. They plan to bring a veritable smorgasbord of beef- and pork-processing castoffs into the county as well.

Can you think of even one industrial-scale beef and pork processor within our county? I can't. But here we are, targeted for somebody else's goo.

Of perhaps greater concern, many intended land-application sites are located alongside Flat Creek and near resorts within Roaring River Spring's recharge basin, where smell will be a factor and contaminants can easily infiltrate groundwater because of our karst hydrogeology.

What could possibly go wrong?

A litany of past articles in the Cassville Democrat pertaining to problems that Newton and McDonald Counties have faced can give you partial answers to that question, and those counties aren't perched above Roaring River State Park, which draws over one million visitors per year.

Barry County has a lot invested in this question; we have a lot at stake.

One area farmer asked what can be done.

Vallerie Steele, Newton County resident who teamed with neighbors to form Stop Land Use Damaging our Ground and Environment (S.L.U.D.G.E.), an environmental group that helped influence legislative changes and recommends reaching out to our legislators, forming an anti-sludge group, reaching out to the DNR, researching the law on permits and land-application and having a townhall meeting — all actions taken by S.L.U.D.G.E.

Rise up, get noisy, she says. Can we afford to keep quiet?

*Sheila Harris is a long-time Barry County resident and a sales executive and investigative reporter for the Cassville Democrat with a particular interest in environmental topics. She may be reached at sheila-harrisads@gmail.com.*

## COMMUNITY VOICES

# Remembering Jill and Becky

In a span of nine days our community lost two educational icons and I also lost two dear friends in Jill LeCompte and Becky Henningson.

The passing of Jill and Becky showed how fast life can change and how two people can positively impact the lives of thousands of people. When you hear that someone impacted thousands of lives, the normal assumption is that they were on the national or world stage. But, neither Jill nor Becky were state or national leaders. They were Cassville educators, educational leaders, trailblazers, and simply wonderful people who cared about others.

I had the pleasure



**JON HORNER**

of serving with Becky and Jill on the Cassville Board of Education. Both brought perspectives that were so important to that role. They were Cassville graduates and had taught in the classrooms on our campus. They were looked up to and were seen as role models by many young women who desired to create

their own path for success in this world.

As board members, many times they brought a voice and perspective that could not have been seen by a group of guys. That's why their legacy will be well served by having a similar voice and perspective continue in their school leadership capacity.

Their genuine nature and outlook on life helped shape so many young men and women. Over the years the number of people they impacted grew and grew to the point that they became synonymous with educational leadership and impact.

Becky was a pioneer for girls sports at Cassville. She coached the first girls basketball and volleyball teams. Becky's 1979 basketball squad won the first championship for a girls team at CHS. She was also a mentor for countless young women.

Becky cared deeply about our community and school. She served 15 years on the Cassville Board of Education. Becky's common sense decision making was a

blessing. She truly cared about the future of the students in our school.

Becky was also a wonderful friend. She knew how to make me laugh and was there for me when times weren't going so well in life. When I lost my dear friend, Michael LeCompte, Becky would check in on me almost every day. She would fill me in with the latest scuttlebutt around town and her calls would lift my spirits.

Simply put, Becky cared.

Jill LeCompte was a lifelong friend. I can't remember not knowing Jill. We played trombone together in band and then she started dating and eventually married my dear friend, Michael LeCompte. Needless to say, Jill has always held a special place in my heart.

Jill was a natural educator. It was in her blood. She was a Holman, and the Holman family has produced some of Barry County's finest educators. She then moved to educational leadership serving in principal positions and ultimately

as assistant superintendent. Jill was also a born leader.

I used to tell Jill that when she was doing a presentation for the school board or other organizations she sounded just like her Aunt Eunice Thomas. I meant that as the ultimate compliment because I idolized Eunice Thomas when I was growing up in Cassville Elementary School.

As you can imagine, Jill was also a natural for the Cassville Board of Education, on which she served since 2022. Jill cared deeply about the educational outcomes for all students and especially for at risk students.

Jill was a wonderful friend, and it was always so much fun being with her. Over the past couple of years, she became a wonderful and irreplaceable travel companion for Darla and myself. Whether it was a beach in Santa Rosa, Fla., an education conference or a girls trip to Kansas City, Jill made the trip so much fun.

Darla and I will always remember and

treasure Jill being a part of the wedding last July of our daughter and son in law, Madison and Antwan. As she read the poem, "Marry Your Best Friend," I sensed that she was speaking directly to someone who was not there in person, but was there in spirit, Michael LeCompte. Jill was simply Jill at that moment.

As a writer, I've come to the conclusion that our lives are in many ways very similar to books. Every year is a chapter. Becky and Jill respectively had 79 and 60 chapters that were so impactful. While I desperately wished we could have shared many more chapters with Becky and Jill, I am truly thankful for the wonderful pages we did get to share together.

Love ya, Jill and Becky! Till we meet again.

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

**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.



**50 years ago**

**April 28, 1976**  
**— RONALD EVANS NEW HEAD OF R-4 SCHOOLS**

An educator who will complete his course work on a doctorate in education this week, Ronald C. Evans, 53, of Boonville has been named superintendent of the Cassville R-4 schools. Evans selection came after a process of elimination by the board of education that screened 26 applicants and conducted six personal interviews. The employment of Evans was announced during a press conference Saturday morning by Charles Thompson, board of education president. The other five members of the board attended the session after formally hiring the new school head here in a meeting Friday night. Evans will replace James E. Ford on June 30. Ford resigned this year after 10 years at the helm of the Cassville schools. He has not announced future plans. Cassville's superintendent-elect comes to this system after completing 22 years in administrative work. His salary will be \$21,400, including in-state travel allowance. Evans spent four years in the Bonne Terre system and 15 years in the Bismarck schools. He holds a bachelor and master's degree from Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg. His doctorate study is at the University of Missouri. The Evans family includes eight children, two at home. Coming here with Mr. and Mrs. Evans will be Ricky, 11 and Mike 5. At the announcement conference, Evans said he would be working close with the board of education in the process of selecting important replacements in the system for next year. He had high praise in his investigation of the Cassville community. "Very careful thinking and planning in developing the Cassville campus is obvious," he said. Thompson said Evans and Ford would be working together in an orientation process during the time between now and June 30, the official change of command date for the superintendency.

**— AG GROUP HONORS CUPPS WITH AWARDS**

Donald E. Cupps, Shell Knob received two awards recently at the annual Alpha Zeta awards dinner at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he is a sophomore in agricultural economics. Cupps received the \$400 Sam B. Shirky centennial scholarship in agriculture and the \$100 Longwell leadership award. Alpha Zeta is a College of Agriculture honorary service organization. The Shirky scholarship, named for the former associate dean of the UMC College of Agriculture, recognizes outstanding academic performance. The Longwell leadership award goes each year to an outstanding sophomore in the College and is named for John Longwell, dean emeritus. The 1973 Longwell award went to David E. Cupps, older brother of Donald. David Cupps was recently accepted into the UMC College of Veterinary Medicine and will begin his studies there next fall. He is presently a UMC graduate student. Both are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Cupps.

**40 years ago**

**April 30, 1986**  
**— COUNTY LOWEST RATING IN SOUTHWEST UNEMPLOYMENT**

As she does most of the time, Barry County post-

ed the lowest unemployment statistics in southwest Missouri for the month of March. Statistics released this week by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations placed the county's unemployment figure at 5.1 percent. That was down considerably from the March, 1985 figure of seven percent or the February, 1986 rating of 6.4 percent. Adjoining county figures, all above Barry County, included: Newton 5.3, Lawrence 5.9, McDonald 6.4 and Stone 15.9. Hubert Sanders of the Monett office of Division of Employment Security said the figures represent "a growth in the tourist end of the employment picture, especially in the south part of Barry County." He continued, "Manufacturing is not really that steady in the county, with some fluctuations that aren't necessarily related to seasonal." Sanders said the county figures had an 11,988 labor force as of last month. In March, 1986, the number of employed persons stood at 11,374. That leaves 614 persons unemployed out of the total labor force in the county. The county office director said current unemployment lows were among the lowest experienced in the last two years. In the period of May-September, 1985, the rate ranged between 5.6 and 5.1. For October-November the same year, the rate was 4.9 to 6.9. Sanders said additional statistics for the county had not become available through the state office's computer. Barry County compared most favorably to the state average of 6.1 for the month of March. A year ago, for the same report period, Missouri's unemployment was on the rise at 7.1 percent. President of the Chamber of Commerce of Cassville said the number of employed persons in this area was a continuation of the outstanding performance by local manufacturers and all segments of the economy that hire people to work. "The talent and attitude of our work forces continues as one of our most important assets," he concluded. "The situation will improve in coming weeks as the area gets further into the tourist season," Kammerlohr said. Statistics compiled by the Missouri Division of Employment Security show that there was a civilian labor force of 2.46 million in Missouri during March, and more than 2.31 million of these potential workers were employed. Both statistics represent an all-time high for March. According to state figures the rate's decline was uniform throughout the state. Rates in metropolitan areas ranged from 3.3 percent at Columbia to 7.8 percent at St. Joseph. Barton County featured the lowest rate among non-metropolitan counties with 3.5 percent.

**— FIRST DAY WAL-MART SIGN-UP AT 250 PERSONS**

Wal-Mart Inc. got a good turnout of prospective employees in a labor sign-up in Cassville, Tuesday. The first day of the application session attracted 250 persons, says Tim Watkins, who will be manager of the Cassville store. Expected to open in early July, the store which is under construction at the west edge of Cassville will employ some 80 persons during peak seasons. The sign-up will continue through Thursday to 6:00 p.m. Watkins said the number



**30 YEARS AGO: HERE'S PIE IN YOUR EYE** — Cassville fifth graders celebrated the end of a grueling Missouri Master Achievement Test week on Friday, April 19 by throwing pies. Happy youngsters looked on and cheered as several lucky students got to throw pies at their teachers. In the photo above, fifth grader Alyssa Gummert is shown giving Elementary Principal, Martha Dunnam, a pie in the face. Other fifth grade teachers who received pie in the face awards were: Glenda Phillips, Tammi Kennedy, Sue Crain and Rita Rogers. Teacher aides that were creamed were: Sheila Parnell, Trish Tielborg and Mr. M. Democrat file photo

of persons making the initial sign-up should not discourage anyone who might be waiting until the last day. "Anyone wishing to sign a job application with Wal-Mart is certainly encouraged to do so," he said. Watkins, who has been managing a store in Frankfort, Kentucky, has purchased a home here. His family will soon take possession of the former Murl Washburn property in Wildwood Estates. Two assistant managers for the store have also been named, and were taking part in the employment sign-up. Included are Scott Kelly, now at Berryville, Arkansas; and Harold Brock, now at Pryor, Oklahoma, and formerly in the appliance and electronics business in Cassville.

**— BUXTON WHEATON'S NEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

The Wheaton R-III board of education has employed Sheldon Buxton as superintendent of schools beginning July 1. Buxton is currently employed as an elementary principal in the East Newton school system. He has also been an elementary principal in the Wheaton and Purdy school systems. Buxton has received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Missouri Southern State College, a master's degree in educational administration from Southwest Missouri State University and an educational specialist degree in educational administration from Pittsburg State University. Buxton, his wife Diane, and daughter live in Fairview. He replaces Charles Cudney, who will head the Pierce City schools next year. Mr. and Mrs. Cudney, who reside in Cassville, will be leaving here. He is formerly elementary principal here and she is a faculty member.

**30 years ago**

**April 24, 1996**  
**— FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH 1,500 ACRES IN EXETER**

A weekend fire, spurred on by strong winds, burned off close to 1,500 acres of timber in an area west of Exeter. The blaze kept area firefighters and Missouri Conservation Department personnel busy for three days. Exeter Fire Chief David Newman said the fire began Thursday night in a 30-to-40 acre spot between Thomas and Star Hollows. Exeter, Washburn and Seligman fire crews worked to con-

trol the blaze. Firefighters were called back to the scene at 9 a.m. Friday after the fire re-ignited. Firemen worked until 7 p.m. to contain the flames, which managed to spread over 400 acres. Newman said Cassville and Wheaton firefighters were called in on mutual aid to assist Exeter, Washburn, Seligman and conservation department crews. The fire reared its head for a third time on Saturday and again on Sunday. Heavy thunderstorms Sunday night doused it completely. Newman said he estimates the fire devoured approximately 1,500 acres. Those fighting the fire said it kept heading east and spanned a mile wide. They used rakes, bulldozers and sheer manpower to keep the fire contained and away from structures. Newman and Jerry Ennis, an Exeter fire investigator, said the cause of the blaze was currently under investigation by local authorities. They estimated that a total of over 75 firefighters were called in to help fight the fire.

**— BALL ASSOCIATIONS MAKE THEIR PITCH TO CASSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

Cassville City aldermen were called in to mediate Monday night. Representatives from the Girls Softball Association and Cassville Little League attended the council meeting and pitched their views about how playing time on the city's three developed fields should be divided. Although the council invoked the five-minute rule, discussion continued for almost an hour. The controversy seemed to stem from the fact that there are not enough developed fields in the city to satisfy the needs of both the girls softball and Little League organizations. The first speaker up to bat was Brandy Lancaster, a Cassville High School junior who will be playing her last season of softball this summer. She voiced her displeasure with not being allowed equal access

to all city fields. Lancaster said she has never been allowed to play on what people refer to as field #1. She added that she did not understand why it was called the "Little League field." "I don't think it's fair that boys and girls are not treated equally," Lancaster said. "I know last summer when the fields flooded, I was out three days in a row picking grass out of fence links. We put in a lot of work, and I don't see anyone calling that our field." John Hendricks, who spoke on behalf of the Little League organization, said he believed everyone in the room was fighting for the same thing. "Let's go out and build some ballfields," Hendricks said. "If you want us (Little League) out there, ask us. Take our money. We have plenty." Hendricks also reminded the council that they refused an \$8,000 offer from Little League last year to get the new ballfields started. "It's a sad day that we're down here again," said Greg Yockey, a Little League supporter. "We've been promised and promised these fields. It's boiled down to softball vs. Little League and that's not what it's about." Reece Lancaster and Danny Buchanan, president and vice president of the Girls Softball Association, said they had been involved in both boys' and girls' organizations and could see disparities in the use of city fields. "We all have to realize we have field shortages," Lancaster said. "But until there's more fields we're going to have share." He said he was asking the city to designate the fields on Monday and Thursday nights for girls softball games. He proposed that Little League use the fields the remaining two nights and on Saturdays. Lancaster also said 20 percent of the Monday and Thursday night field time could be designated to the boys if needed. Hendricks added that traveling teams, like the girls soft-

ball teams, should come second to Cassville teams. Yockey said that Little League had to adhere to strict rules, which regulate game length and field specifications and in turn limit the teams' flexibility. When asked how the scheduling was done last year, Lancaster said Little League reserved the fields in January, and then the girls softball association had to go through Little League to reserve game time. City Clerk Vickie McCune added that one full-time employee spent the summer scheduling games. Following the lengthy discussion, city council members voted to go into closed session. After about 45 minutes, they reconvened the public meeting. Alderman Rick Linebarger made a motion that City Administrator Greg Beavers be appointed to meet with the presidents of all organizations who use the city's ballfields. He said Beavers would then allocate the fields into proportionate blocks of time. Each organization would then do their own scheduling within the blocks. Any disputes would be resolved by Beavers. The council voted unanimously to accept Linebarger's motion. In further action, council members agreed to finish up fields #4 and #5 at the new city park and to construct at least one additional T-ball field. They approved a \$1,600 purchase order for backstops and a \$4,400 purchase order for infield dirt. Mayor Dennis Fischer also reminded those in attendance that the National Guard would be constructing five additional fields at the new park in the next year. According to those present Monday night, Little League has 26 teams, including six major league teams, eight minor league teams, six coach-pitch teams and six T-ball teams. Softball has a total of 17 teams. Babe Ruth and the Cassville High School baseball team also use city fields.

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

Meet Tizzy. This pretty shepherd/Carolina dog weighs 70 pounds. Her est date of birth is Nov. 13, 2022. Tizzy is good with dogs and seems to be more submissive while playing. When playing with other dogs Tizzy is very high energy, and she starts off every play session with a play bow. Tizzy also loves her human interactions and gets exceptionally happy just going for a walk. If your looking for a dog that will love you and your current fur baby; this could be the one for you. Tizzy is a wonderful girl and would be a good addition to any family. Adopters can complete an application at [www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt](http://www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt). No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email [havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com), or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo

**Attention Pet Parents!****Upcoming Clinics**

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 Don't have access to a computer? Feel free to visit the Haven and use our computer to book your appointment!



### WANDA LOUISE ANDERSON

Wanda Louise Anderson, 80, of Seligman, Mo. passed from this world Friday, April 17, 2026 at Oak Point of Monett in Monett, Mo., after a lengthy illness.

She was born October 31, 1945 in Gateway, Ark., the daughter of Jonathan Sidnee and Martha Myrtle "Myrt" (Twitty) Deans, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband, Donnie Gale Anderson, her "Sweetie"; her brothers, Henry Deans and John Deans and nephew, Rick Sinclair.

Survivors include her son, Ronnie Paul Anderson and wife JoDee, (her favorite daughter-in-law) of Seligman, Mo.; daughter, Rhonda Kay

Murphy and husband Tracy of Sheldon, Mo.; sister, Mary Mason of Avoca, Ark.; sister-in-law, Donna Deans of Seligman, Mo.; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren and one on the way.

She was a lifelong resident of Barry County and a proud graduate of Washburn High School in Washburn, Mo. She devoted 37 years to First Independent Bank of Seligman, retiring as vice president. She was a member of Washburn First Baptist Church.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend Jim Erwin and Brother Ray Holland will conduct the service. Burial will be at King Cemetery in Seligman, Mo.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M. Friday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Washburn First Baptist Church or Corinth Baptist Church in memory of Wanda.

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### WES RYAN HARRIS

Wes Ryan Harris, 51, of Cassville, Mo., passed away on April 14, 2026, at his home.

He was born on July 21, 1974, in Kansas City, Mo., to Homer and Linda (Doran) Harris.

Survivors include his wife, Stacy; his father, Homer, of Harrisonville, Mo.; his stepfather, Ron Darnell of Cassville, Mo.; his brother, Brad Harris, of Plattsmouth, Neb.; one nephew; and two nieces.

He was a dedicated cow farmer who took great pride in his work and the land he cared for.

Memorials may be made to Haven of the Ozarks and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

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

her husband Ray of Perry, Kan.; one sister-in-law, Sharon Caddell of Shell Knob, Mo.; six nephews; two nieces; and several great-nieces and great-nephews; and one great great nephew.

He graduated from Grandview High School in Grandview, Mo., in 1971. Shortly after, he served his country by joining the United States Marines an honor he carried with him throughout his life.

Later in life, he made his home along the shores of Table Rock Lake. There, he owned and operated Mo-Kan Hay, a trucking business he dedicated himself to until his retirement.

A private family burial will be held at Mikeman Cemetery in Shell Knob, Mo.

A family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to Haven of the Ozarks and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

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

**White Funeral Home and Crematory**  
Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at [www.whitefuneralhome.org](http://www.whitefuneralhome.org)  
417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400

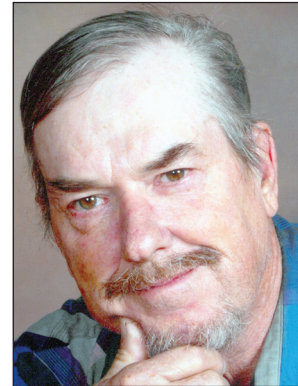
class of 1950. She was a homemaker.

She was a member of First Baptist Church in Bosque Farms, New Mexico.

Graveside memorial services will be held at 1:00 P.M. Sunday, April 26, 2026 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
Cassville, Missouri  
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### FRANK D. LOVE

Frank D. Love, 74, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Saturday, April 18, 2026 at his home.

He was born October 19, 1951 in Perryton, Texas, the son of Harold Edward and Doris (Dunsworth) Love, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his sister, Sandra.

Survivors include his wife Cherie Spohn; his sons, Rick Love of Cassville, Mo. and Tom Love of Great Falls, Mont.; daughter, Christy Blankenship and husband Jason of Cassville, Mo.; nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

He attended school in Olympic, Wash. graduating from Olympic High School. He later attended Shasta College in Redding, Calif., earning a Bachelor of Science in Automotive Technology. He proudly served in the United States Navy, the United States Army, and the National Guard, with service during the Vietnam War and Desert Storm. He was employed as a mechanic at the Shasta Hydro Power Plant at Shasta Dam in Shasta, Calif., where he worked until his retirement in 2011. Following his retirement, he and Cherie moved to Cassville.

He attended Corinth Baptist Church. Private graveside services with military honors will be held at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Ray Black will conduct the service.

Contributions may be made to the J.T. Blankenship Memorial Scholarship Fund at Freedom Bank of Southern Mo. in memory of Frank.

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417-847-2141

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### KENNETH EARL WEISS

Kenneth Earl Weiss, 66, of Monett, Mo., passed away on April 11, 2026.

He was born on June 7, 1959, to Dr Earl and Dolores (Mathes) Weiss, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his daughter, Kara Foil, a grandson Hunter Weiss, and two sisters: Karen Medlin and Shirley Weiss.

Survivors include his wife, Bernie, of East Purdy, one son Cody (Brittany) Weiss of Bingham Canyon, Utah, one daughter Staci (Brody) Ireland of Coos Bay, Ore., nine grandchildren, two sisters: Sharlene Gronau of Eagle River, Ark., and JoAnn (Dennis) Conway of Greeley, Colo.

He grew up in Garden City, Kan., attending school there and graduating from Garden City High School in 1977. He worked in Garden City, Kan., for Engles feed lot for approximately 25 years before moving to Mo., where he worked as electrician and his spare time helped with a young guns rodeo company which put on rodeos for the MJRC.

Memorials may be made to Missouri Junior Rodeo Circuit and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

The body has been cremated. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

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### TERRY J. CADDELL

Terry J. Caddell, 72, of Shell Knob, Mo., passed away Thursday, April 16, 2026, at his home on Table Rock Lake.

He was born June 23, 1953, in Kansas City, Mo., to Lawrence "Larry" and Alberta "Bert" (Landis) Caddell, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his grandparents and one brother Gary Caddell.

Survivors include his partner in crime, Lisa Spencer; two brothers, Jerry Caddell and his wife Becky of Shell Knob, Mo., and Barry Caddell and his wife Becky of Harrisonville, Mo.; one sister, Sheri Brooks and



### NADINE CARAWAY

Nadine Caraway, 93, of Bosque Farms, N.M., passed away Monday, December 15, 2025.

She was born November 14, 1932 in Mill Grove, Missouri the daughter of George and Lesta (Dewalt) Bever, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband.

Survivors include her son, Robert Caraway of Deepwater, Mo.; daughter, Linda Aldridge and husband Charley of Bosque Farms, N.M.; two grandchildren; six great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She attended school in Jamesport, Mo., graduating from Jamesport High School with the

## Freeze: Notray needed after ID verification

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A  
"They were sending people across the street

to an attorney's office or to their bank to get their signatures notarized," he said.

Bowman says the application process currently involves three steps.

"Residents should first bring their applications and proper forms of ID to the old courtroom in the

historic courthouse, where an employee from the collector's office is verifying applications," Bowman said. "After verification is made, they will need to take the document to a notary of their choice, for verification of their signature, then return the notarized form to the collector's

office."

Bowman asks that residents be patient with her office, as this process is new for her and her employees. She said those who receive the tax credit will need to apply annually, but the process will be simplified after the first year.

This will be the only year that separate applications for the tax freeze will be mailed, she said. In following years, Bowman's office will make the application available online for people to download and print. Hard copies will also be available at her office.

The tax credit will not be issued as a check to taxpayers, Bowman said in a 2025 interview with the Cassville Democrat, but, rather, will appear as a credit on taxpayers' statements, as well as on their property tax payment receipts.

For more information about the process, people may call Bowman's office at 417-847-2113 or email [showman@barrycounty-collector.com](mailto:showman@barrycounty-collector.com).



## WHITE FUNERAL HOME Local Death Notices

Kenneth Weiss • Monett • June 7, 1959–April 11, 2026  
William Shaw • Eagle Rock • Feb. 4, 1944–April 14, 2026  
Wes Ryan Harris • Cassville • July 21, 1974–April 14, 2026  
Terry J. Caddell • Shell Knob • June 23, 1953–April 16, 2026

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## Purdy FBLA wins big at Crowder



Purdy FBLA students competed at the Crowder Business Contest on March 25 and had a very successful day, winning the Division II Sweepstakes for first time in over 10 years. Purdy also won team and individual events at the competition including firsts in computers apps, business communication, sales presentation, marketing, economics and general business. Contributed photo

# Challengers file for prosecutor, presiding commissioner

## Races develop for State Representative, State Auditor

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com  
The filing period for the Aug. 4 Primary Election closed on March 31, with two local races and two state races seeing challengers.

In Barry County, there will be a race for prosecuting attorney or the first time since 2014. Incumbent Amy Boxx has refiled, challenged by newcomer Andrew Cole.

Boxx defeated two challengers in 2014, Matthew Weatherman and Steve Dunker, and ran unopposed in 2018

and 2022. This is Cole's first time running for public office.

Barry County presiding commissioner will also have a race, as incumbent Steve Blankenship is being challenged by Chad Johnson.

Both candidates ran in 2022, as did a third, Andrew Henbest. Blankenship won the race, tallying 2,035 votes (40.33 percent) to Johnson's 1,973 votes (39.10 percent) and Henbest's 1,038 votes (20.57 percent).

Rural precincts, especially Blankenship's home precinct in Jenkins, made the biggest difference in the race.

Filing and running unopposed in county races are: Johnnie Cox for

Associate Circuit Judge Div. I, Robert Foulke for Associate Circuit Judge Div. II, Craig Williams for Circuit Clerk, Kimi Deal for County Clerk (incumbent Joyce Ennis did not file), Gretta Tripp for Treasurer, Skyler Bowman for Collector, and Danielle Still for Recorder of Deeds.

All except Deal are incumbents, and all candidates filed as Republicans. No Democrats filed for county positions.

At the state level, incumbent State Rep. Scott Cupps, R-Shell Knob, has refiled, challenged by newcomer Chris Foster, D-Purdy.

Cupps was elected in 2019, unopposed in a special election after former State Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick was appoint-

ed Missouri State Treasurer.

This is Foster's first time running for public office.

Fitzpatrick was elected State Auditor in 2022, defeating Republican David Gregory in the Primary Election and Democrat Alan Green and Libertarian John A. Hartwig Jr. in the General Election.

This year, state Auditor is the only contested race at the state level. Challenging Fitzpatrick for the Republican spot is Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand Jr., of Oak Grove. In the Democratic Primary, Quentin Wilson, of St. Louis, and Gregory Upchurch, of St. Charles, have filed. Dustin Coffell has filed as the only Libertarian.



Sworn in on April 9 to the Purdy school board were, from left: David Wormington, Nathan Lamp, and Kaley Thigpen. Lamp begins his second term. Wormington and Thigpen start their first. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

## Purdy: Revenue projections 'a moving target'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

has not been discussed during the current session, Graham said he would not be surprised to see it sneak through in a late move as the Missouri Senate's Omnibus Property Tax Bill takes shape.

He saw open enrollment and giving school districts a letter grade as a marketing scheme to lure students to more affluent districts. With 60 percent of students falling below the poverty rate and 49 percent of students qualifying as English language learners, Graham said Purdy faces many challenges in providing aca-

demic rigor for students.

In addition, he reported Senate Bill 1442 proposes an overhaul to reading intervention. The bill would require each school building to have a dedicated reading intervention teacher and require holding back students who fall below the grade level performance. Students falling two grade levels behind or more would receive a reading success plan. Graham said good intentions in this plan nonetheless presented challenges implementing it. On this point, Assistant Principal Jennifer Cornelius noted

Purdy already gives such plans to dyslexic students.

Graham distributed a budget plan for next school year. He added revenue projections remain "a moving target." Several areas offered little wiggle room. He had a column showing what cuts of 3 to 5 percent would look like.

Terry urged board members to review the proposed reductions in spending and to make suggestions "as we look at tough times ahead. If it's not something making our kids smarter, we need to consider [cutting] it."

At the next board meet-

ing, Graham said a financial advisor from the Stifel Financial Corporation would be on hand to suggest options.

On the schedule, Graham reported state standardized testing [Missouri Achievement Program MAP tests] would take place during the last week in April. May 15 would be the last day of school. Baccalaureate will be held on May 6, and graduation was slated for May 9. Summer school will run May 26 to June 19.

The next board meeting will be on May 21.

## 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.*

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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.

# Jazz bands play at Bikes, Blues & BBQ



The Cassville Band Boosters hosted CHS Band's Blues & BBQ on Friday at the Cassville High School Football Stadium parking lot. The evening featured performances by the award-winning Wildcat Jazz Band and Middle School Jazz Band, a bike show and a meal. The event was sponsored by Fastrip, Battery Outfitters, and Shumaker Tire. All proceeds benefitted the Cassville Band Program. Gwendylan Harmon/Cassville Democrat Intern



## Arvest Bank's Million Meals Campaign Returns for 16th Year

Arvest Bank has officially launched the 16th year of its annual Million Meals campaign, a two-month effort to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Money raised through May 31 will support over 70 food partners, including Cassville Pantry in Cassville and the Alliances of Churches Food Pantry in Shell Knob. Every dollar donated goes directly to these organizations and provides up to five meals for those in need. The Million Meals campaign helps local food pantries meet the expected increase in need during the summer months, when many children don't have access to free school meals.

"At Arvest, we understand that when our

neighbors are fed and healthy, our entire community thrives," said Sarah Dalton, Community Bank President for Arvest Bank in Cassville. "Now in our 16th year, we are more committed than ever to fighting hunger, as no family should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. We invite everyone to join us over the next two months as we turn donations into meals for those who need them most."

Missouri is tied for 17th in the nation for food insecurity, with 13% of households reporting they lacked the resources to provide enough food to feed their families, according to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Across the U.S., 18% of households with children under 18 experienced food insecurity

in 2024, and 11% had elderly individuals living alone.

Since 2011, the initiative has helped provide more than 28 million meals and collected more than \$5.1 million in donations. Last year, the campaign helped provide a record 3.08 million meals for hungry families and individuals.

Monetary donations can be made through May 31 in the following ways:

- Donate at a branch. Cash and check contributions will be accepted at Arvest Bank branches. Ask any Arvest associate for details.
- Donate online. Visit [arvest.com/millionmeals](https://arvest.com/millionmeals) to donate online.

For more information about Million Meals and the campaign's local food partners, visit [arvest.com/millionmeals](https://arvest.com/millionmeals).

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**CASSVILLE TRACK**

**What:** Clever and East Newton meets  
**Results:** Two first places  
**More:** Cassville Relays held on Tuesday; results in next week's edition

## Thinclads compete in Clever, East Newton

Teams score pair of firsts in pole vault

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com  
The Cassville boys and girls track and field teams competed in the Clever and East Newton meets last week, bringing in plenty of medals and a couple first-place finishes.

Pole vault was the event of the week, as one Wildcat and one Lady Wildcat took top honors in the event.

At Clever on April 14, Hopelynn Thompson finished in first place with a height of 2.44 meters, and on Thursday at East Newton, Corbin Rhoads finished in first with a height of 3.88 meters.

Cassville hosted its Cassville Wildcat Relays on Tuesday, with results not available at presstime. Full individual results from Clever and East Newton include:

**Boys Results**

**Clever Track Meet**

**2nd Place**

Ricky Norris, Javelin, 43.23m

**3rd Place**

Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 13.07m

Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.65m

**4th Place**

Tyler Rattigan, 110 Hurdles, 17.91

Cash Smith, Kamden Beebe, Corbin Rhoads, Mace Bredeson, 4x100 Relay, 46.38

Cash Smith, Colton Beebe, Dade Zajac, Mace Bredeson, 4x400 Relay, 3:46.77

**5th Place**

Jacob Hudson, 1600m, 5:08.42

Brextin Sprague, Triple Jump, 11.16m

Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 3.49m

**6th Place**

Kamden Beebe, 100m, 11.95

Carlos Barrientos, Long Jump, 5.49m

Jacob Hudson, Dade Zajac, Clay Williamson, Vincent Buttrum, 4x800 Relay, 9:47.05

**7th Place**

Mace Bredeson, 100m, 12.06

Dade Zajac, 800m, 2:13.81

Kamden Beebe, 200m, 24.26

Andon Goutney, Long Jump, 5.44m

Ricky Norris, Shot Put, 11.59m

**8th Place**

Vynnie Arguelles, Javelin, 38.35m

Carlos Barrientos, Triple Jump, 10.90m

**East Newton Track Meet**

**1st Place**

Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 3.88m

**2nd Place**

Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.73m

**3rd Place**

Tyler Rattigan, 110 Hurdles, 17.92

Dade Zajac, 800m, 2:29.74

Kamden Beebe, 200m, 23.81

Cash Smith, Dade Zajac, Colton Beebe, Mace Bredeson, 4x400 Relay, 3:41.03

**4th Place**

Jacob Hudson, 800m 2:11.10

Cash Smith, Kamden Beebe, Corbin Rhoads, Mace Bredeson, 4x100 Relay, 46.02

**5th Place**

Kamden Beebe, 100m, 12.08

Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 13.36m

**6th Place**

Tyler Rattigan, 300 Hurdles, 46.77

**Girls Results**

**Clever Track Meet**

**(10th as a team)**

**1st Place**

Hopelynn Thompson, Pole Vault, 2.44m

**3rd Place**

Shelby Knoeffler, Shot Put, 10.17m

**5th Place**

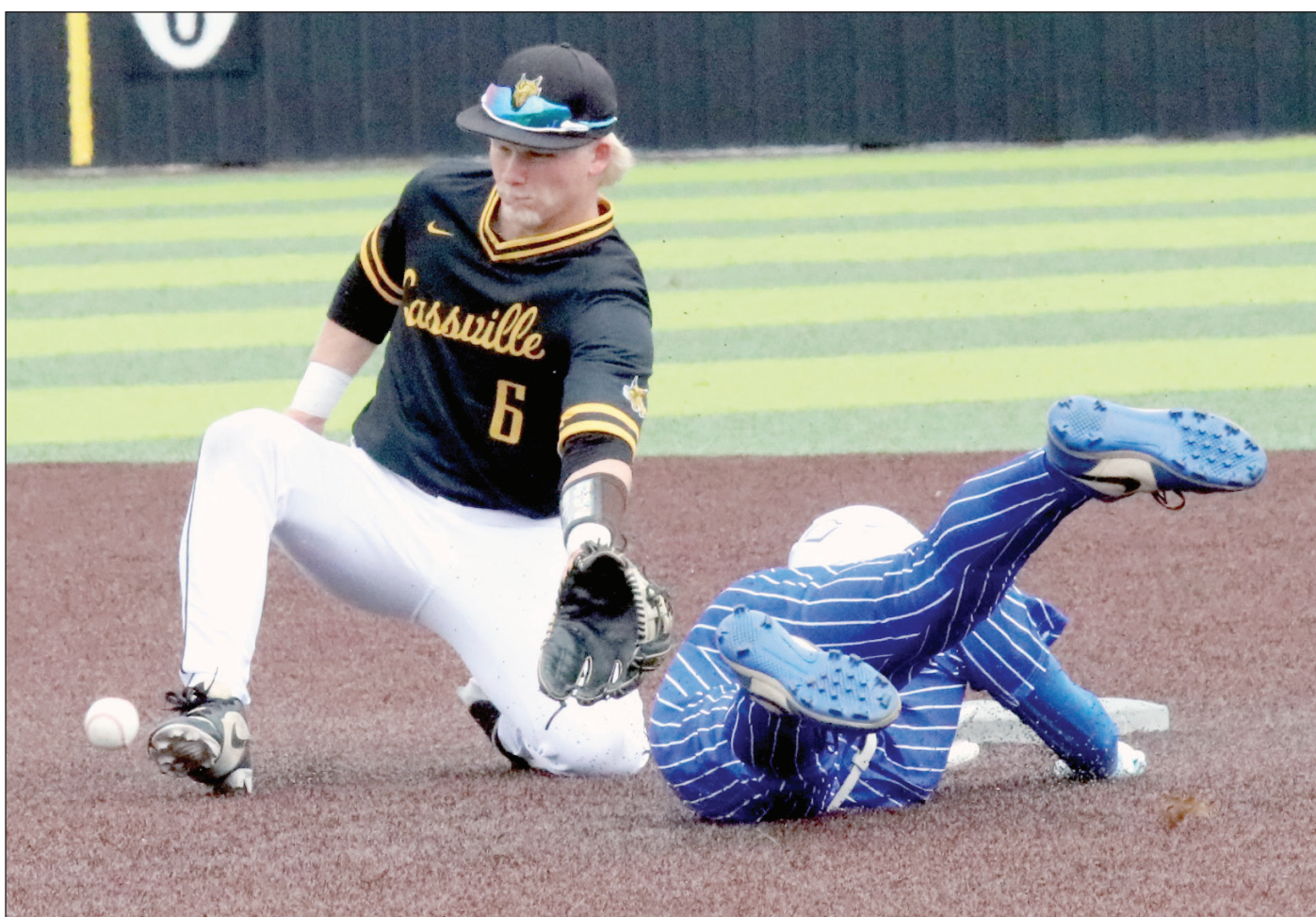
Shelby Knoeffler, Discus, 25.88m

**6th Place**

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, McKenzie Wall, Claire Reuter, 4x100 relay, 57.28

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

## 'CATS RESILIENT IN SECOND HALF OF SEASON



Cassville's Masin Bryan snags a ball at second in hopes of making the tag in a contest against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Cassville bags pair of Big 8 wins over Monett, Lamar

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The first half of the season has tested the Cassville baseball team, but recent results suggest the Wildcats are beginning to find their footing as conference and district play intensifies.

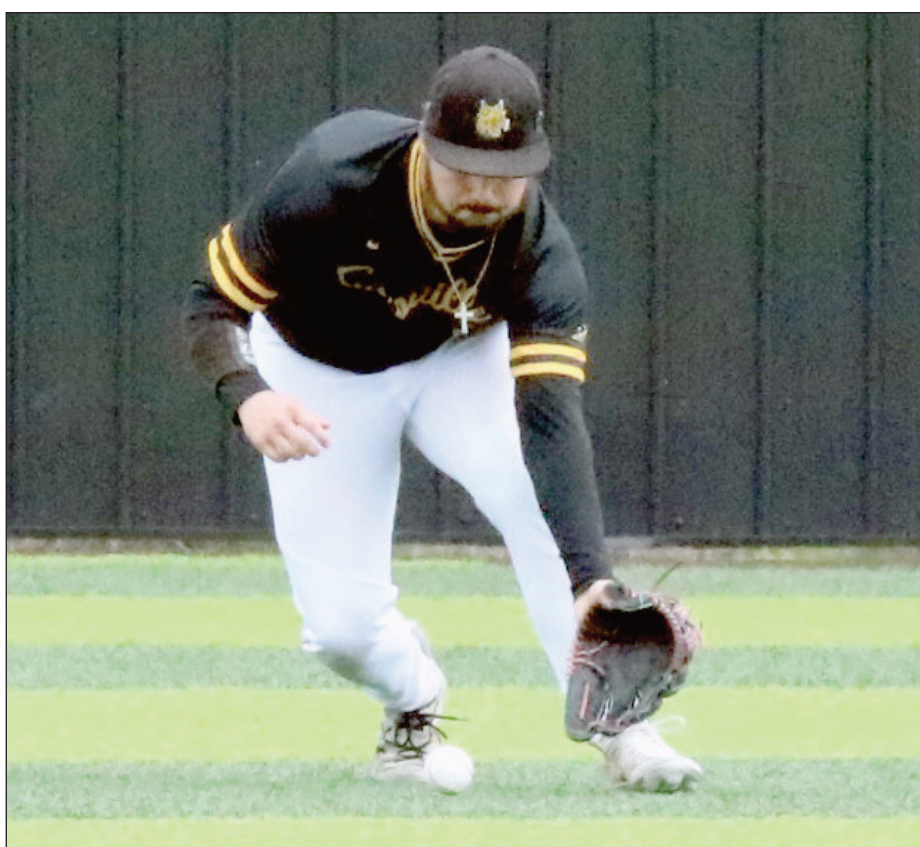
"I think first half of the year was tough because we had a lot of guys who hadn't really gotten the reps during the offseason in order to get their arms in shape and ready to go," said Simon Beeson, Cassville baseball coach. "We had a lot of basketball players that came out, and a lot of them saw varsity basketball time, so they didn't get a lot of time in the bullpen or get swings in the cage. A lot of it was just kind of trying to play catch up.

"But I think our kryptonite the first half of the year was just the ability to throw strikes. We were walking a lot of guys, had a few hit batters and kind of dug ourselves holes."

Cassville (6-12) has shown improvement in recent weeks, picking up key conference wins and playing competitive games against Big 8 and non-conference opponents alike.

"We've made quite the turnaround

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B



Cassville's Lucas Hudson brings in a ball in center field for Cassville in a contest against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



On April 6 at the Bordertown Relays in Seneca, Junior Lane Hendrix made a throw of 36.69 meters breaking the 2024 record of 35.80. Contributed photo



Sophomore Ashlyn Taylor made a throw of 25 meters. She broke the 2024 mark of 23.80 meters set by Juliauna Sierra. Contributed photo

## Both Southwest javelin records fall

### Hendrix, Taylor set new marks for track and field teams

In a span of three days, the Southwest High School boys and girls javelin records were broken.

On April 6 at the Bordertown Relays in Seneca, Junior Lane

Hendrix made a throw of 36.69 meters breaking the 2024 mark of 35.80.

"Lane had his eyes on this mark from the start of the season," said Steve Voyak, Southwest track coach. "He has diligently worked on his footwork and technique. I was worried when he scratched the previous throw because I thought it was the record but an official said he stepped over the line.

"And then, his next throw was even better and he got the record. This is a well-deserved honor."

Three days later at the Mountaineer Relays in Mount Vernon, Sophomore Ashlyn Taylor made a throw of 25 meters. She broke the 2024 mark of 23.80 meters set by Juliauna Sierra.

"This is amazing," Voyak said. "Ashlyn had the strength to make this throw but she

has been a little inconsistent. She was also working through some injuries. I thought she might have a chance by the conference meet in May but not this early.

"Her throws at Mount Vernon were impressive. She actually broke the record twice on her third and fourth throw."

Southwest competed at the Cassville Wildcat Relays on Tuesday. The next meet is set for May 1 at Republic.



### Track and Field

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

4/23	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

4/28	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

4/23	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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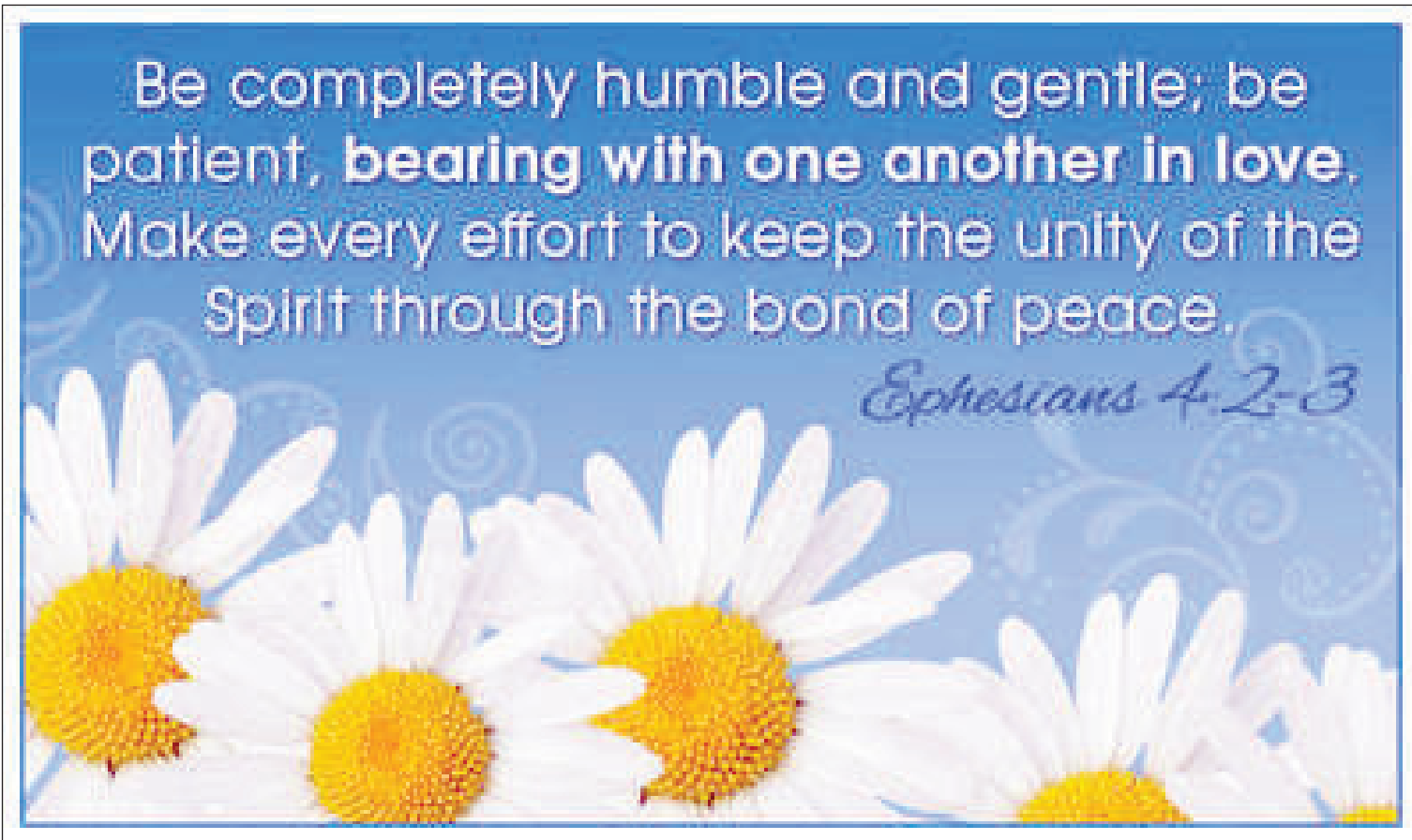
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# CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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## BIBLE VERSE:

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

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A, Wheaton                  652-3898  <b>WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton                  PO Box 175, 652-3186</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC</b>  <b>HOLY FAMILY PARISH</b>                  Hwy. 39-30, Shell Knob                  858-2518  <b>ST. EDWARD PARISH</b>                  107 17th St., Cassville                  847-4948</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>  <b>CASSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  404 State Hwy 248 Cassville, MO, 65625                  Normal worship time, 10 a.m.                  916-539-4708                  cassvillechurchofchrist.com  <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  Hwy. 90 E., Washburn                  826-5890  <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  39 Lake Rd., Shell Knob                  858-3839  <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  Goosetree Hwy. 86, Wheaton                  652-3873  <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  1104 Mill St., Cassville                  847-2374</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF GOD APOSTOLIC FAITH</b>  <b>GOLDEN CHURCH OF GOD</b></p>	<p>Hwy. 86, Golden                  271-3134  <b>SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP</b>                  Hwy. 112, Cassville                  846-6339</p> <p><b>EPISCOPAL</b>  <b>ST. THOMAS À BECKET</b>                  Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville                  846-2155</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN</b>  <b>COMMUNITY LUTHERAN</b>                  Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock                  271-4383  <b>PEACE LUTHERAN</b>                  N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob                  858-3900</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b>  <b>ALL FAITH UNITED METHODIST</b>                  Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock                  271-3737  <b>CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST</b>                  7th &amp; Gravel, Cassville                  847-2328  <b>UNITED METHODIST</b>                  Hwy. YY, Shell Knob                  858-6707  <b>WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST</b>                  Washburn                  Corner of 1st and North, Washburn  <b>WHEATON UNITED METHODIST</b>                  101 Santee St., Wheaton                  652-3858</p> <p><b>LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b>  <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b>                  Cassville Branch                  3426 County Farm Road                  Sunday, 10 a.m.                  417-986-3161</p> <p><b>NAZARENE</b>  <b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b>                  Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville                  417-619-1498</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL</b>  <b>LIGHTHOUSE PENTECOSTAL</b>                  Hwy. 86 &amp; P St., Eagle Rock                  271-4929</p>	<p><b>NEW LIFE TEMPLE</b>                  Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville                  847-3106  <b>GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP</b>                  Washburn Community Building                  479-366-2561  <b>NEW LIFE TABERNACLE</b>                  30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman                  662-0076</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b>  <b>TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN</b>                  Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob                  858-3902  <b>WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN</b>                  1 mi. S. of Monett                  235-3337</p> <p><b>OTHER</b>  <b>BELIEVERS FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b>                  1st. &amp; South St., Washburn                  826-5875  <b>BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER</b>                  1107 Farm Rd., Cassville                  847-4061  <b>CASSVILLE SDA</b>                  Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville                  847-3622  <b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>                  Wheaton, 417-652-3709  <b>COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL</b>                  13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville                  847-4643  <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b>                  Seligman, 662-3118  <b>EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock                  342-0516  <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b>                  Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob                  858-8200  <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b>                  Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville                  847-2460  <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b>                  Seligman, 662-3118  <b>LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob                  278-6674  <b>OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy                  442-3361  <b>REAL LIFE WORSHIP CENTER</b>                  709 W. 10th St., Cassville</p>
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# CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

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

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

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

**NOTICE**

WW Quarry LLC, 23565 Lawrence 1180, Verona, Missouri 65769, has applied for a Surface Mining Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Land Reclamation Program, to mine Limestone on 8 acres of land (Site #3023) located in Barry County, Section 26/Township 25 North/ Range 26 West.

This operation will be conducted during the approximate dates of May 17, 2026 to May 1, 2026.

Written comments or a request for an informal public meeting may be made by any person with a direct, personal interest in one or more of the factors that the Staff Director may consider in issuing a permit, as required by The Land Reclamation Act, sections 444.760 to 444.790 RSMo. Mail written comments, or a request for an informal public meeting to: Director, Land Reclamation Program, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. All comments and requests for a public meeting must be submitted in writing to the director's office no later than fifteen days following the final public notice publication date. For more information about this process, please contact the Land Reclamation Program by telephone at 573-751-4041.  
 1st insertion 04/22/26  
 15 Only

**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 name, business address and phone number is:  
 HARRY D SCHWARTZ,

PO BOX 276  
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,  
 417-847-2734

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

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

Date of the decedent's death:  
 06-DEC-2025  
 Craig Williams,  
 Circuit Clerk  
 by S. Parker,  
 Probate Clerk  
 Date of first publication:  
 April 1, 2026  
 Date of second publication:  
 April 8, 2026  
 Date of third publication:  
 April 15, 2026  
 Date of fourth publication:  
 April 22, 2026

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

## ESTATE AUCTION

### Monday, April 27, 2026 – 10 AM

**Location:** 4846 YY Shell Knob, Mo – From the shell knob plaza go south on hwy 39 3/10 of a mile, turn left on hwy yy go 4.7 miles to auction.

**Tools – Riding Mower – Furniture & Appliances – Fishing Gear – Misc**



**Tools:** Lincoln Electric SP-125 plus welder, welding helmet, 8-gallon 2hp. 125psi air compressor, Stihl MS 170 Chainsaw, 12" Band saw sander, Craftsman Router Table & Router, Delta Floor mdl. Drill Press, Delta 10" Contractors table saw, Craftsman color Matic 230 Amp Arc Welder, Portable air tank, Elect. Chainsaw, Misc. chain saws, Ramset Red head, Alton laser level, Craftsman roll around Tool chest, Ext. Cords, Portable toolboxes, pipe clamps, C Clamps & misc. clamps, Drill bits, hand saws, nuts, bolts, screws, nails etc., Sawhorses, misc. small hand tools such as screwdrivers, pliers, ratchets, sockets, hammers, wrenches, channel lock pliers, pry bars, tin shears, wood chisels, saw blades, grease guns, shop lights, etc., Nail guns, large vice, 8" Table top drill press, Bench Grinders, Heat gun, Portable tool boxes, Router bits, organizers, Dolly, Roll around stop bench, small roll around cart, Shop stool, Roll around cart, shop fan, small shop vac., misc. long handle tools, Jack stands, 25 Gal. 4hp air compressor, Dewalt 14" Cut off saw, 5500 Watt Generator, Air hose, small torpedo heater, shop vac., Roller stands, Stihl leaf blower, Stihl BR 700 back pack leaf blower, stepstool's, 6' step ladder, Green Works Pro 2.3 GPM 2300 psi pressure washer, 14"X40" Wood Lathe, 3 1/2 Ton Floor Jack, Trash pump, Weed burner, weed eater's, Delta chop saw on stand, sand blaster, Craftsman 16" saw, Torch set with cart, craftsman table saw, 1 section of scaffolding, Misc. chain, sprayers, oils & cleaners, wheel barrow, Rubber maid yard cart, Elect. Pole saw, cordless leaf blower, mini tiller, push mower, shredder, MTD Front tire tiller, Alum. Ext. Ladder. **Riding Mower:** Craftsman T 240, 46", 22hp Hydrostat riding mower. **Tiller:** Troy Bilt Colt FT Tiller. **Fishing Gear:** Rod & Reels, Tackle Boxes, Tackle, Fish nets, Fish basket, Misc. Hunting clothes. **Reloading Equipment:** Rifle & Pistol reloading equipment. **Furniture & Appliances:** Sofa with recliners on both ends, leather rocking recliner, TV stand, Dining table & chairs, small old hutch, glass top end table, table lamp, wicker chest, old water fall dresser, matching chest, King size bed (like new), Floor lamp, oak book case's, Rocking recliner, Dresser with mirror, Old Ratan rocking chair, Patio Table & chairs, Frigidaire chest freezer, small refrigerator. **Collectibles:** Old iron wheel, Antique Garden push plow, Decorative wheelbarrow, Jim Beam Decanters, old oil can's, old golf clubs, Alum. Coffee pot. **Misc:** Small plastic wagon, coolers, Turkey fryer, plant stand, wall hangings, old railroad ties, misc. concrete blocks, several metal building studs, old oil tank, bird bath, wood bench, BBQ, Crate AMP, Yamaha stereo receiver, Kenwood & KLH speakers, misc. plumbing & Elect. Supplies, assorted wire, life jackets, ground cover weed barrier, live traps, Christmas items, pressure cooker, many more items not listed>Note- In case of rain we can sell inside a large shop! Cater & Porta potty on site. Come spend the day with us at the lake. See you Monday April 27th, 10AM! **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidders' number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee applies. If paying with a check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the auction company bank. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Estate of: Jo Banks Daniels

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 www.stumpffauction.com  
**417-847-2507**

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

Auctioneer:  
 Parker Stumpff  
 AR State Champion  
 Auctioneer  
 #2352

## ESTATE AUCTION

### Saturday, May 2, 2026 – 10:00 AM

**Location:** Ridgley, MO. From Ridgley Assembly of God sign, turn left on FR 1027 and go 6/10 mile (Layton Hollow). Stay left on FR 2170. Auction on right.  
 (2777 FR 2170, Exeter Mo)

**REAL ESTATE, 65 ACRES TO BE OFFERED IN (2) TRACTS – SM 4X4 PICKUP – TRAILERS – IMPLEMENTS – ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES – FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – MISC**



**Real Estate:** Selling in (2) Tracts. **Tract #1:** Old 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fixer upper home. Living room, dining room, utility room, kitchen, front porch, metal roof & metal siding. Well and septic, old hog barn, old time wood barn and another old homeplace (very rough). All this on 20 acres m/l. 10-15 acres m/l in pasture, balance in timber. **Tract #2:** 45 acres m/l, wooded, great deer & turkey hunting. **Note:** This farm has been in the same family for over 100 years. Sure to be many surprises as we unpack the home and barns. Lots of primitives and oldies. We will offer both tracts of land separate, then all together. Great opportunity to own all or part of this farm. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to preregister to bid on the real estate. Catering & port a potty on site. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidder number. All terms on bidder 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. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Estate of: J.I. & Shirley Smith

**STUMPF'S**  
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**417-847-2507**

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

Auctioneer:  
 Parker Stumpff  
 AR State Champion  
 Auctioneer  
 #2352

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 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 CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION AT CASSVILLE**

In the Estate of:  
 CAROL A. GIRTH,  
 deceased  
 Estate No.

# CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B  
26BR-PR00043

**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 TROUGHBERS 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.

Jon Horner, Trustee Security Bank of Southwest Missouri  
Blake B. Fields, Attorney for Trustee Law Office of Blake B. Fields, LLC  
605 Main street,  
Cassville, MO 65625  
Please publish:  
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 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 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

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

## 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. **Boat:** 2017 Bennington FSX Tri toon with a 150 Yamaha motor (no trailer). **Golf Cart:** Old Club Car golf cart. **UTV:** Cub Cadet UTV. **Rods & Reels:** Speed Stick, Garcia & more. **Misc:** Dewalt chop saw – mech creeper – back pack sprayers – lawn chairs – misc tools – coolers – water tube – large animal cage – BBQ – old sled – yard seeder – misc long handle tools – handicap walker – old canoe – nice old hutch – misc furniture & other items – for sure will be surprises. **Note:** If you or someone you know is looking for Table Rock Lake property, here it is. Property like this doesn't come along very often. Same owner for 40 plus years. Lake front with a gentle walk down to the lake and the boat slips. We will sell (2) 10'x24' boat slips with the home. This is a 2 party private dock with only 4 slips and the buyer of the home will be getting both slips with the purchase. We can not stress this enough, Beautiful lake front walk down, very conveniently located, main body of the lake with view of the Shell Knob Bridge. This is a must see. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to get pre registered. Please read all terms and conditions. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidders number. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and app printed material. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

**Owner: Gay Taylor Moss**

**STUMPF'S**  
REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.  
www.stumpffauction.com  
**417-847-2507**

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

Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

## REAL ESTATE AUCTION

**Friday, May 8, 2026 — 1 PM**

**Location:** Golden, MO. Emerald Beach. From Hwy's 86 & J across from Shumaker Tire take Hwy J 1 mile. Stay left on Hwy J, go 2.6 miles. Turn right on FR 1220 go 2/10 mile turn left on Emerald Drive and go 1.6 mile. Turn right on East Mockingbird. Go 2/10 mile, turn left on Bald Eagle Dr. Auction on right. (22795 A Dr, Golden Mo).



**Real Estate:** Limited Table Rock Lake View! Nice, super clean, move in ready, lake home on 4 flat, clean, well maintained lots on the corner of Mockingbird & Bald Eagle Dr. Enter this home into a nice size living room open to the kitchen & dining area. The living room has lots of windows & gas fireplace. The kitchen features Whirlpool Refrigerator/Freezer (new), Built in dishwasher, Hot Point smooth top elec range & sm bar area. Also a outside entry door leading out the back yard and outbuildings. On the North end of the home is 2 bedrooms & a full bath & utility area. **Outside:** Nice big corner lot, storage shed with concrete floor with elect & wired for 220. Also a metal shop & limited Table Rock Lake View and only a short distance to the public boat launch. This home will be sold FURNISHED! **Note:** We are selling Real Estate only so be on time. Selling Real Estate promptly at 1:00 PM on Friday May 8th. 4 very nice flat lots and this would make a great lake getaway, downsizing or fantastic rental property. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to preregister to bid at auction. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

**Owner: Gerald Summers**

**STUMPF'S**  
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www.stumpffauction.com  
**417-847-2507**

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

Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

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

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

IN RE:  
Cade Coppage,  
single man Trustee's Sale:  
For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by

# LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B  
 Deed of Trust executed by Cade Coppage, single man dated June 24, 2024 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 24, Page 3021 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, May 19, 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:  
 THE WEST HALF OF LOT 20 AND ALL OF LOTS 21 AND 22, ALSO THAT PART OF AN ALLEY 10 FEET WIDE THAT LINES ON THE WEST SIDE OF LOT 22, ALL IN BLOCK 2, SMITH AND HAYES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CASSVILLE, BARRY COUNTY MISSOURI, AND HALF OF THE VACATED ALLEYS TOUCHING AND BORDERING ON SAID ABOVE DESCRIBED LOTS, ALL IN BLOCK 2, SMITH AND HAYES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CASSVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS

PER THE RECORDED PLAT 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: 232167.051926.467009 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 22, 2026 04/29/2026, 05/06/2026, 05/13/2026  
 1st insertion 04/22/26 15-18  
 -----  
**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
 In Re:  
 Dale K Roller and Julie A Roller  
 husband and wife  
 Under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Dale K Roller and Julie A Roller husband and wife dated 01/11/2005, and

recorded on 01/18/2005 Book 5 Page 409 in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, MISSOURI, the undersigned Successor Trustee, will on 05/18/2026 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:  
 THE FOLLOWING REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE WEST HALF OF THE

NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (W/2 NW/4 NE/4); THENCE EAST 220 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 250 FEET; THENCE WEST 220 FEET, THENCE NORTH 250 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING ALL BEING IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 23, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.  
 Eastplains Corporation  
 SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE  
 Published in the CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT  
 File #: ROLDASPS  
 First publication date 04/22/2026  
 1st insertion 04/22/26 15-18



Cassville's Jacob Hudson keeps pace in the 1600-meter run at the Monett Cub Relays this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Colton Beebe sprints to the finish in the 100-meter dash at the Monett Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Brynn Whittenburg, right, passes the baton to Abbi Yarnall in a relay at the Monett meet this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Track:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B  
 Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x400 relay, 5:01.65  
**8th place**  
 Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x200 relay, 2:05.06  
**East Newton Track Meet**  
**3rd place**  
 Shelby Knoefler, Shot Put, 10.31m  
**4th place**  
 Brynn Whittenburg, Claire Reuter, Molly Cox, Abbi Yarnall, 4x800 relay, 13:00.45  
 Hopelynn Thompson, Pole Vault, 2.31m  
**5th place**  
 Brynn Whittenburg, Claire Reuter, Kailyn Speer, Abbi Yarnall, 4x400 relay, 4:57.38  
 Shelby Knoefler, Discus, 31.53m

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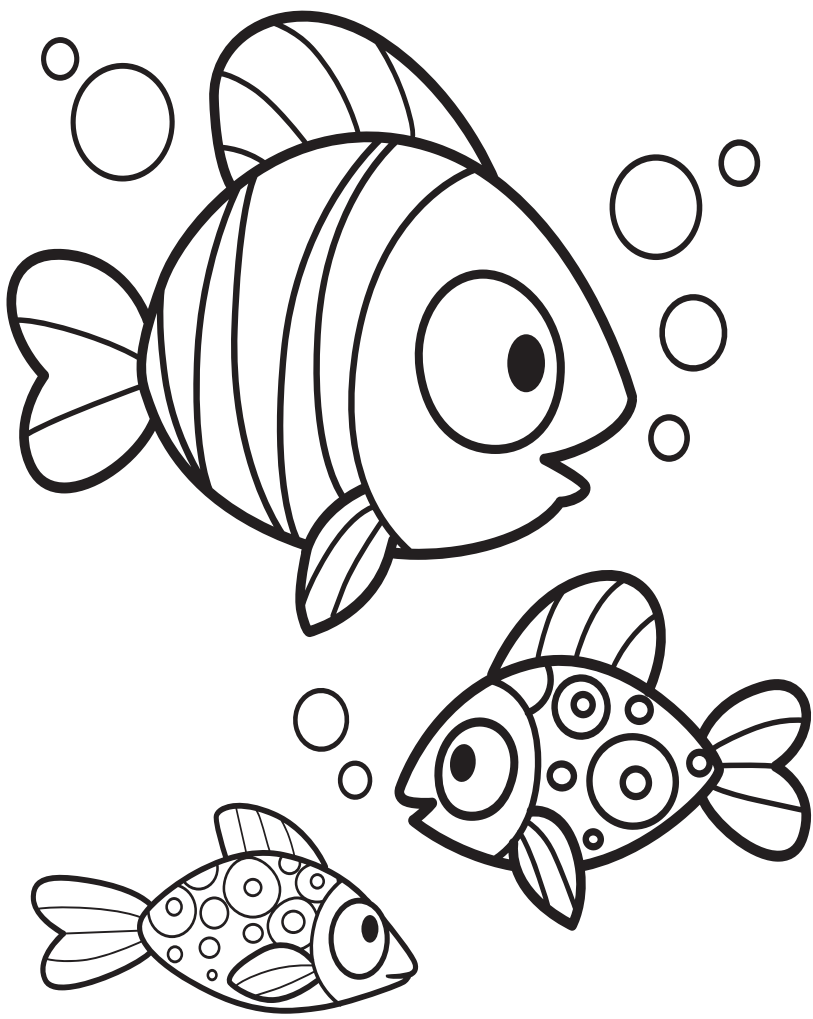
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**WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

Anabele Mills	Jaren Stearns
	
Corbin Rhoads	Abbi Yarnall
	



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# KIDS' COLUMNS

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## JUST kidding

**Q:** What's blue and has big ears?

**A:** An elephant at the North Pole!



## JUST kidding

**Q:** What is the tallest building in the world?

**A:** The library; it has the most stories.



## JUST kidding

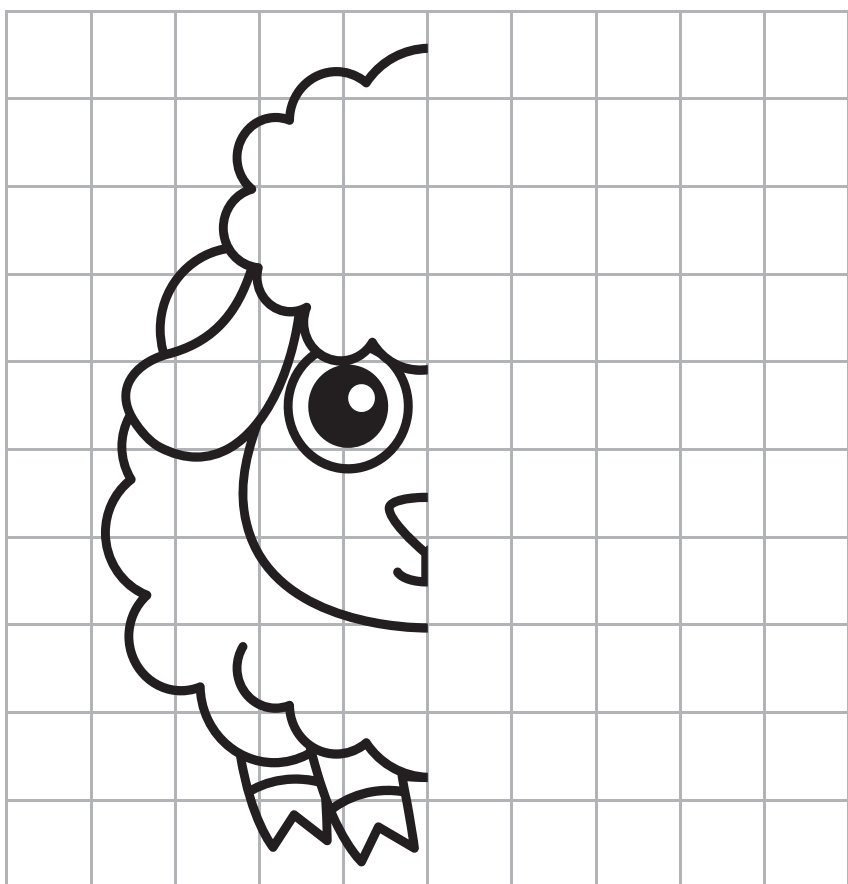
**Q:** What do you call a sleeping bull?

**A:** A bulldozer.



## MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



## Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 3 AND 8

## Sudoku 6 x 6

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

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 6, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:  
 - a number can only appear once per row  
 - a number can only appear once per column  
 - a number can only appear once in each box of 6 squares

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

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## Baseball: Cassville 2-1 in Big 8, 1-0 in district play this season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

recently," Beeson said. "We've been much more competitive. We beat a couple of conference opponents last week, Lamar and Monett, so those were a couple of big wins there. Outside of that, we've made some adjustments in the lineup. We've seen some guys take a lot better at-bats."

"We're finally starting to get small ball played and get bunts down, and we're making plays on defense now. Things have really cleared up for us, and we just have to keep building on the momentum that we've got."

Injuries also impacted Cassville early, particularly on the mound.

"We were dealing with some shoulder injuries at the beginning of the year with several guys that we kind of expected to eat quite a few innings," Beeson said. "They just had some shoulder injuries and weren't necessarily able to get on the mound, and that kind of hurt."

Despite those challenges, Cassville has remained competitive, including a pair of one-run losses at the Pleasant Hill tournament on Saturday.

"We lost both [game against Wellington-Napoleon and St. Michael the Archangel] by 1 run, but they were extremely competitive," Beeson said. "We're starting to get healthy, and things are looking up for us. We're playing some really competitive ball."

Cassville is also battling through a recent injury to a key contributor.

"Easton Hughes kind of pulled his groin on Thursday against Monett, so not having his bat in the leadoff spot kind of hurt us," Beeson said. "Not having him in the lineup kind of threw things off, but the guys have been fighting."

That resilience has stood out to Beeson as players continue to compete for roles.

"Guys that have not found themselves in the lineup as much as they want have been a good heartbeat for the team," he said. "Every time they get an opportunity, they're fighting and scrapping to the best of

their ability, and it's been fun to watch the turnaround this second half of the season."

The wins over Lamar and Monett highlighted Cassville's recent progress.

"It's always fun to beat Monett, and that hasn't happened very often in baseball," Beeson said. "I think that was only the second time we had beat Monett in the last 14 or 15 years."

"Tyler Matthew just went out there and absolutely dealt on the mound and was able to keep guys off balance with his off-speed. We made a lot of really good plays on defense, and it came down to the ability to throw strikes and not give them free outs."

Against Lamar, the Wildcats' offense set the tone.

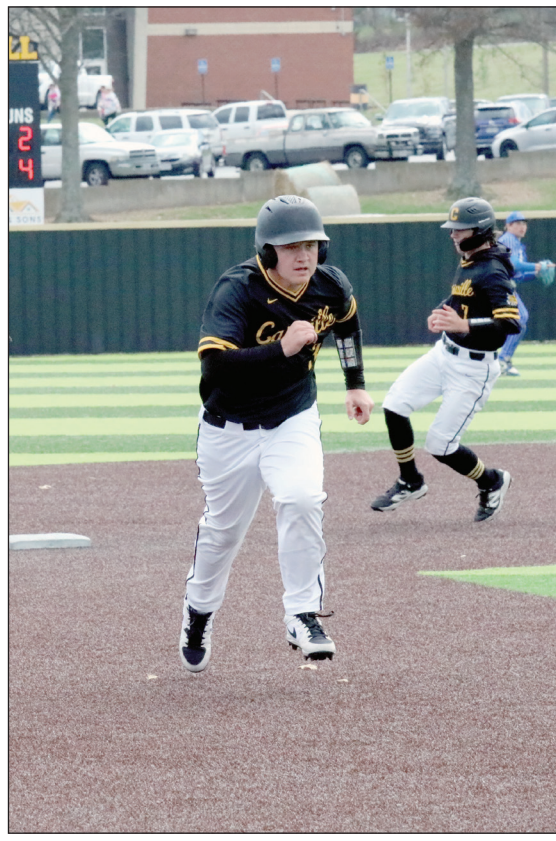
"As far as Lamar goes, we just came out and absolutely crushed the baseball," Beeson said. "We were hitting the ball all over the place and were aggressive on the base paths. Guys are really starting to get into a doubles mindset and are looking to take an extra base on any kind of bobble or misplay on defense. Any way that we can find ourselves taking an extra base, we're going to try to do it."

Even in losses, Beeson said the team's approach has been encouraging.

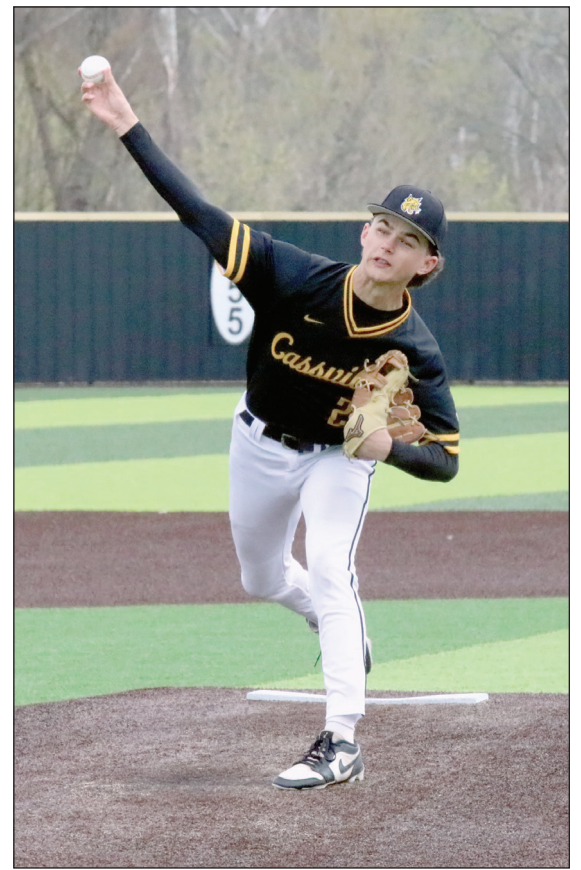
"The Pleasant Hill games were scrappy ballgames," he said. "It was back and forth all game long, and the biggest takeaway was our willingness to stay in there and keep fighting no matter what happened. No matter what the other team did or what kind of mistakes we made, we just kept fighting. We never gave up and were ready to get back up there and keep scrapping at the plate and find ways to win."

Beeson said that mindset extends beyond baseball.

"Sometimes it's not going to go your way, no matter how hard you fight," Beeson said. "But that's a life lesson — no matter what, you've got to get back up the next morning and do it all over again and keep fighting."



Cassville's Lawton England makes his way to third base as Bodie Hodge reaches second in a contest against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Jaren Stearns lets a pitch loose in a contest against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

In conference and district play, Cassville remains in contention.

"We are 2-1 in conference and 1-0 in district right now," Beeson said. "The bounce back that I've seen and the willingness to come back and keep fighting and get ourselves into close ballgames with opportunities to win has been the biggest takeaway for me."

"The guys have not gotten down on themselves. Their shoulders don't sink, and their chins don't fall into their chest. No matter what happens, they just keep bouncing back and trying to find ways to win."

Cassville faced East Newton on Tuesday, with the result not available at presstime and hosts Aurora Thursday. Beeson said the focus remains on maintaining momentum.

"We're just going to keep doing what we've been doing and building on the good momentum and good baseball that we've been playing," he

said. "Right now, conference is kind of up for grabs. I think everybody has at least one loss, so nobody's out of it yet."

Several players have stepped into larger roles this season, including a group of freshmen.

"We've had a couple of freshmen starting for us the last four or five games," Beeson said. "Spencer Drollinger, Kellen Weldy and Bodie Hodge have stepped up and taken some really good at-bats. They have good speed and are pretty good in the outfield defensively. They've really helped shore things up for us."

Veteran contributors and pitchers have also made an impact.

"Easton Hughes was always going to do what he does, and Masin Bryan has been pretty good overall and cleaned some things up at shortstop defensively," Beeson said. "Tyler Matthew and Jaren Stearns have kind of surprised me on the mound. They get up there

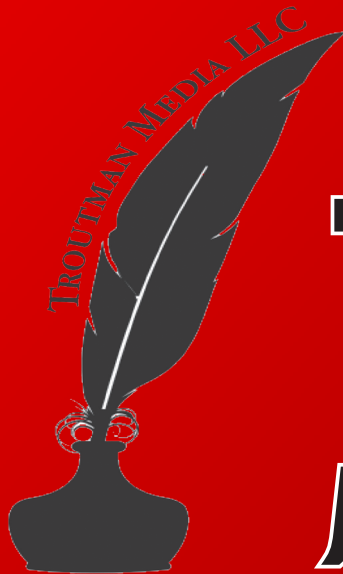
and throw strikes and force the other team to beat them."

Beeson also noted additional contributors.

"Grant Varner and Lawton England have done surprisingly well in the field on defense and have made it really hard for me to take their bats out of the lineup," Beeson said. "Logan Williams has turned things around on the mound and had a really good outing Saturday at Pleasant Hill."

As the season progresses, Beeson said the team's collective approach has been key.

"Overall, the entire team has really bought into a team concept," he said. "No matter what your role is, the most important thing is trying to help the team find ways to win. Whether you're running bases or called upon to lay a bunt down, they're really starting to buy into the concept of whatever your role is, find the best way that you can to help the team win. That should be what matters most."



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