



**CHICKEN TRUCK OVERTURNS IN SELIGMAN — PAGE 7A**

**<<< CHS POLE VAULT RECORD BROKEN**  
 Record dating back to 1986, 1996 falls at Cassville Relayd. — **1B**



# CASSVILLE Democrat

APRIL 29, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

## CASSVILLE SCHOOLS

**What:** Presentation by Cpl. Samuel Carpenter, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol  
**For:** To spread awareness of the nitazenes issue in the community  
**More:** Carpenter gives advice, details uses for Narcan, dangers of fentanyl

## MSHP gives drug presentation at high school

Positive result for nitazenes in wastewater leads to awareness campaign

**BY GWENDYLAN HARMON**  
 Cassville Democrat Intern

On April 20, Cpl. Sam Carpenter, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, gave a presentation to Cassville High School students aiming to spread awareness regarding the nitazenes crisis in the community, sharing information about the serious issues regarding drug use that could affect students and the broader community.

"I'm sure you've heard rumors; some people aren't sure if the rumors are true, so we are here to clear that up," Carpenter said.

Cassville High School, along with 36 others in the state, agreed to have their wastewater tested for nitazenes through the voluntary wastewater monitoring program.

"It got positive results, with various different substances," Carpenter said. "The reason I am here is to let you know these things are present in your community."

One of the drugs found in the wastewater was stronger than fentanyl, Carpenter said.

Carpenter explained he wasn't pointing fingers at the students because that was too easy.

"You are not the only people who use the high school building," he said. "Other schools from sporting events, parents, grandparents and grounds people all come into the school. My point is to let you know it is in your community."

When the water is tested, it is tested for blanket drugs.

"I can give you this information, but at the end of the day it's up to you to make the right decision," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said his job isn't to monitor the students' every move, but the decisions they make have direct consequences.

"I don't want you to do it in the first place, but if you do, stay where you are and don't get behind the wheel," he said.

Carpenter said his goal is to save lives. He told students if he shows up on a scene of an overdose, the suspect won't be immediately arrested or investigated because his main goal is to get them breathing again.

"If you do something and lay on your couch and watch all that you can watch and eat a bag of Cheetos, that's your choice," he said. "Great — you didn't get behind the wheel. It's the easiest

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## Motion for new murder trial

Attorney for Malone gives 7 reasons new trial should be held

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**  
 ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A motion has been filed for a new trial for an Exeter man found guilty of four felony counts, including first-degree murder, in an April 14-16 jury trial.

Aaron Malone, 24, of Exeter,

### MURDER TRIAL

**What:** Motion filed for new trial  
**Who:** Aaron Malone, 24, of Exeter, found guilty in April 14-16 jury trial of first-degree murder, abandonment of a corpse, tampering with physical evidence and armed criminal action  
**More:** Filing gives seven reasons new trial should be held

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 in November 2024.

Glenn Huggins, attorney for Malone, filed the motion for a new trial on April 17, detailing seven reasons a new trial should be held. They include:

1. The trial court erred in sustaining the State's Motions in Limine to which Counsel objected at trial. Defense was limited from going into the reputation and prior actions of the Victim, impacting the

Defense ability to establish provocation sufficient to create heated passions in a reasonable person capable of overcoming reason. These motions by the State restricted both evidence and argument by Defense to an extent that it violated the Defendant's rights to Due Process and Effective Assistance of Counsel under the 5th, 14th, and 6th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution respectively, as well as Sections 10 and 18(a) of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

## Cassville Prom stellar in Stella



Naveah Johnson, right, and Aubrey Stoufer dance to the "Cupid Shuffle" at Cassville Prom on Saturday at Stella Springs. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

### POETRY DAY

**Where:** Crowder Cassville  
**Event:** Brought together students, faculty, and guests for a celebration of creativity, expression, and community  
**More:** Students deliver poems at annual event

## Creativity, inspiration craved on Poetry Day

'The Moth' wins best work at annual Crowder Cassville event

**BY GWENDYLAN HARMON**  
 Cassville Democrat Intern

Crowder College's annual Poetry Day brought together students, faculty and guests for a celebration of creativity, expression and community.

The event, in its second year, aimed to create a welcoming space where writers shared personal work and listeners gathered to appreciate the power of poetry. During the event, students delivered performances of poetry, eager to share their voices.

In one moving moment, a female student read a poem written by another student from Neosho's Crowder campus about missing a loved one at church. The reading of the poetry piece carried a deeply personal emotions, even when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

## Purdy City Council approves website

Recycling program seeks support for efforts

**BY MURRAY BISHOFF**

Special to the Cassville Democrat  
 The Purdy City Council gave a green light to accepting a website for the city, its first, designed by the GO CAPS program in Monett, during its April 8 meeting.

Bill Whitman, teacher for the global business and entrepreneurship strand of GO CAPS at Monett High School, introduced Hunter Taylor, who has been working on a website for the city. Taylor brought up the site on his laptop, showing different pages and photos of the city, noting he plans to add more.

Council members, reacting to their first view of the site, responded enthusiastically. They agreed to accept the product. Whitman said the site could go live the next day,



Hunter Taylor, center, a junior at Wheaton High School and part of the global business and entrepreneurship strand of GO CAPS at Monett High School, showed members of the Purdy City Council the new website GO CAPS has designed for the city. The website, which offers features such as online utility bill payment options and a search of city ordinances by topic, went live on April 9. Seated, from rear left to front, were: council members William Hughes, Mayor Brian Bowers, Heather Van Note, and Kathy Davis. Murray Bischoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

when Whitman made a public demonstration with it. City leaders eagerly encouraged activating it. Much of the monthly meeting focused on the Purdy Recycling

Program. Gerry Wass, a retired teacher and founder of the initiative with the school district, is now in his 21st year with the undertaking. Wass, and student participant Dominic Kukovich, explained that the once-profitable Purdy operation now struggles, selling cardboard at \$15 a ton. The plastic market, he noted, has collapsed. Plastic now sells for 2 cents a pound or nothing. He explained it's now cheaper to bury plastics than to make an effort to reuse it.

Wass explained the Missouri House of Representatives has advanced a bill to dissolve all the solid waste management districts. The Purdy program has received many grants over the years from the Southwest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A



**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Summer school on tap in Cassville, including new CAN program**

The Cassville school district is gearing up for a summer full of learning at summer school. “Traditional Seated Summer School: Launch into Learning” will be May 18 to June 12, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., offered to incoming kindergarten to current eighth grade students. Breakfast and lunch is provided to each student free of charge. Students will have the opportunity to earn a gift card through the attendance incentive program. If the child misses zero hours of class, he or she will earn a \$100 gift card. If 1 hour to 1 day is missed, the student will earn a \$75 gift card. If 2 days are missed, the child will earn a \$50 gift card. Summer school students will enjoy weekly field trips and weekly pool days (pre-k students will have water play days on campus). First-grade students will complete the YMCA Water Safety Course. This course is a series of 8 lessons designed to teach students water safety skills that help reduce the risk of drowning and build their skills and confidence in and around the water. Through the guidance of YMCA instructors, students will develop a strong foundation of water safety knowledge. New this year is “Compass Academy Network” from May 18 to June 12, offered to students who have completed fifth, sixth and seventh grades on campus at the W.I.L.D. Academy at CMS. This is an enrichment program open to students in other districts, as well. There is no cost to participate in this program. Students will receive free breakfast, lunch and snack as well as a program T-shirt, binder, water bottle and pencil pouch with supplies. Transportation will also be available. The Cassville CAN program will be led by a team of educators and aspiring teacher mentors. Students will participate in engaging, hands-on enrichment activities each week, including: Creative writing and art; math and civics; decision-making and personal development; team-building and physical education; and a fun and educational field trip each Friday. Students enrolled in CAN are eligible for the district’s summer school attendance gift card incentive. Additionally, students who successfully complete the program will receive a \$45 Walmart gift card that can be used on school supplies. Spots are limited. Families that are interested in having their child considered for this program, must complete an online application. Students interested must have a GPA equivalent of 2.5 or higher and must have a recommendation from a current teacher, guidance counselor or administrator. More information may be found at: <https://www.csr4.org/summerschool>.

**Barry County Waste Warriors cleanup on Saturday**

The Barry County Waste Warriors will host a Litter Cleanup on Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Barry County Museum, located at 15858 Hwy. 76 in Cassville. Trash bags, long-arm grabbers and safety vests will be provided. Volunteers should wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

**Plant Exchange in Eagle Rock Saturday**

The Eagle Rock Community Association, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock, is hosting its 2nd Annual Plant Exchange on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. People should bring starts, cuttings or plants to exchange with other plant enthusiasts. There will also be a couple of vendors there for attendees to purchase a plant.

**City-Wide Yard Sales in Wheaton Saturday**

The city of Wheaton will host its City-Wide Yard Sales on Saturday. Maps will be available today (Wednesday) at the following locations: Wheaton City Hall, Wheaton Family Market, The Old Exchange Flea Market, and Wheaton Fastrip.

**Wheaton Road District to meet**

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

**Calling all Eagle Rock school alumni**

A reunion of all Eagle Rock School alumni is planned for Oct. 10, and organizers are seeking assistance. They are trying to find former students, regardless of how long they attended the school. Please contact Kelly at [ercanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ercanewsletter@gmail.com) with any names and contact information for Eagle Rock alumni.

**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 Saturday. 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.

**Blood drives in Purdy, Cassville this month**

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive at Arvest Bank, located at 503 Main St. in Cassville, today (Wednesday) 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

**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 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](http://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.



Gerry Wass, organizer of the Purdy Recycling Program, at left, spoke to Purdy City Council members about the dire state of the recycling market at present and an initiative to begin disassembling landfills for materials in the future. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

**Purdy: Recycling**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Missouri Solid Waste Management District, covering five counties. The Missouri Senate stopped the process on April 13 and sent a bill back to an interim committee for more review. The latest funding calls for cutting funding to all 22 solid waste districts by 10 percent. Tipping fees revenue going to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will be increased from 39 to 49 percent. Wass said money made on recycling is largely going to brokers.

“Whatever is meant to replace [the current system of grants to remediate the solid waste issue] should be demonstrably better,” Wass said. “DNR is not doing a good job. Our program exists because it was supported over the years.”

The Purdy program is now a cooperative, where participants are equal owners. Eagle Logistics in Purdy has agreed to donate a trailer rent-free for storing cardboard. The group is also now selling daffodils. Last year, recycling efforts raised only \$1,600. “We’re desperately trying to stay alive,” he stressed.

Wass explained that a real solution to solid waste is not burial, widely regarded as unsustainable. He said the real solution lies in reducing solid waste and landfill stockpiles back to the atomic level, using gasification to run a furnace at 3,000 degrees. Metals could be recaptured. Glass could become road base. Rare earth metals could be extracted from waste. Plastics could be made into a mixture of 10 different alcohols.

A pilot program to put theoretical recycling into reality would cost several million dollars to start, plus overcoming opposition by oil companies. Wass reported visiting with city and county leaders promoting this more permanent solution. He has heard wide support for building recycling back, even from Monett city leaders who don’t want to surrender their recycling program to market trends. He urged city leaders to support the local effort. Council member Heather Van Note said the city could put word on its website directing people on how they could support the undertaking.

In other business, the annual municipal election created no change in the city council. Heath Postlewait in the East Ward and Heather Van Note in the West Ward ran without opposition. No swear-

ing-in ceremony was held. Postlewait was absent.

Council members approved the municipal service agreement with Liberty Utilities, still doing business as Empire District Electric, for street lighting. Costs remained the same. The new agreement would run for two years and renew automatically every two years after that until the 10th year. The Liberty representative was absent due to an emergency. Seeing no changes, the council adopted the contract as requested.

Kevin Cook, public works foreman, received council approval for replacing the brackets on the mounting gasket for the main pump sending wastewater effluent to Monett for processing. Cook said the pump is not working efficiently, creating significant churning that is putting extra air into the system and sending water out the side. As a result, pumps are running 18 hours a day instead of 12 hours to clear the daily load. Cost for the brackets ran \$3,319.44. Cook was not sure if the brackets represented the full problem. He would not know until he could plug and drain the equipment to install the new parts. He expected correcting the problem could take up to three weeks.

Water efficiency ran at 76 percent for the month. Eli Webb had been hired into the public works department and showed promise three days into the job.

Police Chief Jackie Lowe reported a much quieter month in March. He had only two dog incidents to report. Two different suicidal cases required a response. Lowe also investigated an apparent fraud case where a woman’s son had been detained by ICE. She tried to hire an immigration attorney, ending up wiring more than \$7,000 to two states without receiving service. That case remains under investigation.

Council members approved Clerk Sasha Gomez’s request to attend a Missouri Rural Water Association meeting in Columbia on April 20 and 21.

Utilities clerk Teri Garrison attended the meeting in an effort to resolve how to handle utility deposits after 12 months. Attorney Toni Hendricks was detained, so without her, the discussion was postponed.

The next council meeting was set for May 13.

**CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT**  
 April 29, 2026  
 Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five  
 Number 16

(USPS092920)  
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 417-847-2610  
 Troutman Media LLC

**Annual Subscription Rate**  
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The *Cassville Democrat* corrects factual errors or clarifies information promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please email Publisher Kyle Troutman at [kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com).

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Cpl. Samuel Carpenter speaks to the Cassville High School student body about the dangers of drugs and alcohol after the school's wastewater tested positive for nizatzenes recently. Gwendylan Harmon/Cassville Democrat Intern

## MSHP: Narcan can save life from OD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ing and speeding. "You can get across town on an Uber for \$10, and the average charge for drunk driving is \$10,000. If you have someone that doesn't like drinking, drag [them] along with you."

Carpenter talked about gateway drugs and how every person handles addiction differently. For some, "booze" to have fun and relax is all that'll come of it, he said, but for others, those substances can lead to a life of addiction.

Carpenter told students that an amount of fentanyl that fits on the tip of a pencil was enough to kill everyone in that room. He said drug dealers will measure out fentanyl by pouring it into a mixture and thinking its evenly distributed, which is deadly.

Carpenter said items like vapes and carts can be laced. He said what can happen is fentanyl will be diluted with water and sprayed on the weed plant, which isn't safe, and sometimes the dealer will spray the same plant twice, which is even more dangerous.

Carpenter said the students' best bet in a situation of an overdose is Narcan, or Naloxone. Narcan is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses. It works by binding to the same receptors in the brain as opioids, effectively blocking their effects and restoring normal breathing.

It can be administered as a nasal spray or an injection, and it is widely used by emergency responders, healthcare providers and increasingly by members of the public. Carpenter asked how many people in the room carried Narcan on themselves regularly. Nobody raised their hand.

He said Narcan will not kill a person, and even if someone completely sober used it, it wouldn't have any effects besides feeling like something went up their nose, similar to milk. He said a person could lose their life even if someone else had Narcan, if they assumed it could cause more damage. Carpenter gave examples of what to look out for in an overdose, such as sluggishness, droopy eyes and being passed out.

Carpenter also talked about how people are using horse tranquilizers as recreational drug, which Narcan cannot reverse. "Horse tranquilizers are made to knock out a horse, not a human," he said.

Carpenter said fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that was originally developed for medical use, particularly for managing severe pain in patients such as those recovering from surgery or experiencing advanced cancer. It is significantly stronger than many other opioids, including morphine and heroin, which means that even very small amounts can have powerful effects on the body.

Because of its potency, fentanyl is carefully regulated in medical settings. However, illegally manufactured fentanyl has become a major concern in recent years, as it is often mixed with other drugs without the user's knowledge, Carpenter said.

Carpenter said one of the primary dangers of fentanyl is its impact on the respiratory system. Opioids like fentanyl bind to receptors in the brain that control pain and breathing. When taken in high doses, fentanyl can slow or completely stop a person's breathing, leading

to unconsciousness and potentially death.

This process can happen quickly, especially if a person has no tolerance to opioids or unknowingly consumes a substance containing fentanyl. Because it is so potent, the margin between a dose that produces a high and a dose that causes an overdose is very small.

Another factor that makes fentanyl particularly dangerous, Carpenter said, is its presence in counterfeit pills and other illegal substances. These pills are often made to look like prescription medications such as oxycodone or alprazolam, but they may contain unknown and inconsistent amounts of fentanyl. This unpredictability increases the risk of overdose, as individuals may believe they are taking a familiar medication when in reality they are consuming something much more potent.

Public health officials have noted that this issue has contributed to a rise in overdose cases across many communities in the United States.

Access to Narcan has expanded in many states, including Missouri, where it can often be obtained without a prescription at pharmacies or through community programs. Schools, public buildings and first responders may carry Narcan as part of their emergency preparedness efforts.

Quick administration of Narcan can be the difference between life and death, Carpenter said, but it is still important to call emergency services immediately, as the effects of Narcan may wear off before the opioids have fully left the body.

# Aurora man injured in motorcycle crash

Bike goes off roadway north of Eagle Rock

BY KYLE TROUTMAN  
ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

An Aurora man was injured in a wreck at

10:45 a.m. on Friday on Highway 86, five miles north of Eagle Rock.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 49-year-old Aurora man was driving a 1996 Yamaha motorcycle southbound when his vehicle ran off

the roadway and overturned, ejecting the driver.

The man suffered serious injuries and was flown to Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was wearing a safety device, and the motorcycle was totaled.

## Road commissioners sworn in



Road district commissioners in Barry County were sworn in on Thursday during a dinner and informational meeting held at the First Christian Church in Cassville. Contributed photo



A total of 36 Elementary Beta members represented Cassville Intermediate School and competed in various events at the Missouri Beta Convention. Cassville club members earned five first-place awards and eight top-five awards. Contributed photo

## Elementary Beta members compete at state

A total of 36 Elementary Beta members represented Cassville Intermediate School and competed in various events at the Missouri Beta Convention. Cassville club members earned five first-place awards and eight top-five awards. The following members received invitations to compete at the National Elementary Beta Convention in Nashville, Tenn., in June:

Academics:  
4th Grade Health and Physical Education — 4th place  
Lucian Bauman  
4th Grade Math — 1st place  
Alex Harris  
Performing Arts Solo,

Duo, Trio (Vocalist) — 5th place  
Stella Rose  
On-site Cake Decorating — 1st place  
Bristol Davis  
On-site Art (Drawing) — 2nd place  
Lily Lowe  
Visual Arts: Black and White Photograph — 2nd place  
Silas Buntin  
Color Photography — 3rd place  
Kaylie Clemons  
Jewelry — 4th place  
Ellie Ennis  
Hand-Drawn Anime — 2nd place  
Mick Fields  
Apparel Design Team — 1st place  
Wylee Bradley

Emma Privett  
Rya McIntyre  
Digital Portfolio team — 4th place  
Lakelynn Senters  
Lily Lowe  
Iris Messinger  
Emeryson Farris  
Marketing and Communications — 1st place  
Jace Kennedy  
Miles Arnold  
Braxton Decker  
Reef McIntyre  
Silas Buntin  
Robotics Team — 1st place  
Stella Rose  
Nellie Reed  
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Jemma Meltabarger  
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# COMMENTARY

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## AMERICAN INSIGHTS



KYLE TROUTMAN

### Storm season kicking up

Storm season is upon us once again. In the past couple days, wind and hail damage has been reported all around us in the Ozarks, and close to home for some Barry County residents. Five hours before I wrote this, heavy winds took a trees and power lines down east of Sarcoxie in Lawrence County. Hail from half an inch in diameter to two-and-a-half inches in diameter was also reported in multiple counties throughout the Ozarks. A 67-mile-per-hour wind gust took out several trees in Republic. Even closer to home, in the Barry County portion of Monett, 60- to 70-mile-per-hour wind gusts sent three trees into homes. Storm sirens were also sounding in Monett on Sunday night, a result of the storms that threatened Joplin, Webb City and Carthage. Some of us may still be leery after two years ago. The May 26, 2024 windstorm was the worst severe weather to hit Cassville in decades aside from flooding events in 2015 and 2016. So far this year, the latter seems less of a threat, in part thanks to creek clean-out efforts in channels across the city in recent years. As we weather this weather, the times of crisis are fleeting compared to the times of calm. Yet, it is in those fleeting moments the most important questions are posed — specifically, where are the area storm shelters? I've seen this question so many times on social media while sirens are sounding, so let's make 2026 the year of preparation. The first step to being prepared is simple: be informed. Cassville has two storm shelters, both on the Cassville school district campus. The FEMA Event Center across from Wildcat Stadium and the FEMA building at Cassville High School both unlock automatically only when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a tornado warning. The locks are not tied to storm sirens, which may be activated by Barry County Emergency Management for high winds or heavy thunderstorms, as well as tornado warnings. The building is also not open to the public during school hours, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Purdy school district has a FEMA shelter at the school district that doubles as a performing arts center, located at the corner of Highway C and Gabby Gibbons Drive. The Wheaton school district, located at 116 McCall St. in Wheaton, also has a FEMA structure on its campus. Both facilities, like Cassville's, open automatically with the issuance of a NWS tornado warning, and residents are allowed in and Wheaton's FEMA shelter during school hours. I was unable to verify by presstime if Purdy's is or not. In Washburn, First Baptist Church has a storm shelter accessible to residents. The Southwest school district pursued a FEMA storm shelter a few years ago, but rising costs to build the structure halted the project. In the event of a disaster, the district will open its gym for residents in need of shelter or American Red Cross assistance. Exeter does not have any available shelters. The school district has applied for FEMA grants but has yet to find success. Superintendent Tim Jordan said the district is still pursuing a facility and is on a waiting list. Monett has four total shelters: Monett Elementary School, at 601 Learning Lane; the old Monett Middle School at 9th and Cleveland streets; and at Monett High School (performing arts center), at 1650 E. Cleveland Ave. There is also a city-owned shelter at 603 County Road (Marshall Hill). All Monett's shelters open when the NWS issues a tornado warning. With the storms Tuesday, I was unable to determine if residents may use school shelters during school hours. If you need shelter from a storm, these are the best places to go. I would also be remiss if I did not add that entities who run those shelters ask that you follow the rules. One of the main ones is the most difficult — please leave your pets at home. Emotions are already high while sirens are sounding, fed by fear and uncertainty, and no one in that state wants to deal with dogs barking and fighting inside the secure facility. I speak from experience on this one, as we went to the FEMA Event Center a couple of years ago and two dogs started going after one another less than 10 feet away from my two daughters, one of whom was an infant at the time. Everyone loves their pets — we have two dogs, a cat and two snakes — but please consider others when seeking public shelter. As much as we don't want any animal-related issues, it's also difficult for my daughters to understand why others can bring their pets, but we don't bring ours. "They are breaking the rules," is about all I can say, and the girls don't find much comfort in that. Throughout this next month and during any storm season, keep an eye on the forecasts and plan ahead as best you can. Never drive into flood waters, and if a FEMA shelter is not an option, find the most interior location of your residence, away from windows, and hunker down. With some education and preparation, we can handle any aftermath together.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



# James Otis's fight

In February 1761, almost four months after George III's ascension, the first major controversy surrounding imperial policy gripped Boston politics.

That month, royal customs agents visited James Otis, a thirty-six-year-old, stout attorney who served as the province's advocate general. The agents sought Otis's support in enforcing writs of assistance, legal documents that empowered royal officials to search property for smuggled goods. Because these writs could be deployed without warning, express permission, or probable cause, Otis considered them a threat to private property. He abruptly resigned his commission.

The controversy reached its climax in the final weeks of February when Otis spoke before the Superior Court on behalf of merchants. Described as having "a clear, concise, and nervous manner," Otis could burst into fierce oratory if the occasion called for it, and that day did. "It appears to me the worst instrument of arbitrary power, the most destructive of English liberty and the fundamental principles of law, that ever was found in an English law book," he declared.

To Otis, the writs invited a tyranny that would swallow up English liberties. "It is a power that places the liberty of every man in the hands of every petty officer," he said. "Everyone with this writ may be a tyrant." They made agents unaccountable, allowing them to "reign secure" in their "petty tyranny" while spreading "terror" and "desolation" throughout the province. They endangered "the most essential branches of English liberty," Otis argued: "the freedom of one's house." Such fear, he assured the court, such "wanton exercise of this power is not a chimerical suggestion of a heated brain": "A man's house is his castle; and



DAKODA PETTIGREW

whilst he is quiet, he is as well guarded as a prince in his castle. This writ, if it should be declared legal, would totally annihilate this privilege."

Some people would use writs as a weapon. "What a scene does this open!" he exclaimed. "Every man, prompted by revenge, ill humor, or wantonness, to inspect the inside of his neighbor's house, may get a writ of assistance."

Aside from being intrinsically dangerous, Otis argued that the writs were unconstitutional. "No acts of parliament can establish such a writ.... An act against the constitution is void."

Twenty-six years old and self-described as looking like a "short, thick, fat Archbishop of Canterbury," John Adams took notes and beamed with awe and patriotism. "Otis was a flame of fire!" Adams recalled fifty years later. "Every man of an

immensely crowded audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take [up] arms against writs of assistance." The crowd, Adams recalled, "went away absolutely electrified."

Otis, in effect, was the first American colonist to denounce the authority of the British parliament over certain aspects of colonial affairs in so memorable a fashion.

The historian George Bancroft described Otis's fight as "the opening scene of the American Revolution," the first battleground of which took place in a courtroom. Otis's sister, Mercy Warren, wrote that Otis "was the first champion of American freedom."

Otis managed only to delay the inevitable. In November, the court unanimously upheld the legality of the writs.

Undeterred by the loss, Otis continued to fight. In the newspapers, he denounced the court's decision. "Every man in this province will be liable to be insulted by a petty officer, and threatened to have his house ransacked, unless he will comply with his unreasonable and impudent demands," he wrote. "Will anyone,

then, under such circumstances, ever again boast of British honor or British privilege?"

Otis's chief concern was the safety of English liberties. "These rights and securities, we have with other British subjects gloriously defended against foreign invasions," Otis encouraged, "and I hope in God we shall always have spirit enough to defend them against all other invasions."

Otis made a stand—one that had profound reverberations. "Then and there," Adams recalled, "the child Independence was born."

Three years later, amid further parliamentary concerns, Otis wrote, "The colonists are by the law of nature free born, as indeed all men are, white or black."

More than a defender of English rights, he was one of the earliest defenders of human rights..

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

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# THROUGH THE YEARS

## 50 years ago

May 5, 1976  
— REPORT SESSION AT CHAMBER BOARD MEETING

One of the best turn-outs of directors and visitors at the Chamber of Commerce board session Tuesday produced a good platform for discussion of various project reports, according to Joe Preddy, president. The session was held at JoNan's Smokehouse on the Roaring River Road, under the Chamber's policy of rotating meeting places between member restaurants. Following routine reports by Bill Ward, secretary, reports were received as follows: Dedication plans for Sunday, June 20 at the new municipal airport were covered by Max Fields, aviation chairman and Mayor Bill LeCompte. Combined efforts of the two agencies will formulate a program. Merchant and tourism reports on Mother's Day activities included a special weekend in local businesses and registration for free plants. At Roaring River State Park, trophies will be presented to ladies achieving top fish at the park Saturday and Sunday. Bob LeMon, co-chairman of the Bicentennial committee, reported that the Barry County Courthouse will be decorated with a bunting drape during this Monday and fireplugs in Cassville are scheduled for a red, white and blue painting. Chamber directors also re-opened for discussion an intersection problem in Cassville in the south part of town. The directors discussed complaints of congested traffic with city officials and among themselves. Preddy said the problem will be reviewed at a later date. The Chamber last year encouraged a Highway Department survey and design of possible changes that were scrapped following business objections from business interests in the area. Members attending: Joe Preddy, Dale Rowland, Evan Hutchens, Max Cooper, Wayne Tomblin, Carl Borresen, Steve Burch, Elvin Kime, Max Fields, Tom Cardin, Truman Baker, Bill Edmondson, Leon Sanders, Marvin Glatz, Bob LeMon, Bill LeCompte, George Ulmer, R.G. Fisher, Charles Thompson, Willard Burton, Virginia and Bill Ward. Guests attending were Wendy Thompson and Kathy Watley of the Busy Bee 4-H Club.

— FROST SMACKS GARDENS AND CROPS THROUGHOUT COUNTY

Temperatures that dipped to lows of 24 degrees on Monday and back down to 28 degrees Tuesday have produced a grower's nightmare for Barry County gardeners and fruit growers. Some vegetables were destroyed by the low temperatures and the already damaged peach crop was not helped by the situation. Apples, progressed far enough with unseasonable warm weather, were not further damaged according to reports. Field crops were in the same position, as growers were eyeing fescue and wheat to determine the full impact of the late season frost. Among the more senior observers there were memories of the thunder on February 5, that according to most Ozarks will produce a frost on a near date in May. "It did it this year and the gardens virtually fell over," voiced one veteran gardener and fruit grower. Richard Prewitt, area agronomy specialist with the University of Missouri extension service, said most offices in the 10 county area were adopting a "wait a few days to see if wheat heads develop to know for sure the actual damage."

Prewitt added the same waiting game might be necessary in other crops. Corn and beans in gardens were apparently the hardest hit by the dipping temperatures. Some simply plowed them under Tuesday morning after inspection trips. Another fruit crop important to countians were the grapes. Wayne Tomblin, one grower, said smudge-pots used to add warmth to the vineyards apparently staved off any killing damage. Most grapes in this area are under contract to Welch. Up-and-down temperatures also played havoc with tomato growers who had earlier suffered damage and in some cases replanted, only to have the second effort go down the drain this week. Overall, experts and beginners alike were scratching their heads in attempts to determine what Mother Nature had against them this year. Pre-season warmth throughout the early spring and freezes into the last of April have wrecked many plans. One of the most looked-forward-to crops of the area, strawberries, were apparently among those that escaped serious frost damage. Many plants observed in the area kept hundreds of blooms through Tuesday afternoon without showing signs of being burned. Kenneth Brown and Pat Bryant, ardent neighbor-competitor gardeners, observed it didn't matter much about covering rows during the two mornings of low temperatures. "Some areas that were covered appeared to have more damage than those left open," they observed. A cash crop in the county that could be drastically reduced is the "black gold" variety, or walnuts. Down Flat Creek, one observer said it appeared the leaves on walnut trees were killed by the unseasonable cold. Another plight of gardeners and farmers alike is the influx of starlings in this area. One Cassville gardener lamented the fact that the birds or nature seemed determined to cause him as much trouble as possible. Through all this there seems to be a lesson, "don't fool with Mother Nature, it doesn't pay." To this we might add, it's pretty certain the Ozarkeeze that produced the saying, "thunder in February, frost in May," can and does work.

## 40 years ago

May 7, 1986  
— GEORGE'S PROPOSES BUILDING \$10 MILLION POULTRY PLANT

George's, Inc., an Arkansas based poultry company, announced Tuesday it is "considering expanding its operation into Missouri by building a processing plant just outside of Cassville, Missouri. The plant would be capable of operating two shifts per day, and when so doing, would employ approximately 400 persons," said Gary George, president. Cost of construction is in excess of \$10 million to build and equip the plant. Location would be near the intersection of Highway 37 and Route W in the Butterfield community. George's, of Springdale, Arkansas, has been in business since the 1920's, has options on land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Odie Holder and Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Yarnall. Cassville mayor Rolland Meador and Cherry Warren, chairman of the Barry County Industrial Development Authority, assisted with the location process, which includes 120 acres from the Yarnalls and 244 acres from the Holders. Meador was in Washington, D.C. the first of this week with officials from the firm, making applications for



**30 YEARS AGO: STORMY WEATHER** — One of the largest casualties of Sunday's storm was the destruction of a bridge over Flat Creek at Stubblefield Crossing. High winds blew a massive oak tree onto the bridge, knocking it down into the creek and demolishing it. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren stated he did not know when funds could be secured to replace the bridge. Democrat file photo

approximately \$800,000 in Housing and Urban Development Action Grant funds that would be loaned through the city of Cassville. In this connection, the County IDA will issue Industrial Revenue Bonds for additional funds "up to \$15 million," according to board member notices mailed this week by authority attorney Joe R. Ellis. Both the IDA and Cassville city council will be in session May 21 to consider the project, conduct required public hearings and conclude the transaction. Warren and Meador had previously stated the George's firm has made their own financial arrangements on the project. In the process since George's first contacted Cassville city and Industrial Development Corporation officials in January, the project has been reviewed by a number of authorities including the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Scheduled for production, the new plant when completed in 1988, will have a two-line process, capable of handling 100 birds per minute, or 6,000 per hour. George's, who presently operate a mill and processing plant in Springdale, said additional economic factors would come to Missouri and Barry County with their project. This is the first project outside the Springdale, Arkansas area for the company, a major factor in the poultry industry of Northwest Arkansas. In addition to the processing plant and associated facilities, George's will also be contracting with local farmers to raise chickens to be processed in the plant on a contract basis. George's estimates that up to 230 family farmers may be involved in raising chickens and related breeder operations for the Cassville plant. Making the initial announcement of the company plans, George said officials of both the city of Cassville, the IDC and the county IDA had been extremely helpful in their location selection process. He said as plans develop in the future, additional announcements would be released. The George's firm, a wholly owned family corporation, is the second Arkansas firm to move heavily into this area for poultry industry purposes. Five years ago Hudson, Inc. built a \$3 million mill development also in the Butterfield area. In fact, the Hudson property is approximately one-quarter mile across country east of the George's location. Hudson has in later years developed extensive turkey growout areas in the county. Both company and contract houses are spotted around the countryside. George's initial announcement leans heavily on the possibility of chicken growing

potential for individuals and firms in the area.

## 30 years ago

May 1, 1996  
— HIGH VELOCITY WINDS WHIPPED THROUGH BARRY COUNTY SUNDAY SCATTERED DAMAGE REPORTED THROUGHOUT SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Barry County residents were awakened early Sunday morning by high winds and severe thunderstorms that caused widespread yet scattered damage throughout the area. Trailers were overturned, trees were downed, barns were toppled and shingles were ripped from rooftops. Based on reports from emergency workers and eyewitnesses, damage was spotty. More extensive damage reports have surfaced from Exeter, Ridgeley and other areas south of Cassville. Wheelerville, Clever and Billings were also hit hard by the storms. One of the largest casualties caused by Sunday's foul weather was the destruction of a bridge over Flat Creek at Stubblefield Crossing. The steel bridge was demolished when winds blew a large oak tree onto the bridge, knocking it down into the creek. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said the bridge will have to be completely replaced, a task that will not be initiated for at least a year. Replacing the bridge will be costly, Warren added. He estimates that it will cost the county a minimum of \$300,000 to replace the bridge. If the county is declared a disaster area, the new bridge could be paid for through FEMA funds. Warren said that scenario is "unlikely." He said McDonald Road District did not have the money to pay for a new bridge. It would also be hard for the county to cover the cost through its emergency road and bridge fund, Warren said. Many

who monitored the storm Sunday morning said it did not appear to be a tornado. John Starchman, Cassville resident, said he has been through several tornadoes, and Sunday's storm was something different. "I listened to the roar for about 20 minutes before the tornado warning sounded," Starchman said. "I never heard wind sound quite like it did Sunday." He estimated that the winds rose to the 90-mile-an-hour range at different times during the storm. A survey of area insurance agencies revealed that approximately 180 claims have been filed since Sunday. The majority of claims were for minor damage inflicted on roofs, outbuildings, fences and mobile homes. There were reports of at least six barns in the area that were destroyed, and several mobile homes that were overturned or lifted off their foundations. Seven people were treated at South Barry County Hospital in Cassville Sunday morning for minor to moderate injuries suffered when mobile homes on Bittersweet Lane overturned. No other injuries were reported. Power outages related to the storm were reported in Exeter, Wheaton, Jenkins and scattered areas in rural Cassville. Barry Electric crews worked from 6 a.m. to midnight on Sunday, repairing downed lines and restoring service to about 1,800 customers who were without electricity. Charlie Jackson, assistant director of the Barry County Emergency Management Agency, said there were never any confirmed sightings of funnel clouds. He said the storm hit the area quickly without warning. Jackson added that the fast moving storm appeared to have caused scattered damage. The only definite path he could deter-

mine the storm took was from Ridgeley through Exeter and then to the Bittersweet Lane area south of Cassville. "A lot of times in these situations you have very strong winds in a small area," Jackson said. "Damage can be caused by sharp downbursts of wind." According to Jackson, local police officers, firefighters, HAM radio operators and the Red Cross reacted quickly to the severe weather. "Everyone did a fantastic job."

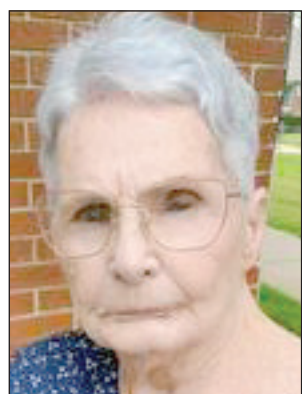
— TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD-ED TO HENNINGSON

Becky Henningson was named Teacher of the Year by the Cassville Community Teachers Association at its 1996 banquet April 25. Henningson was presented the prestigious award by Sue Crain, the 1995 recipient. Charla Bruton, elementary art teacher, was given the Young Educator's Award by Principal Martha Dunnam. Wayne Betts, Verlee Roark, Larry Quinalty and Ronnie Rose were inducted into the Quarter-Century Club, which was established this year to honor those teachers who have taught at Cassville for 25 years or more. CCTA President Becky Henningson presented the Friend of Education award to the Cassville Democrat, Barry County Advertiser and retiring Senator Emory Melton for their dedication to Cassville students and their education. John Sullivan, board president awarded Rachael Sheats with the annual board scholarship for continuing education. Also recognized for outstanding service were secretaries Edna Meryl Painter, Pat Allison and Carolyn Bowen. School nurse Joana Smithson was given a special award and a standing ovation for 31 years of service.

## Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

We are excited to introduce Burton, a handsome new addition to the Haven family. Burton is a relaxed, 80-pound boy who loves being around people and receiving affection. He is very submissive and gets along well with cats, children and other dogs. His estimated date of birth is Nov. 13, 2024. 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





**PATRICIA ANN GIFFORD**

Patricia Ann Gifford was born May 19, 1944, in Piggott, Arkansas to Mattie (Cullum) Brown and Doyne A. Brown.

She died peacefully in her sleep at home March 4, 2026, following a long illness. Pat was preceded in death by her parents, infant son, Wade Allen Bailey, son David Gifford, grandson Derek Coleman and brother William R. Brown.

She is survived by her daughter, Grace Bullions of San Diego, California, daughter Cheryl Burke (Rob) of Joplin, Missouri, son Boyd (Mary) Gifford of Fredonia, New York, brother Doyne (Karen) Oneal Brown of Bella Vista, Arkansas and sister Donna Creel of Cassville, Missouri, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

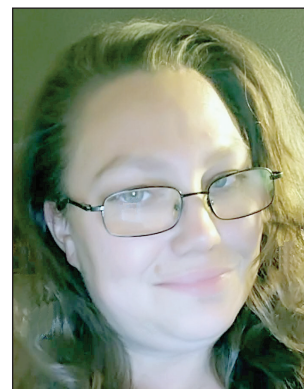
Pat moved to Missouri

from California in 1993. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Cassville. She faced many physical challenges in life and met them with courage and a fierce desire to live independently.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date; Interment will be at Corinth Cemetery.

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

**PAID OBITUARY**



**APRIL NICOLE JONES**

April Nicole Jones, 41, of Exeter, Mo. passed away Friday, April 10, 2026.

She was born August 13, 1984 in Blountstown, Fla., the daughter of James "Rabbit" and Gail Elizabeth (Desrosiers) Peters and Jim and Julie Hewitt.

Preceding her in death

was her mother, Gail Elizabeth Robinson; parents, Jim and Julie Hewitt and stepson, Kenneth Jones, II.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth Jones; her father, James "Rabbit" Peters; sons, David Jones of Exeter, Mo. and Ryan Kubowicz of Colo.; daughters, Ruth Jones of Exeter, Mo. and Tabitha Hall and husband Caleb of Kerrville, Texas; brothers, Alan of Blountstown, Fla., Jamie Peters of Blountstown, Fla., and Joshua Peters of Rockport, Texas, Tina Whitehurst of Clarksville, Fla., Alisha Peters of Fla. and Layonni Keys of Houston, Texas, and four step grandchildren.

She was raised and attended school in Blountstown, Fla., and later made her home in the Exeter area for the past 17 years after moving from Texas. She worked for several years as a security guard. She was of the Christian faith.

A celebration of life will be held at 12:00 P.M. Saturday, May 2, 2026 at American Legion Post 118 Memorial Park in Cassville, Mo.. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the service. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

was a poet of folk songs. He loved to play his guitar and sing his songs.

In 1974, they had the first of their 4 children, Heather. Sara was born in 1976. Jill came along in 1977. Then came Jesse in 1984 to complete their family. Bill and Mona spent their early years raising their 4 kids and instilling the value of family love into each of them. He was the best dad who never failed to make time for each of his kids and to tell them how proud he was and how much he loved them. Even in the long days of farm life, he made sure to make time for the family at night. It wasn't often he missed dinner with his family as ending the evening together was a priority. He also instilled the value of hard work (his famous words were "Work hard, play hard"), his love of God, his passion for family and his ability to have a good time in all of his kids. He was the best man who could "learn you a thing or two about a thing or two."

In 2002, Bill and Mona started on a new adventure when their first grandchild was born. Over the next 11 years, they welcomed an additional 9 grandkids to the mix. Being a Papa was one of Bill's greatest joys in life, and those kids all adored their Papa. One of the favorite memories the grandkids talk about is Papa's love of storytelling. He spent a lot of time over the last few years watching the grandkids in their activities or fishing and hunting with them. His favorite gift from them was when they came up with his favorite song, "Nanny and Papa."

Preceding him in death were his parents, Robert Paulsen and Mary Lou (Munsell) Mathias; his stepdad, Bob Mathias; his in-laws, Albert and Helen (Galloway) Samsel; his brothers-in-law, Larry Samsel and Ron Samsel; his special uncle, Bill Munsell, and a very special bonus kid, Jessica Ryan.

Surviving are his loving wife of 54 years, Mona; his sister, Marie (Jim) Stierle; his daughters, Heather (Clifty) Vanzandt, Sara (Adam) Burch, Jill (Jesse) Bray and his son, Jesse (Amber) Paulsen; his 10 grandkids, Maddie Vanzandt, Myers Burch, Lucas Paulsen, Brendyn Paulsen, Jaxon Burch, BreeAhna Paulsen, Clancy Vanzandt, Rosabelle Burch, DeShon Bray and Gunner Paulsen; his bonus grandkids, Ally Ribar, Lyric Bernard, Brooklynn Slye and Caydince Deere; his first great-grandkid, Lennox (Lenny) Paulsen. Other survivors include his special aunt, Donna Munsell, brother-in-law, John Samsel, sisters-in-law, Linda Samsel and Suzy Samsel, several cousins, and lots of nieces and nephews he adored. He is also survived by many friends, especially James Rose and his cattle buddies.

In addition to his kids and grandkids, he was also a bonus dad and Papa to so many over the years. He was a man who led with love and had a

way of making everyone feel special and loved. He gave the best hugs, had an infectious smile, a laugh like no other and an open door for all.

Although he will be missed, his legacy of love will be carried on forever.

A celebration of life will be held at 7:00 P.M. Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Ron Black will conduct the service.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jessica Ryan Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill.

**PAID OBITUARY**

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

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**GAIL ELIZABETH ROBINSON**

Gail Elizabeth Robinson, 65, of Shell Knob, Mo. passed away Friday, April 10, 2026.

She was born October 30, 1960 in San Jose, Calif., the daughter of Richard Raymond Desrosiers, Sr. and Ollie Sue (Smith) Desrosiers.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Bernard Robinson; her mother, Ollie Sue Desrosiers and daughter, April Jones.

Survivors include her father, Richard Desrosiers, Sr.; daughters, Carrie Polanco of Woodsboro, Texas, Tina Whitehurst of Fla., and Layonni Keys of Houston, Texas; siblings, Richard "Rick" Desrosiers, Jr., Rachel Hoyt of Calif., Christina Desrosiers of Calif., Luther "Aaron" Flowers and wife Claudia of Conway, Ark., William Flowers and husband Jim Evans of Houston, Texas, Leonard Harold Flowers of Dallas, Texas, and Rebecca Cassidy of San Jose, Calif., and her grandchildren.

She attended school in Blountstown, Fla., where she graduated from Blountstown High School. She later continued her education and earned her certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant, a role she served in for several years with care and compassion.

She was of the Christian faith.

A celebration of life will be held at 12:00 P.M. Saturday, May 2, 2026 at American Legion Post 118 Memorial Park in Cassville, Mo. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the service. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral

Home in Cassville.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
Cassville, Missouri  
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**ROBERT C. SCOTT JR. (UNCLE BOB)**

Robert C. Scott Jr. (Uncle Bob), was born in Austin, Texas in 1952 to Robert C. Scott Sr and Meta Schmidt. He passed away on April 21, 2026.

Survivors include his sister, Beverly Wardlaw; two nephews; three niece-in-laws; three great nieces; three great nephews, and lifelong dear friend and military comrade of 53 years Gregory K Flowers and his wife Brenda. He is also survived by his big, orange cat, Tater.

He joined the Navy where he served six years from 1972 to 1978 mostly aboard the aircraft carrier, the USS Constellation. He spent more than four years in the Navy at sea aboard the USS Constellation (CV-64), where he served as Ships Inertial Navigation Work Center Supervisor. This role reflected his exceptional technical ability, quiet leadership, and steadfast dedication to duty. His military service earned him the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Award. He was also proud to have been initiated as a "Shellback" after crossing the Equator and welcomed into the "Domain of the Golden Dragon" after crossing the 180th meridian.

He was an active member of Madeira Beach American Legion Post 273. After leaving the Navy, he built a career rooted in technical expertise and service to others. He worked for several years as a software trainer for medical systems and later spent six years with Bendix Field Engineering Corporation as a Navigation Aids Technician in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, supporting the Presidency of Civil Aviation.

He moved to McDonald County where he proudly proclaimed the title of his new estate, Uncle Bob's Do-Nothing Ranch.

Arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory. Honoring his final wish, he will be buried at sea.

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**LONNIE GLEN WELLS**

Lonnie Glen Wells was born on October 27, 1930, he passed away Sunday, April 19, 2026.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel Wells; children, Glen Wells and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

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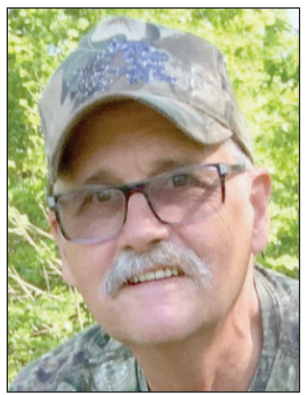
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**WILLIAM ROBERT "BILL" PAULSEN**

William Robert "Bill" Paulsen, 73, of Washburn, Missouri, passed away on Friday, April 17, 2026 at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on September 22, 1952 in Worthington, Minnesota, the son of Robert Paulsen and Mary Lou (Munsell) Paulsen.

In the summer of 1970, he moved to Pea Ridge, Arkansas with his family to attend the University of Arkansas. He met the love of his life, Mona, in 1971 and married on January 2, 1972 in Aurora, Missouri. In 1973, they moved to Washburn, Missouri where they resided for the next 53 years of their marriage on the farm they loved. Bill was an avid cattleman and caretaker of all livestock. He had a love for horses and music and



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Robert Scott Jr. • Exeter • Dec. 29, 1952–April 21, 2026  
Charles Pettif • Rocky Comfort • June 20, 1945–April 22, 2026  
Elizabeth Pettif • Cassville • Feb. 15, 1971–April 26, 2026

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To view obituaries, go to [www.whitefuneralhome.org](http://www.whitefuneralhome.org)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A  
 wife Shelley, Jess Wells and wife Karen, and LaDonna Johnson; 10 grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; many extended family members, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles,

cousins, close friends, and really great neighbors. Preceding him in death were his daughter, Kathryn Wells; son, Johnny Wells, and grandson, Troy Michael Wells. He spent many years working at the Holly Sugar Factory.

The land he worked was not just his livelihood, but his proving ground for teaching responsibility. Services were held Thursday, April 23, 2026 at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Minister Richard Anderson conducted the

services. Burial was at Rocky Comfort Cemetery in Rocky Comfort, Mo.

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## Barry County Health Corner



### Detailing the Environmental Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Barber becomes 1st CHS student to complete tech apprenticeship



Bentley Barber is the first Cassville High School student to complete the Registered Youth Apprenticeship program through the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship. Serving as a Technology Intern (IT Generalist), Bentley completed 2,000 hours of on-the-job training along with required coursework. During his apprenticeship, he supported students and staff by responding to tech support tickets and assisting with networking and technology needs. He will continue working part-time with the district while pursuing his bachelor's degree in general IT. He is a 2024 graduate of CHS. From left: Cassville Superintendent Merlyn Johnson; Erick Fuchs; Barber; Betty Glasgow, Agency for Teaching and Learning; CHS Principal Tyler Willis; and Cassville Assistant Superintendent Traci Mitchell. Contributed photo



A 2025 Peterbilt hauling chickens ran off Highway 37 and overturned at the city limits of Seligman on April 20. Contributed photo

## Chicken truck overturns in Seligman

Driver sustains minor injuries in wreck

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**

[ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com)

A Monett man was injured in a wreck at 7:04 a.m. on April 20 on

Highway 37, at the city limits of Seligman.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 62-year-old Monett man was driving a 2025 Peterbilt northbound, hauling chickens, when his vehicle traveled

off the right side of the roadway and overturned.

The driver suffered minor injuries and was transported to Mercy Cassville Hospital.

He was wearing a safety device, and the vehicle was totaled.



From left: Quin Roberts, Poetry Day winner; Cassville Mayor Jon Horner; Dr Roger Powell; Dakota Sulfridge; Amy Martinez; and Jessi Hilton pose for a photo at the second annual Poetry Day at Crowder Cassville. Contributed photo

## Poetry: Winner participated for first time

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

shared through someone else's voice which moved the room.

Other participants also took turns reading works by peers they had never met before, showing how poetry can connect people through shared interpretation.

One of the day's stand-out moments came from student poetry winner Quin Roberts, whose piece, "The Moth," explored the life of a moth from its cocoon to its final flight. Roberts shared that he worked on the poem "for about two weeks or so."

Roberts also explained the deeper meaning behind the piece.

"I wrote about 'The Moth' because I read that a moth only lives about a week," he said. "Something about that struck me as enhancing the beauty of the moth, because it's only here for a short time."

He connected that idea to people and life itself.

"I felt this was also true of people and their lives, and I wanted to write something about how the brevity of life adds to how special it is," Roberts said. Professor Terry Held,

organizer of Poetry Day, noted "how powerful it is that poetry can bring people together through individual interpretations."

Held ran the event and heavily encouraged attendees to be inspired by poetry and emphasized the importance of writing as a form of connection and self expression.

Guests enjoyed snacks and refreshments throughout the program, next to the program list of the pieces that would be read.

"Poetry Day was lovely," Roberts said. "It meant I got to hear from

the minds and hearts of poets and peers, and it was astounding to hear them translate something they care deeply about into something powerful and raw."

Although it was his first year participating, Roberts said he was proud of the outcome.

"I've never written poetry to win anything, but it does feel nice to win," he said. "I am very happy with how it turned out."

His spirit shows the aura of the day: passion, honesty and appreciation for the art of poetry.

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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.

# Cassville Prom stellar in Stella



Masin Bryan hits the Superman while dancing to "Crank That" at Cassville prom on Saturday at Stella Springs. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Summer Ziegler, left, and Cannon Rose discuss the pose they planned to make for their photo together at Cassville Prom on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Daniel Brust, left, spins Isabelle Jones around the dance floor at Cassville prom on Saturday at Stella Springs. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Mika Sherwood, right, and Kolten Lingo take a break on the dance floor to pose for a photo at Cassville Prom. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Jade Arreola, right, and Zach Boyd debate which cupcake to eat at Cassville Prom on Saturday at Stella Springs. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Motion: Sentencing assessment to be filed by June 1, hearing on June 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

2. The trial court erred in not allowing Defense to pursue the State's first two witnesses for incorrect testimony and possible perjury. At trial, the State's first two witnesses made statements and allegations of material facts that Defense knows or believes to be incorrect. This questioning concerned the reputation of the Victim for becoming violent when drunk, a key defense component because the victim by the State's own evidence was two and a half times the legal limit for alcohol and also had a significant amount of THC in her system when she died. The court's refusal violated defendant's rights to due process, confrontation, and counsel under the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

3. The trial court erred in denying Defendant's Motion for Remand for Preliminary Hearing on the Armed Criminal Action count. After preliminary hearing was waived by the Defendant with counsel, the State added the completely new count of Armed Criminal Action. This count was neither waived nor proven by the State at a preliminary hearing. The court's refusal to remand for preliminary hearing violated defendant's rights to due process, confrontation, and counsel under the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

4. The trial court erred in denying Defendant's Motion for Remand for Preliminary Hearing on all counts. After preliminary hearing was waived by the Defendant with counsel, Defendant indicated that he wanted to have a formal preliminary hearing on all counts, including the count of Armed Criminal Action that was added in the Circuit Court and never waived nor established at preliminary hearing. Defendant asserts that he has a right to have a preliminary hearing at any time prior to either trial or plea. The court's refusal to remand for preliminary hearing violated defendant's rights to due process, confrontation, and counsel under the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

5. The trial court erred in overruling the defendant's Motion for Continuance to hire an expert. Defense counsel learned on April 1, 2026, at the deposition of the medical examiner that he changed his opinion regarding whether or not the gunshot was pre-mortem or post-mortem. This refusal denied defendant the opportunity to hire an independent expert to evaluate and refute the examiner's final conclusion that the gunshot was post-mortem. The court's refusal violated defendant's rights to due process, confrontation, and counsel under the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

6. The trial court erred in overruling the

defendant's Motion for Judgment of Acquittal at the Close of All Evidence as the state did not meet its burden of proving each and every element of the case. Specifically, the State's evidence supported the element of premeditation did not suffice to be beyond the reasonable doubt of a reasonable juror. The court's denial of this instant Motion violated defendant's rights to due process, confrontation, and

counsel under the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 10 and 18(a) of the Missouri Constitution.

7. The State made an improper closing argument. Counsel for the State made improper closing argument: first by arguing facts not in evidence, in stating their opinion as to what exactly caused the injuries and damage to the Victim when the testimony estab-

lished that they could not so determine, and by describing the Victim's injuries in manners not shown by the evidence. Both these arguments were improper, and the court should have issued a sanction sua sponte.

A sentencing assessment in Malone's case 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.

**JOHN DEERE**

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**Softball:** Best start since 2019 with 10 wins  
**More:** Leadership, team chemistry big factors in success

## Wheaton ball teams thriving

Baseball, softball squads each at 10 wins

The Wheaton High School Baseball and Softball teams are having a spring worth celebrating.

Both programs have amassed 10 wins each with multiple games left to play, posting impressive records and great performances from a number of Wheaton athletes.

The Bulldog baseball team is 10-6 as of Monday, the best start since the 2011 spring season. The team's performance has earned it the No. 8 spot in the most recent Class 1 state rankings, putting the Bulldogs on pace for one of the most successful seasons in Wheaton Baseball history should they continue their current performance pattern.

"The baseball team's success is due largely in part to very successful seasons from a number of players," a Wheaton schools press release said. "Bodie Lauderdale has led a successful pitching staff, boasting a 1.518 ERA with 46 strikeouts through four starts this season. Lauderdale's impressive performance has been followed by strong performances by Brody Bateman, who boasts a 2.545 ERA with 31 strikeouts through four starts as well.

"This formidable one-two punch has been well supported by Riley Roller, Logan Brattin, Mitchell Shockley and Senji Chang. At the plate, the Baseball Bulldogs have been led by Casen Bolton (.435/.658/.522), Brody Bateman (.419/.591/.677), and Riley Roller (.367/.537/.600). Brattin and Lauderdale are also each batting above .300 on the season."

Coach Nathan Jones said the pitching staff has really set the tone for what the team has accomplished so far.

"Our two guys have given us a chance to compete in every game so far which is all we can ask for, be in the game with a chance to win," he said. "As far as the keeping the momentum, our kids have worked incredibly hard all off season and really the last two years to put themselves in a place to be successful. I believe if we can continue to perform on the mound like we have and have a few more clutch hits in big situations we will like where our team goes to finish this season."

Roller, a senior, said leadership among the Bulldogs' ranks has also played a major factor.

"Our team has guys stepping up and being leaders now," he said. "We've had several guys showing up to offseason each day and putting in work to get better. Relationships on the team have really improved over the last two years."

"The work we put in this off-season has allowed us to have more success against our opponent's best pitchers, and has allowed us to better compete on the mound as well," said Lauderdale, a junior. "We're prepared to compete at a high level."

The Bulldogs will be back in action Thursday, hosting Billings at 5 p.m. The District tournament will be hosted by Billings from May 13-23.

The Lady Bulldog Softball team is also off to a fast start this spring. The squad is 10-4, the best start since 2019. The Lady Bulldogs are led at the plate by Georgia Mae Harris (.605 AVG, 16 RBIs), Rylee Stansberry (.514 AVG, 2 HR, 14 RBIs), and Kinsey Pettengill (.486 AVG, 2 HR, 16 RBIs).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

## RHOADS RIDES TO RECORD



Cassville's Corbin Rhoads celebrates setting the new pole vault record for Cassville track and field at the Wildcat Relays last week. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

# Decades-old pole vault record falls at Relays

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville boys track and field record first set in 1986 and tied in 1996 has officially fallen in 2026.

Corbin Rhoads, senior pole vaulter, cleared 14 feet, 1-1/2 inches at the Wildcat Relays on Thursday, topping the 40-year-old record of 14 feet, 1 inch set by Allen Osborne, which was matched 30 years ago by Jeremy Huse.

Rhoads cleared multiple heights before setting his sights on the record, nearly clearing it on his first attempt and fully clearing it on his second.

"There was actually nothing going through my head at that point, [when I lined up for my second attempt]," Rhoads said. "I have learned to ignore how high the bar is and just focus on the jump. That feeling of pure joy and success hit immediately after I cleared the bar."

"The few seconds I was falling felt unreal, I have been looking at the record board every day knowing that I would one day beat it."

Clay Weldy, Cassville boys track coach, said Rhoads has put in an appropriate amount of work to reach the new height.

"He has worked really hard getting better on his form and has worked hard in the weight room getting stronger," Weldy said. "Coach [Erin] Flehmer, [girls track coach who specializes in field events and also coaches Rhoads], has done a good job working with him, and he goes to a pole vault coach, as well. That has helped him work on fine tuning a lot of things."

Rhoads said to achieve a record, one necessary trait stands out more than others.

"Consistency is more important than anything," he said. "I've had days and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10B

## Sights set on 14

### Lady 'Cats taking aim at Big 8 crown for first time

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville girls soccer team has a chance to make history this season.

At 9-3 after bagging a second 1-0 victory over Monett this season, with the April 21 victory coming via an extra-time goal by Makayla Conolley, the Lady Wildcats have five regular-season games remaining and the possibility of topping the 13-win 2024 season by one.

Jake Forste, Cassville girls soccer coach, said the foundation for this season's success so far was built early.

"We talked early in the season about just really trying to execute simple things at a high level," Forste said. "So we didn't even install alternate formations until like the third or fourth week of the season. We're a pretty standard based 4-4-2, but we can shift out of that if necessary to be more defensive or more attacking. But, we really haven't switched



Cassville girls soccer players celebrate a goal by Makayla Conolley, at left, to defeat Monett 1-0 in extra time on April 21. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

out of that much at all."

Forste said he believes that formation consistency has allowed the Lady Wildcats to be more consistent in the run of play, attacking and defending.

"It's really just the one shape and just being consistent," he

said. "I think the biggest thing in terms of goal scoring, both wingers are returning starters, juniors Annabelle Mills and Lydia Cups, but they're both just way more dynamic out wide."

"We've really tried to utilize the width this year, and

then we've just gotten some freshmen in the attacking group, like Raegan Doucet, Briley Artherton and Gracy Farsungchin, that have really just allowed us to be more dynamic, have more success and go about it that way."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B



### 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

4/30	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

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

4/30	Monett Tournament	Away	
5/4	Big 8 Golf Tournament	Away	9:00 am

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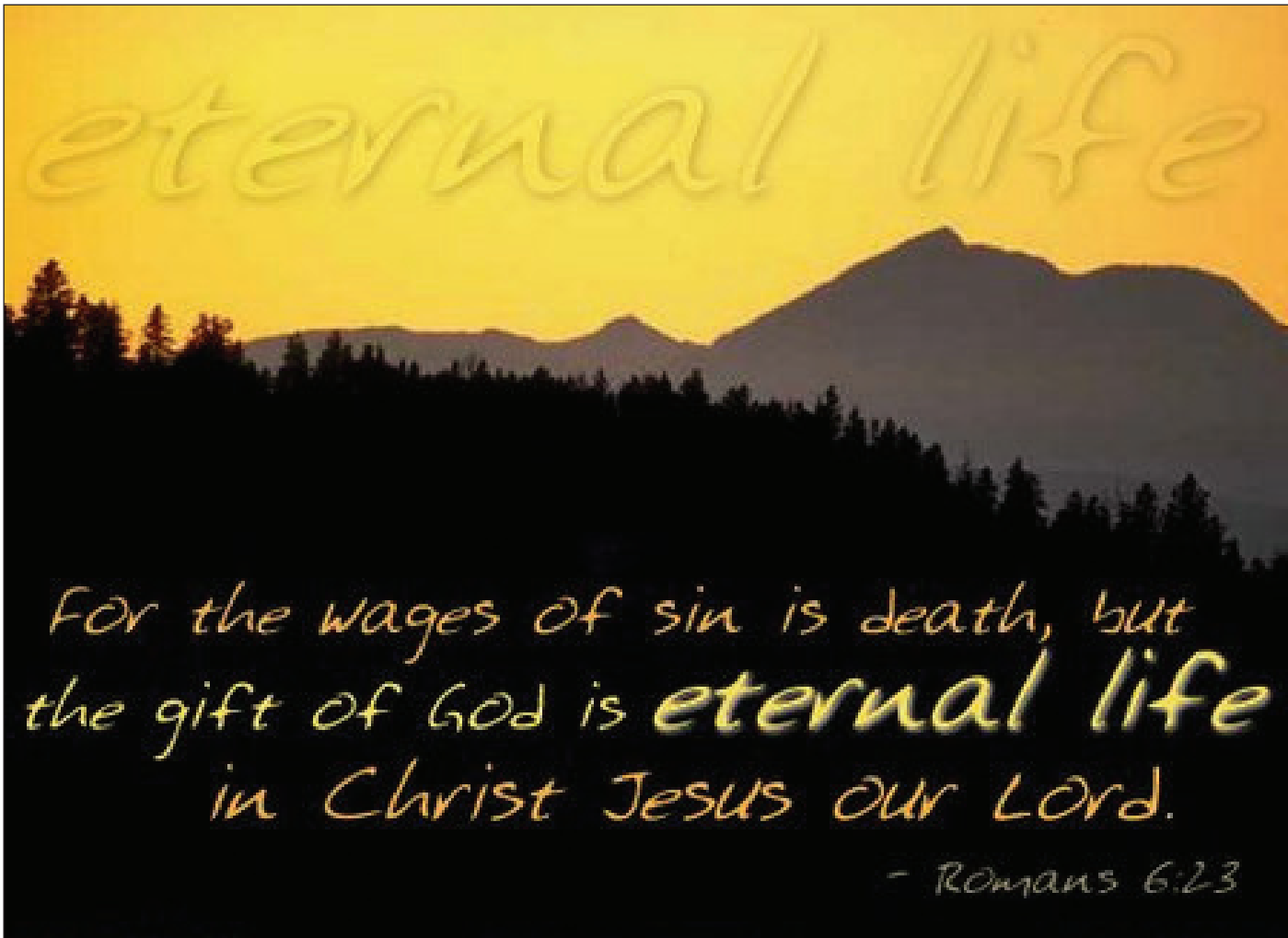
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“The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

— LUKE 19:10

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ANGLICAN</b>  <b>ST. MARY MAGDALENE</b>                  205 Commercial St., Exeter                  835-2102</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>  <b>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  Bus. Rt. 37 N., Cassville                  671-8131</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  RR 1, Box 1158, Seligman                  662-3333</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  Front &amp; Pierce, Exeter                  835-4492</p> <p><b>BRIDGEWAY ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob                  858-3770</p> <p><b>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  209 W. Jefferson, Purdy                  442-3898</p> <p><b>OK ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  6121 Hwy. 90, Washburn, Mo.                  737-9477.</p> <p><b>RIDGLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b>                  16544 FR 1027, Exeter                  846-3513</p> <p><b>BAPTIST</b>  <b>BETHLEHEM FREEWILL BAPTIST</b>                  Jct. 76 &amp; JJ Highway                  Rocky Comfort</p> <p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST</b>                  Fasco Rd., Cassville                  847-4871</p> <p><b>BUTTERFIELD FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  10901 Walnut St., Butterfield                  442-7887</p> <p><b>CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Exeter, Mo.                  665-1295</p> <p><b>CARR LANE SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  P.O. Box 69, Eagle Rock                  870-577-6025</p> <p><b>CORINTH SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  AA Hwy., Cassville                  847-4165</p> <p><b>EMMANUEL SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  821 Old Exeter Rd., Cassville                  847-3239</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  Hwy. YY, Shell Knob                  858-3496</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  117 W. Garber St., Fairview</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b></p>	<p>602 West. St., Cassville                  847-2965</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  Wheaton</p> <p><b>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  Exeter, 835-5433</p> <p><b>FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  104 W. Hwy. J, Golden                  271-3605</p> <p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  14970 FR. 1150, Cassville, Mo.</p> <p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP</b>                  P.O. Box 352, Shell Knob                  858-6868</p> <p><b>GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 &amp; 1150,                  Cassville; 847-4691</p> <p><b>HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP</b>                  Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield                  847-9289</p> <p><b>MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST</b>                  HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115</p> <p><b>MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  RR 1, Washburn                  826-5232</p> <p><b>MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b>                  FR. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245</p> <p><b>MT. ZION BAPTIST</b>                  Hwy. 37 S., Washburn                  826-5840</p> <p><b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST</b>                  3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy.                  then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter                  652-3885</p> <p><b>OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST</b>                  16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville                  Pastor: 501-538-6261                  Local: 417-847-4597</p> <p><b>PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST</b>                  RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn                  435-2319</p> <p><b>PURDY FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  3rd &amp; Washington St., Purdy                  442-7435</p> <p><b>SHILOH BAPTIST</b>                  Hwy. 248, Jenkins                  574-6466</p> <p><b>PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Rocky Comfort</p> <p><b>PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST</b>                  RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn                  826-5158</p> <p><b>RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter                  652-7884</p> <p><b>ROARING RIVER BAPTIST</b></p>	<p>HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock                  271-3142</p> <p><b>ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST</b>                  RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770</p> <p><b>SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592</p> <p><b>VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  Business 37 N., Cassville                  826-5295</p> <p><b>VIOLA BAPTIST</b>                  Hwy. 39, Shell Knob                  858-2597</p> <p><b>WASHBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  618 N. 2nd Street, Washburn                  826-5000</p> <p><b>WAYMARK CHURCH</b>                  2581 State Hwy 37                  235-7466</p> <p><b>WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST</b>                  Hwy. 86 &amp; Hwy. A, Wheaton                  652-3898</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  Hwy. 90 E., Washburn                  826-5890</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  39 Lake Rd., Shell Knob                  858-3839</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  Goosetree Hwy. 86, Wheaton                  652-3873</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><b>CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST</b>                  7th &amp; Gravel, Cassville                  847-2328</p> <p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b>                  Hwy. YY, Shell Knob                  858-6707</p> <p><b>WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST</b>                  Washburn                  Corner of 1st and North, Washburn</p> <p><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</p> <p><b>GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP</b>                  Washburn Community Building                  479-366-2561</p> <p><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</p> <p><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</p> <p><b>BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER</b>                  1107 Farm Rd., Cassville                  847-4061</p> <p><b>CASSVILLE SDA</b>                  Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville                  847-3622</p> <p><b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>                  Wheaton, 417-652-3709</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL</b>                  13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville                  847-4643</p> <p><b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b>                  Seligman, 662-3118</p> <p><b>EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock                  342-0516</p> <p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b>                  Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob                  858-8200</p> <p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b>                  Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville                  847-2460</p> <p><b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b>                  Seligman, 662-3118</p> <p><b>LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob                  278-6674</p> <p><b>OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b>                  Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy                  442-3361</p> <p><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 3ra Publication: April 29, 2026 4th Publication: May 6, 2026 1st insertion 04/15/26 14-17

**MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL**  
 A Division of the Department of Public Safety Water Patrol Division PO Box 568 Jefferson City, MO 65102

**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
 For further information please contact: Water Patrol Division (573) 751-5071 Water Patrol Division Schedules Buoy Hearing The Missouri State Highway Patrol, Water Patrol Division announces the following information pursuant to Section 306.124 RSMo. The Water Patrol Division is conducting a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026,

at Osage Beach City Hall, 1000 City Parkway, Osage Beach, Missouri, for the purpose of hearing testimony relating to uniform marking of water areas on Table Rock Lake in Barry County. All person having submitted requests will be notified of time and place.

The public is invited to attend the hearing. If assistance is required due to a hearing or physical disability, please notify the Water Patrol Division, at 573-751-5071, so accommodations may be made. Additional details on the exact location of applications may be obtained from the Water Patrol Division's website.

Buoy applications for individual docks and/or commercial docks will be heard for the following property owners:  
 Todd Scholz.  
 Only insertion 04/29/26 16

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CIVIL DIVISION**

ROBERTO ORTEGA, Plaintiff, Vs. MICHAEL CORUM and MICHELLE CORUM If they be living or their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them.

Defendants.  
 Case No: 26BR-CC00059

**NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

The State of Missouri to Defendant, Michael Corum and Michelle Corum **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court, Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Quiet Title Suit, and which affects the following described Property:

SAPP TO CASSVILLE: LOT 7

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 Blake B. Fields, 605 Main 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 29th 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.

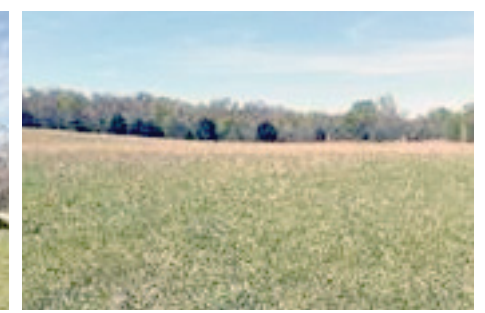
A true copy for the record. Witness by hand and the seal of the circuit court this 22nd, day of April 2026. Craig Williams Barry County Circuit Clerk By Kami Stanton 1st Publication: April 29, 2026 2nd Publication: May 6, 2026 3rd Publication: May 13, 2026 4th Publication: May 20, 2026 1st Insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CIVIL DIVISION**

ROBERTO ORTEGA, Plaintiff, Vs.

**BIG M MARINA HIRING**  
 Big M Marina is hiring for all seasonal positions, including cashiers, deck hands, ice cream and pizza counter attendant. People should apply in person at the Marina at 26111 Big M Campground Road, Cassville.

**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**



**Sm Pickup:** 1991 Sonoma GMC, SL, 4x4, automatic. **Trailers:** 12" tandem axle trailer with wood sides, would be good goat or sheep trailer – old pickup bed trailer (rough) – old triple axle flat bed trailer (rough, no title). **Implements:** Old 5' bush hog – old single plows – old post hole auger. **Antiques & Collectibles:** Old Silver coins - Old well pulley's – cast iron kettle with stand – old ice tongs – old pitch forks – single trees – hay hooks – old shoe lasp – several old metal wheels – several bushel baskets – old pop bottles – misc old bottles – old well buckets – old Coleman lantern – old train horn – old cast iron school bell – old jars – misc crock bowls, etc – old wash board – misc cast iron items – old scale – misc old Comic books – misc baseball cards – large collection of S & P - misc piggy banks – misc piano stools – several old metal lawn chairs & metal glider – several sad irons – wrought iron courting bench – old cast iron tea pots – old galvanized buckets – old tins – lots of old records of all kinds – old Pepsi thermometer – lots of cups & saucers – several old turn tables – Red Ryder 70th edition BB gun – cast iron pot & ladle – lots of books such as, cook books, children's books, original old baseball program – granite ware – alum pots, etc – misc Christmas Avon – World globes – buck saws – cross cut saws – Colt Firearms & Co mirror – lots of shot glasses – lots of baskets – Tiffany style lamp – pitcher collection – misc old clocks – lots of costume jewelry – old lanterns – cookie jars – old sled – old wood chicken coop – several old red wagons (rough) – ant garden push plows – misc old grinding wheels – 10 gal milk cans – old cast iron tractor seats – glass insulators – old wood carpenter tool boxes – misc old wood boxes – The Legend of Zelda box (rough) – old cider press – old fire dog's – old milk strainer – old school desk – old iron bed head & foot – several old buggy steps – cast iron skillets – minnow buckets – wood nail keg – old suit cases – ice cream parlor chair – large saw blades – lots of figurines such as, birds, Indian, people, etc – gold necklaces, sterling earrings, sterling & turquoise bracelets, rings, etc – spoon & plate collection – brass décor – glass flower frogs – lead crystal – beer steins – misc quilts – Pillsbury Dough Boy items – Campbell Soup Collection – Antique dishes, pink depression, milk bottles – bell collection – paper weights – old oil lamps – old dolls – thimbles – buttons – linens – aprons – tablecloths – men's straight razors – old photos – vintage step stools. **Furniture & Appliances:** Story & Clark, Chicago USA, ant organ – camel back trunks – ant curio cabinet – cedar chest – coffee table – end tables – armoire – floral sofa – old floor lamps – table lamps – ant writing desk – misc dressers – old record cabinet – quilt rack – dining table & chairs – folding chairs – full size bed – old vintage cart – old tea cart – full size 4 post bed – misc sm old tables – sm display hutch – jewelry chest – lawyer bookcase – old what knot shelves – wood TV trays – Maytag washer – Kenmore dryer – Frigidaire SS side by side – Refrigerator/freezer – Frigidaire gas range (nice) – chest freezers. **Tools:** Kobalt tool chest – popular mech tool chest – misc sm hand tools, screwdrivers, hammers, pliers, hand saws, sockets, misc sm power tools – misc long handle tools – misc chain – misc booms – garden hose (new) – Craftsman 10" table saw – Craftsman 12" band saw. **Misc:** 2 double portable carports, Misc kitchen wares such as Tupperware, enamel ware, granite ware, Pioneer Woman, Pyrex, Corning ware, stemware, platters, dishes, pots & pans, red toaster, red microwave, misc sm kitchen appliances, cookie cutters, misc cookware, flatware, creamers, sugars, cups, etc – cast iron bath tubs – (5) rolls of barb wire – galvanized water tank – rough sawed lumber – live traps – approx. 250 T post – post clips – misc scrap iron – gazing ball – wrought iron patio table – 955 Air Bike (new) – misc craft items & sewing notions – several elect heaters – many more items not listed. **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

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Auctioneer: Parker Stumpf AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

**LORENE RUPP**  
 If they be living or their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them.

Defendants.  
 Case No: 26BR-CC00057

**NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

The State of Missouri to Defendant, LORENE RUPP **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court, Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Quiet Title Suit, and which affects the following

described Property:  
 HAYS TO PURDY: WEST 210 FEET OF BLOCK 11 AND NORTH 35 FEET OF WEST 210 FEET OF BLOCK 10 OF SECTION 2 TOWNSHIP 24 RANGE 28

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 Blake B. Fields, 605 Main 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 29th 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 for the record. Witness by hand and the seal of the circuit court this 22nd, day of April 2026. Craig Williams

Barry County Circuit Clerk By Kami Stanton 1st Publication: April 29, 2026 2nd Publication: May 6, 2026 3rd Publication: May 13, 2026 4th Publication: May 20, 2026 1st Insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CIVIL DIVISION**

ROBERTO ORTEGA, Plaintiff, Vs. BILL S. BOOTH and FRANCINE BOOTH If they be living or their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them. Defendants. Case No: 26BR-CC00058

**POSITION AVAILABLE: UTILITY WORKER**  
 The City of Wheaton is seeking a part-time Utility Worker for 30 hours per week. Duties will include, but are not limited to, reading utility meters, mowing, assisting work on the water, sewer, and natural gas systems, and performing regular maintenance on city property and infrastructure.  
 • Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years old.  
 • Experience in utility or maintenance work is preferred but not required.  
 • Payrate will be \$16 per hour with a 90 days probation period.  
 • Benefits include paid holidays, 20 hours of vacation leave, and 32 hours of sick leave.  
 • Applications are available at Wheaton City Hall and will be accepted through May 6, 2026. They may be returned to City Hall or emailed to jogina@cityofwheatonmo.org.  
 For more information, please call Wheaton City Hall at 417-652-3314.

# Barry County Financial Statement

**BARRY COUNTY DEPOSITORY FUNDS**

**BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2025** \$ 20,285,299.74

**Receipts:**

GENERAL REVENUE	7,198,595.99
ASSESSOR	582,583.22
ROADS	6,245,723.62
P.A.T.	1,882.59
L.E.T.	1,495.50
OVERPLUS	213,555.22
COUNTY COMMON	51,181.39
ADMIN. HANDLING COST FUND	4,592.08
MICROFILM	31,932.32
SHERIFF SPEC ENFORCEMENT	188.62
SHERIFF'S INMATE SECURITY	31,931.25
SCHOOLS	25,460,492.78
FLOOD CONTROL	0.00
FOREST RESERVE	1,910.89
SO BARRY CO HOSPITAL	363,025.50
SO BARRY CO AMBULANCE	2,550.95
BARRY-LAW AMBULANCE	9,807.95
LIBRARY	1,518,569.68
BARRY CO HEALTH UNIT	500,574.92
HANDICAPPED	366,774.38
SR CITIZENS SERVICES	333,489.87
UNCLAIMED FEES	0.00
EMERGENCY RESERVE	1,000,000.00
INTANGIBLE TAX	4.72
FIRE DISTRICTS	3,042,925.97
LAW ENF RESTITUTION FD	18,048.77
SHELTER HOME	4,147.76
SHERIFFS REVOLVING FD	23,051.53
C.E.R.F.	0.00
L.E.P.C.	4,370.52
PROS ATTY DELINQUENT TAX	3,070.08
LOCAL USE TAX	0.00
RESERVE FUND	1,213,389.22
DEP SH SALARY SUPPL FD	55,119.65
SHERIFFS FUND	32,931.76
P.O.S.T. FD	975.83
DRUG CT P I FUND	20,936.21
ELECTION FUND	7,036.69
SKSCP N.I.D.	0.00
L.L.E. BLOCK GRANT FD	0.00
COVID 19	62,287.89
OPIOID GRANT FUND	129,410.90
LIBERTY COMMON ROAD DISTR	23,559.88
EMERGENCY RD & BRIDGE	483,548.97

LAW ENFORCEMENT SALES TAX	3,839,866.29
LAW ENFORCEMENT SALES TAX RESERVE	141,379.70
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>53,026,921.06</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
GENERAL REVENUE	4,849,474.16
ASSESSOR	626,551.84
ROADS	6,245,723.62
P.A.T.	1,638.09
L.E.T.	0.00
OVERPLUS	201,429.57
COUNTY COMMON	53,928.76
ADMIN. HANDLING COST FUND	0.00
MICROFILM	11,640.24
SHERIFF SPEC ENFORCEMENT	801.29
SHERIFF'S INMATE SECURITY	34,193.52
SCHOOLS	25,460,492.78
FLOOD CONTROL	0.00
FOREST RESERVE	159,999.33
SO BARRY CO HOSPITAL	363,025.50
SO BARRY CO AMBULANCE	2,550.95
BARRY-LAW AMBULANCE	9,807.95
LIBRARY	1,518,569.68
BARRY CO HEALTH UNIT	500,574.92
HANDICAPPED	366,774.38
SR CITIZENS SERVICES	333,489.87
UNCLAIMED FEES	0.00
EMERGENCY RESERVE	1,000,000.00
INTANGIBLE TAX	4.72
FIRE DISTRICTS	3,042,925.97
LAW ENF RESTITUTION FD	0.00
SHELTER HOME	4,131.10
SHERIFFS REVOLVING FD	24,381.99
C.E.R.F.	0.00
L.E.P.C.	16,697.18
PROS ATTY DELINQUENT TAX	0.00
LOCAL USE TAX	0.00
RESERVE FUND	0.00
DEP SH SALARY SUPPL FD	57,357.53
SHERIFFS FUND	\$ 71,246.75
P.O.S.T. FD	1,445.83
DRUG CT P I FUND	2,271.73
ELECTION FUND	4,239.81
SKSCP N.I.D.	0.00
L.L.E. BLOCK GRANT FD	0.00
COVID-CARES ACT	543,769.26
OPIOID GRANT FUND	183,100.00
LIBERTY COMMON ROAD DISTR	26,894.40
EMERGENCY RD & BRIDGE	203,409.48
LAW ENFORCEMENT SALES TAX	4,082,057.06
LAW ENFORCEMENT SALES TAX RESERVE	0.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>50,004,599.26</b>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND DEC. 31, 2025</b>	<b>23,295,234.19</b>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

**NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

The State of Missouri to Defendant, BILL S. BOOTH AND FRANCINE BOOTH YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court, Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Quiet Title Suit, and which affects the following described Property:

PURDY O.L.: PART OF O.L. 43, PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (REQUESTED SPLIT FOR HOUSE TO MTG. CO.) OF SECTION TWO TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR RANGE TWENTY-EIGHT

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 Blake B. Fields, 605 Main 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 29th 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 by hand and the

seal of the circuit court this 22nd, day of April 2026.

A true copy from the record.  
Craig Williams  
Barry County Circuit Clerk

By Kami Stanton  
1st Publication: April 29, 2026

2nd Publication: May 6, 2026

3rd Publication: May 13, 2026

4th Publication: May 20, 2026

1st Insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CIVIL DIVISION**

ROBERTO ORTEGA, Plaintiff,  
Vs.  
RANDY GOODIN and SHIRLEY GOODIN

If they be living or their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them.

Defendants.  
Case No: 26BR-CC00060

**NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

The State of Missouri to Defendant, Randy Goodin and Shirley Goodin

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against

you in the Circuit Court, Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Quiet Title Suit, and which affects

the following described Property:

Hays to Purdy: Lots 1,2 & 3, Block 1

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 Blake B. Fields, 605 Main 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 29th 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 for the record.  
Witness by hand and the seal of the circuit court this 22nd, day of April 2026.

Craig Williams  
Barry County Circuit Clerk

By Kami Stanton  
1st Publication: April 29, 2026

2nd Publication: May 6, 2026

3rd Publication: May 13, 2026

4th Publication: May 20, 2026

1st insertion 04/29/26 16-19

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

NUBIA ALEXANDRA ZEPEDA ORTIZ, :  
Petitioner,

## 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



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



**417-847-2507**



Auctioneer:  
Parker Stumpff  
AR State Champion  
Auctioneer  
#2352

VS. SALVADOR TAPIA LOPEZ, Respondent.  
Case No. 25BR-DR00156

The State of Missouri to: SALVADOR TAPIA LOPEZ

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is dissolution of marriage.

The names of all parties in this action are NUBIA

ALEXANDRA ZEPEDA ORTIZ, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is

J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,  
P. O. Box 324, Cassville,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

# LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

Missouri 65625. You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after APRIL 29, 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.

A true copy from the record. Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 21st day of APRIL, 2026. Craig Williams CLERK by KATIE CORREIN D/C First publication: APRIL 29, 2026 Second Publication: MAY 06, 2026 Third Publication: MAY 13, 2026 Fourth Publication: MAY 20, 2026 1st Insertion 04/29/26 16-19

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Chain O Lakes Village C.C.R. Report Available The Chain O Lakes Village Water Department has the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) published by the Public Drinking Water Program of the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources now available for review. A copy will not be mailed but is available for review on the Village Bulletin Board and at the Eagle Rock Public Library, Eagle Rock, MO or you may request a copy by calling 251-504-7558. Only insertion 04/29/26 16

### WHEATON R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT

Request for Proposals for Roofing Services: Nurse's Office thru Art Room Roof Due: May 15, 2026 Introduction The Wheaton R-III School District (the "District") is seeking proposals from qualified entities interested in performing roofing replacement services on the District's nurse's office thru art room roof. Background of the District The District, a public school district created, organized, and operating under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri, is an independent body politic and corporate, and a political subdivision of the State of Missouri. The governing body of the District is a seven-member Board of Education. The Administration of the District is headed by the Superintendent. Timeline Request for Proposals Issued April 29, 2026 Question/Inspection Period May 4, 2026 - May 8, 2026 Proposals Due May 15, 2026 Recommendation to Board May 19, 2026 Notice to Proceed May 20, 2026

Contractor Requirements A. All workers must undergo a background check prior to working on site. It shall be the duty of the contractor to conduct the appropriate background checks on its employees and the vendor must agree to share this information with the District upon request.

B. Contractors must adhere to any minimum wage/prevaling wage requirements associated with the project C. Contractor must be properly licensed, bonded, and insured

Scope of Work A. Removal and proper disposal of all layers of existing roofing material and underlayment B. Inspection of existing structural elements and material C. Replacement of existing structural elements and/or materials if necessary D. Installation of new roof product and/or ice/water shield, underlayment, and

drip edge as determined necessary by the contractor and agreed by the District E. Installation and/or replacement of flashing, vents, caps, sealants, and accessories per manufacturer's specifications F. Work to be completed during normal business hours and all work areas properly secured G. Project must be completed prior to August 7, 2026

Proposal Requirements A. Provide a description of the company, as well as applicable licenses, bonds, and insurance coverage. B. Detailed description of the services your entity will provide for the completion of this project along with proposed and/or guaranteed prices and warranty information.

C. Detailed pricing breakdown of services to be provided. This should include, but should not be limited to: a. Total cost for material repair, removal, and/or replacement b. Unit cost per item of material to be purchased c. Any additional costs for materials, permitting, or disposal fees d. Projected labor costs e. Total project cost to be incurred by the District f. All pricing should be firm for the duration of the project pending change orders from the District.

D. Provide the name(s) and resume(s) of the primary supervisor(s) responsible for overseeing the project in its entirety. E. Provide a brief overview of the company's experience with Missouri public schools, along with prior project descriptions and reference information from at least three recent school or business clients. F. Briefly indicate any additional relevant information regarding the benefits to the District of selecting your firm as a contractor for this project. G. Please disclose any conflicts of interest that could present a real or perceived conflict of interest. Additionally, the company should disclose if there are any pending legal or insurance proceedings involving the firm that could affect their ability to complete the project.

Evaluation & Selection Responses will be evaluated based on the overall best plan for the Wheaton R-III School District. The District reserves the right to choose any company, more than one company, or to reject all responses from those submitting proposals. Decisions will be based on: • The qualifications and experience of the company • The proposed scope, warranty, and timeline of the project • Evaluation of past performances and references • Community/local presence of the company • Total cost of services

After reviewing all proposals submitted, the District staff responsible for the evaluation will make a recommendation for selection to the District's Board of Education. The Board of Education shall make the final selection of the Company that will provide the services. However, no contract shall be formed and the District shall not be bound to any selection until such time as a final, written contract with the selected Company is approved by the Board of Education. The District reserves the right to negotiate the contract terms with the Company that will be recommended to, or that is selected by, the Board of Education. The District further reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals and to waive any "informalities" in the Proposals received whenever such selection, rejection, or waiver is in its best interest. All Proposal documents become public record once a negotiated contract has been executed.

Proposal Submittal Proposals must be submitted by 3 p.m. on May 15, 2026. The District and Board reserve the right to request interviews

on Monday, May 18, 2026, prior to the regular May 2026 School Board meeting. Please send an electronic copy to: Mr. Chris Paullus Superintendent c p a u l l u s @ wheatonschools.org Mr. Jeff Pettengill Maintenance Director j p e t t e n g i l l @ wheatonschools.org Wheaton R-III School District Wheaton R-III School District 116 McCall St, PO Box 249 116 McCall St, PO Box 249 Wheaton, MO 64874 Wheaton, MO 64874 417-652-3914 417-652-3914

Please direct all questions to Mr. Chris Paullus and Mr. Jeff Pettengill at the email addresses listed above. 1st insertion 04/29/26 16-17

### PROBATE

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

In the Estate of: CAROL A. GIRTH, deceased Estate No. 26BR-PR00043

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of CAROL A. 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 CAROL A. 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

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

In the Estate of MICHAEL HUNTER BOLEN, Deceased.

## REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

### Saturday, May 16, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville go East on Hwy 248 for 5.7 miles. Turn Right on Fr 2147. Go 2/10 mile and turn right on Newman Rd to auction. (16159 FR 2147, Cassville MO.)

REAL ESTATE, NICE BRICK HOME, NICE SHOP & MORE – TRACTOR – IMPLEMENTS – TOOLS – ZERO TURN RIDING MOWER – TRAILER – OLD HORSE DRAWN EQUIP – ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES – FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – LOTS OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS FOR DERBY & CLASSIC CARS, ETC – GUNS – 1969 FIREBIRD (NEEDS RESTORED)



Note: If you looking for a nice home with some fantastic outbuildings, then you found it. This is a must see for the serious person looking for a very nice place close to town. Beautiful country views of the Ozark hills & close to Mark Twain National Forest. This home is one of the nicest, cleanest, move in ready homes we have ever offered. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to pre register. Lots of nice personal property to be sold also. Go to www.stumpffauction.com to view lots of photos. 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.

\*\*\*Go to www.stumpffauction.com to view complete listing\*\*\*

Owner: Rusty & Cortni Newman



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



www.stumpffauction.com

# 417-847-2507



Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MICHAEL HUNTER BOLEN, Decedent: Case Number: 26BR-PR00044

On April 20, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of MICHAEL HUNTER BOLEN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's business address is: JUDITH L BONNELL, 7681 FARM ROAD 1025 PURDY, MO 65734-8801.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: CORDELIA F. HERRIN, 702 WEST STREET, P.O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734.

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

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

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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF MARVIN MCFALL, Estate No.: 25BR-PR00024 Deceased.

NOTICE OF FILING OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AND SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE NAME ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Independent Representative will file a Statement of Account and Schedule of Proposed Distribution in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, Probate Division, on April 27, 2026, or as continued by the Court; that if no objections are filed in the Court within twenty (20) days after the filing of the Statement of Account, the Independent Representative will distribute in accordance with the Schedule of Proposed Distribution in the Statement of Account.

You are further notified that: 1. If no proceeding is commenced in the Court within six (6) months after filing of the Statement of Account, the Independent Personal Representative thereby will be discharged from further claim or demand by an interested party.

Dates of Publication Andrew McFall Independent Personal Representative OZARKS ELDER LAW Katherine Douglas-Johnson MoBar No. 64503 Ozarks Elder Law 2832 S. Ingram Mill Road, Suite 100 Springfield, MO 65804 Phone: (417) 868-8200 Fax: (417) 862-0847 k j o h n s o n @ ozarkselderlaw.com 1st insertion 04/29/26 16-19

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

In the Estate of: MARY LEE SHORTELL, Case No. 26BR-PR00051 Deceased

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MARY LEE SHORTELL, Decedent:

On April 16, 2026, the last will of the decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of MARY LEE SHORTELL, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The name, business address, of the personal representative is: BARBARA WHITE, 10010 FARM ROAD 1085 PURDY, MO 65734.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is DONALD L. CUPPS, ELLIS, CUPPS, HERRIN AND SCHWARTZ, 702 WEST STREET, P. O. BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after 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: MAR-27-2026 Date of first publication: APR-29-2026

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6B  
 J Craig Williams  
 by S. Parker  
 Clerk  
 1st insertion 04/29/26  
 16-19

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

In the Estate of MARIJAYNE TAYLOR, Deceased.  
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00057

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of MARIJAYNE TAYLOR, Decedent:

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

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

The personal representative's name and business address is:

KEVIN TAYLOR, 2805 ALAN STREET, FORT COLLINS, CO 80524

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

ANGELA C ARTHERTON, 10388 FARM ROAD 2172,

CASSVILLE, MO 65625, (870) 688-0619

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

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

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

Date of the decedent's death: Dec 01, 2025

Date of first publication: April 29, 2026

Date of second publication: May 6, 2026

Date of third publication: May 13, 2026

Date of fourth publication: May 20, 2026

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

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

1st Insertion 04/29/26  
 16-19

**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 North 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 Northeast Quarter 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 the East feet of Lot 3 in Block 3 in Townsend Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, EXCEPT an easement for ingress and egress for Block 3 of said addition adjoining the right of way of a public road, thence in an Easterly direction along the South boundary line of said Lot 70 feet for a point of beginning, thence in an Easterly direction along the

South boundary line of said Lot 15 feet, thence North 13 degrees East 25 feet, thence in a Southwesterly direction to the point of beginning, commonly known as 1105 Townsend, Cassville, MO, 65625

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

SouthLaw, P.C. Successor Trustee

First Publication: April 15, 2026. For more information, visit www.southlaw.com

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 255473-1090158).

1st insertion 04/15/26 14-17

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

IN RE: Cade Coppage, single man Trustee's Sale:

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

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

Default having been made in the payment of that certain note secured by Deed of Trust executed by Hunter L Bradshaw, an unmarried man, and Alyssa L Taylor, an unmarried woman, dated September 27, 2022 and recorded on September 28, 2022 in Book 22, Page 6182, as Document No. 202206288, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri. The Successor

Trustee will on May 21, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 5:00 P.M. more particularly at 12:00PM, at the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main, East Front door, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ABOUT 75 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER, SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 22, RANGE 28, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, WHICH POINT IS 51 FEET NORTH OF THE CENTER OF A DITCH, THENCE EAST 210 FEET, THENCE NORTH 101.5 FEET, THENCE WEST 210 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 101.5 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING .50 ACRE, MORE OR LESS. AND BEGINNING AT A POINT ABOUT 24 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER, SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 22, RANGE 28, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, IN THE CENTER OF A DITCH, THENCE EAST 210 FEET, THENCE NORTH 51 FEET, THENCE WEST 210 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 51 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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

S&W Foreclosure Corporation Successor Trustee Pub Commences April 29, 2026

LLG File No.25-041031

By: LOGS Legal Group LLP

www.LOGS.com ServiceLink

Purported address: 1012 2nd Street, Washburn, MO 65772

Publication Dates: 04/29/26, 05/06/26, 05/13/26, 05/20/26

1st insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

TS No. 2026-22735-MO For default in the payment of debt secured by the Deed of Trust executed by

Bobby Hale And Lindy Hale,

Husband And Wife, dated 1/2/2015, recorded on 1/5/2015, as Instrument Number 002621520018 and in Deed Book 15, Page 16, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on 5/21/2026, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, starting at 2:00 PM at the Barry County Courthouse - East Door - 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625,

sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the below described real estate to satisfy said debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction. Purchasers take property as is, without warranty. All Of A Tract Of Land Described As Follows: Beginning At The Southeast Corner Of The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Thence Running North 24 1/4 Rods, Thence Running East 37 3/4 Rods, Thence Running South 24 1/4 Rods, Thence Running West 37 3/4 Rods To The Point Of Beginning, Said Land Being Located In The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Containing Approximately 5 3/4 Acres. Also, A Small Plot Of Land Being A Part Of The Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Described As Follows: Beginning At A Point 150 Feet West Of The Northeast Corner Of Said Forty Acres, And Running Southwest About 142 Feet

Southwest About 142 Feet To A Certain White Oak Tree, Thence West 170 Feet To A Point 11 Feet West Of The Southwest Corner Of A Certain Brooder House (100 Feet Long) Line To Be About 3 Feet From And Along South Side Of Said House, Thence North To North Side Line Of Said Forty Acres, Thence East To Place Of Beginning. The Above Parcel Of Land Contains About 1977 Square Yards More Or Less. Also, A Strip Of Land 20 Feet Wide Squarely Off The East End Of The Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4), Lying South Of Missouri State Highway No. 39 In Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri. Also, A Tract Of Land Described As Follows: Beginning 37 3/4 Rods West Of The Southeast Corner Of The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Thence Running North 24 1/2 Rods, Thence Running West 350 Feet, Thence Running South 24 1/2 Rods, Thence Running East 350 Feet To The Point Of Beginning, Said Land Being Located In The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Thence Running West A Distance Of 58.96 Rods, Thence North 150 Feet, Thence East To East Line Of Said North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Aforesaid, A Distance Of 58.96 Rods, Thence South 150 Feet To The Point Of Beginning, The Same Being Located In The South Half (S1/2) Of The Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri. More commonly known as: 5185 Private Rd 1194 Aurora, MO 65605

Notice To Bidders: Please be advised that the highest bidder ("purchaser") at this trustee's sale may be required to provide information, documentation and/or certification as mandated by applicable federal law, and entity and trust purchaser should be prepared to provide beneficial ownership information as required by federal reporting requirements effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. If applicable, the required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D\_5 . Nestor Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115 1st insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**TRUSTEE'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To all persons interested in the estate of Virginia A. Meek, decedent.

The undersigned Glenn Meek is acting as Trustee under a trust, the terms of which provide that the debts of the decedent may be paid by the Trustee(s) upon receipt of proper proof thereof.

The addresses of the Trustee is: Glenn Meek PO Box 155

To A Certain White Oak Tree, Thence West 170 Feet To A Point 11 Feet West Of The Southwest Corner Of A Certain Brooder House (100 Feet Long) Line To Be About 3 Feet From And Along South Side Of Said House, Thence North To North Side Line Of Said Forty Acres, Thence East To Place Of Beginning. The Above Parcel Of Land Contains About 1977 Square Yards More Or Less. Also, A Strip Of Land 20 Feet Wide Squarely Off The East End Of The Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4), Lying South Of Missouri State Highway No. 39 In Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri. Also, A Tract Of Land Described As Follows: Beginning 37 3/4 Rods West Of The Southeast Corner Of The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Thence Running North 24 1/2 Rods, Thence Running West 350 Feet, Thence Running South 24 1/2 Rods, Thence Running East 350 Feet To The Point Of Beginning, Said Land Being Located In The North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri, Thence Running West A Distance Of 58.96 Rods, Thence North 150 Feet, Thence East To East Line Of Said North Half (N1/2) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Aforesaid, A Distance Of 58.96 Rods, Thence South 150 Feet To The Point Of Beginning, The Same Being Located In The South Half (S1/2) Of The Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) Of The Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) Of Section Thirty (30), Township Twenty-Five (25), Range Twenty-Five (25), Barry County, Missouri. More commonly known as: 5185 Private Rd 1194 Aurora, MO 65605

Notice To Bidders:

Please be advised that the highest bidder ("purchaser") at this trustee's sale may be required to provide information, documentation and/or certification as mandated by applicable federal law, and entity and trust purchaser should be prepared to provide beneficial ownership information as required by federal reporting requirements effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. If applicable, the required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D\_5 . Nestor Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115 1st insertion 04/29/26 16-19

**TRUSTEE'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To all persons interested in the estate of Virginia A. Meek, decedent.

The undersigned Glenn Meek is acting as Trustee under a trust, the terms of which provide that the debts of the decedent may be paid by the Trustee(s) upon receipt of proper proof thereof.

The addresses of the Trustee is: Glenn Meek PO Box 155

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B  
 Golden, MO 65658  
 All creditors of the decedent are noticed to present their claims to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred.  
 Date of First Publication: 04/29/26  
 Glenn Meek, Trustee  
 1st Insertion 04/29/26  
 16-19

## Wheaton: Lady Bulldogs bonding, connecting well

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Coach Chris Branstetter said solid performances at the plate and team chemistry are to thank for the success.

“Our recent success is a direct result of time-hitting and excellent

teamwork,” he said. “The team is currently led by several standout offensive performances. To maintain this momentum, our focus moving forward will be on tightening up our defense and continuing to improve our collective

approach at the plate.”

Senior Jayci Park said the team has really bonded and connected well.

“We have had the same group of girls together for a while now, and things are starting to click for us,” she said.

“This year we are seeing players step up and become leaders,” said Georgia Mae Harris, a junior. “Our team is communicating well with one another, and we have a team-over-self approach to the game. I think that’s

how we have continued to grow the most.”

The Lady Bulldogs will play their next game on Thursday, hosting Exeter at 5 p.m.. The District tournament will be hosted by Purdy from May 7-12.



Cassville senior captain Tyra Sturgell plays a ball forward in last week's win over Monett. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Briley Artherton slides to tackle a Monett defender during a 1-0 extra-time win over the Lady Cubs on April 21. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Soccer: Lady Wildcats have produced 6 shutouts this season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

While the Lady Wildcats have produced results, Forste said maintaining the same level of play regardless of opponent has been a challenge.

“I think for us, it’s just setting a standard and not ever backing down from that standard,” he said. “Our three best games this year have been our three losses — against extremely quality opponents. New Covenant is 9-2, Bolivar is consistently top 10 in the state, and Rogersville is currently No. 2 in the state. We just stood so tall and firm against those teams and really played at a high level. So, when we play the weaker opponents, we tend to not play at that same standard.”

Forste said that has crested the challenge of ignoring the quality of opponent and focusing on what Cassville can control.

“We’re focusing on ourselves and, again, executing at a high level regardless of opponent,” he said. “I’d say, trying to just encourage everyone, the communication, the effort, the intensity, the relentlessness — it should never drop, regardless of time, score or opponent. That’s probably been the biggest challenge.”

That emphasis on internal standards paid off in conference play, including a pair of key wins over Monett, capped by the extra-time victory.

“That’s obviously been a goal for us these last couple years is put ourselves in a position to win the conference, and doing so enhances district seeding as well,” Forste said. “That was a check mark on our season checklist. Getting both those [Monett] games was huge.”

“We were in a position to do so last year and didn’t get it done at home. We gave up one pretty late in the game and as far as last Tuesday, it was a knock down, drag out. We knew throw the records out the window. They don’t matter, and it was exactly what we thought it would be.”

Forste said the team thought the game had potential to go the distance.

“It felt like we should have converted some chances throughout the contest, but we didn’t,” he said. “But luckily, we didn’t make any mistakes that cost us. So it felt pretty good. It felt like the way we utilized



Cassville's Makayla Connolley watches as her shot goes by the Monett goalkeeper to win the game against the Lady Cubs in extra time last week. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

our subs and just went deeper off the bench, like that’s what flipped the game in the last 20 minutes.

“Then, in the three minutes of overtime, it just felt like we had the legs, and they were gassing out a little bit. So that was really the difference, and that shows you kind of how far we’ve come to have that kind of depth where we can. That’s a team with double the amount of players that we have, so the fact that we only have 22 girls, but ended up having more depth, as far as that contest, I think that shows you how far we’ve come with our reserves, with the program. It was just a great, great win overall.”

Now, Cassville sits in control of its conference destiny with an opportunity to finish unbeaten in Big 8 play.

“As far as Big Eight standings go, we’re 4-0 with a game left versus Aurora and a game left versus McDonald County, two opponents we’ve beaten so far this season,” Forste said. “If we do win both of those, we would have an undefeated 6-0 record in the Big 8, and that would be a first for us to win the conference.”

Forste said what’s contributed to that conference success is a team-wide effort.

“We haven’t given up many goals, and we have six shutouts at this point,” he said. “So, you love to see that kind of stability in the back. But at the same time, we’ve done a pretty good job scoring the ball as well, and our depth has been tested multiple games. We’ve had three or four games where bring us down to number 18, 19 or 20 on the roster, and we’ve managed to see it through. I think our depth, our defensive stability for the most part, and our offensive prowess, you put it all together and it’s no secret that we’re having some success.”

Beyond conference play, the postseason looms with one of the toughest districts in Class 2, leaving little margin for error regardless of seeding.

“This district is incredibly potent,” Forste said. “We currently have five of the top 17 teams in Class 2, which is just crazy. There’s eight districts with seven or eight teams each, and what are the odds? But that’s just what it is. Springfield Catholic looks like they’ll be the No. 1 seed, Rogersville looks like the No. 2, and we’ve got Clinton, Osage and Cassville battling it out for the No. 3.”

Forste said it’s hard to say where those chips will fall, as

Cassville does not face Clinton or Osage in the regular season.

“They have both come in and out of the district,” he said. “We picked up Bolivar thinking we’d see Bolivar, but we haven’t. They’re not in our district this year, so that’ll be a wild card. If it comes down to the ranking system, currently, Clinton is No. 13, Osage is No. 16 and Cassville is No. 17, so there’s not much separating those teams.”

“It’ll probably come down to common opponents or state ranking tie breakers. So we’ll have to see. We could be as high as a three, we could be as low as a five. And it doesn’t matter the opponent. This district, No. 1 through No. 7, is going to be a slog. It’ll come down to set pieces, one goal games and executing at a high level when it matters most.”

With the District tournament still a couple weeks away, Forste said the roster’s balance of experience and youth has been a defining characteristic for Cassville, with contributions coming across the lineup.

“A number of factors stand out,” Forste said. “We’ve had an absolutely lights out season of senior goalkeeper Ava Henson. She’s been phenomenal. In the Aurora game last week, she sent, I believe,

11 punts out of bounds for a goal kick on the other side of the field. She has that ability to flip the field and get us out of a jam. This spring, these winds can be pretty crazy. So, when you see a 40- or 50-mile-an-hour wind, it can be hard to get out of your side of the field. Sometimes she’s able to just save us with her distance off the punt, and her hands have been incredible.”

Forste said senior captain Tyra Sturgill in the midfield has been a model of consistency, attacking, defending and supporting both blocks.

“We talked about the wing-ers becoming more dynamic this season, and then we talked about these freshmen coming in, and we’ve said since day one, and before day one, it’s like, ‘Hey you guys, it’s unfair, but you don’t get to be freshmen this year. We can’t have freshmen mistakes, and we can’t have the growing pains. We need you guys to come in and be like seasoned veterans from day one,’” Forste said. “And, for the most part, they’ve answered that bell. I think they’ve enjoyed the challenge, and we’ve certainly enjoyed the influx of talent. So it’s really just been a team endeavor, top to bottom, everyone contributing.”

**KIDS' COLUMNS**  
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### Private eye

How many items are there in the grocery cart? And how many are outside it?

ANSWER: THERE ARE 10 ITEMS INSIDE AND 12 OUTSIDE (THE FISH ARE NOT INSIDE).

### JUST kidding

Q: Why did the man put his money in the freezer?  
A: He wanted some cold, hard cash.

### JUST kidding

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
A: Frostbite.

### JUST kidding

Q: What is the best day to go to the beach?  
A: Sunday, of course!

### MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE

For the up-and-coming artist

### Sudoku 6 x 6

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

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

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Cassville's Corbin Rhoads clears a bar in pole vault at the Wildcat Relays. He later set the school pole vault record at 14 feet, 1-1/2 inches. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Tyler Rattigan hurdles his way to a first-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.94 at the Wildcat Relays. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Estrella Garcia, right, passes the baton to Analeigh Winchell in the 4x200 relay at the Wildcat Relays last week. The team finished in second with a time of 1:04.02. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Track: Big 8 Meet set for this week in Monett, Districts May 9 in Lamar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A  
meets this season where I've jumped perfectly and others where I couldn't even get off the ground. Success is the end result, and it takes failure to get to that point. Focus on the basics — you can't build a house without a good foundation."

As teams, the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats performed well in the Wildcat Relays, earning multiple medals across multiple events. Weldy said for the boys, the season has produced equitable results across events.

"We've had pretty solid success all around this year," he said. "We are getting points in all our areas, which has made me happy as a coach. We've had some really good performances out of our freshmen that have been pleasant surprises: Cash Smith, Vincent Buttrum, Colton Beebe, Dade Zajac, Jack Chappell and Clay Williamson."

Flehmer said the girls have also been meeting their goals.

"We have gotten better every meet and that was our goal," she said. "Hopelynn Thompson has really impressed me this year. She learned pole vault the second week of the season and has scored points every meet and continues to improve

every vault."

The Big 8 Conference meet becons this week, set for Thursday in Monett. The Class 3, District 6 Meet is on May 9 in Lamar, followed by the Class 3, Sectional 3 Meet on May 16 in Buffalo and the Class 3 State Meet on May 22-23 in Jefferson City.

"You really never know what is going to happen in the postseason," Weldy said. "I've seen kids come out of nowhere and advance to state and I've seen kids that were considered no-doubters that have a bad day and don't advance. So, I just want our kids to do their best here in a couple weeks and we will just see what happens."

Flehmer said the Lady Wildcats will continue working hard leading up to each day to do their best. Both coaches said staying health, staying focused, working hard and locking in will be the keys to a successful postseason.

Full results from the Wildcat Relays include:

### Boys Results (1st place as a team)

**1st Place**  
Corbin Rhoads, Pole Vault, 4.31m/14'1.5" (New School Record)

Brextin Sprague, Triple

Jump, 12.01m

Isaac Luney, Shot Put, 13.60m

Zach Myers, Discus, 36.29m

Vynnie Arguelles, Javelin, 43.55m

Tyler Rattigan, 110 Hurdles, 17.94

Tyler Rattigan, 300 Hurdles, 46.63

Mace Bredeson, 100m, 12.04

Mace Bredeson, 200m, 24

Jacob Hudson, 1600, 5:01.31

Dade Zajac, 800m, 2:13.28

Preston Driskill, 3200m, 11:03.29

Preston Driskill, Dade Zajac, Jarrett Paul, Jacob Hudson, 4x800 Relay, 9:31.36

Cash Smith, Dade Zajac, Colton Beebe, Mace Bredeson, 4x400 Relay, 3:45.30

**2nd Place**

Carlos Barrientos, Long Jump, 5.81m

Jack Chappell, Discus, 31.29m

Logan Parsons, Pole Vault, 3.35m

Ricky Norris, Javelin, 41.40m

Preston Driskill, 1600m, 5:04.29

Jarrett Paul, 400m, 1:02.96

Jacob Hudson, 800m, 2:17.57

**3rd Place**

Andon Goutney, Long

Jump, 5.78m

Andon Goutney, Discus, 30.35m

Carlos Barrientos, Javelin, 35.36m

Colton Beebe, 300 Hurdles, 48.04

Vincent Buttrum, 3200m, 13:32.87

**4th Place**

Carlos Barrientos, Triple Jump, 10.78m

Ricky Norris, Shot Put, 10.80m

Cash Smith, Pole Vault, 3.04m

Jarrett Paul, 200m, 26.68

**5th Place**

Gunner Knight, Shot Put, 10.30m

**6th Place**

Andon Goutney, Triple Jump, 10.54m

Brextin Sprague, Long Jump, 5.44m

**Girls Results (1st place as a team)**

**1st place**

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Mckenzie Wall, Claire Reuter, 4x100 relay, 56.07

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Kailyn Speer, Claire Reuter, 4x400 relay, 5:23.32

Brynn Whittenburg, Abbi Yarnall, Molly Cox, Claire Reuter, 4x800 relay, 12:40.73

Claire Reuter, 400m, 1:12.36

Shelby Knoefler, Shot

Put, 10.04m

Shelby Knoefler, Discus, 28.47m

Molly Cox, 300m Hurdles, 1:04.54

McKenzie Wall, High Jump, 1.37m

Hopelynn Thompson, Pole Vault, 2.43m

**2nd Place**

Estrella Garcia, Analeigh Winchell, Makiah Colf, Kailyn Speer, 4x200 relay, 1:04.02

Kailyn Speer, 300m hurdles, 1:09.36

Estrella Garcia, 400m, 1:14.84

Elizabeth Fohn, Javelin, 7.32m

**3rd place**

Makiah Colf, 100m, 14.75

Analeigh Winchell, 400m, 1:22.91

Molly Cox, 3200m, 16:36.09

**4th place**

Brynn Whittenburg, 100m, 15.13

**5th place**

Keely Bailey, 100m, 15.29

Analeigh Winchell, 200m, 32.19

Lyndsie Vanderhoef, Shot put, 6.77m

**6th place**

Hopelynn Thompson, 200m, 32.67

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## WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Makayla Connolley	Easton Hughes
Daichi Kezuka	Hopelynn Thompson



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