



<<< TRACK SEASON A SUCCESS

Wildcats grow throughout year; senior pole vaulter 12th at state. — **1B**



CASSVILLE Democrat

JUNE 10, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

FELONY ARREST

Who: Jeremy Doss, 43, of Exeter
What: Is charged with stealing (\$25,000 or more), second-degree burglary and stealing a motor vehicle
Bond: Set at \$50,000, cash only

Charged filed in pump truck theft

Vehicle recovered in Kansas after suspect allegedly attempted to sell

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

An Exeter man is charged with three felonies after allegedly stealing a vehicle from a Barry County business, arrested in Kansas after attempting to sell it.

Jeremy Doss, 43, of Exeter, is charged with stealing (\$25,000 or more), second-degree burglary and stealing a motor vehicle.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Sgt. Abby Parsons, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on May 28, the victim reported sometime through the night, someone had broken into his shop and stolen a 2005 Ford F150 truck and approximately \$20 worth of change.

The truck as valued at \$50,000 and contained tools and equipment valued at \$53,762.

According to social media reports, the vehicle was a pump truck belonging to A One Pump Service.

Parsons made contact with a witness that said Doss showed up to her place of employment driving the allegedly stolen vehicle.

Parsons then went to a residence in Lawrence county associated with Doss and recovered multiple items allegedly stolen out of the truck.

The vehicle as later recovered by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office in Kansas after Doss allegedly attempted to sell it.

According to an Ottawa County, Okla., arrest report, Doss was booked into the Ottawa County jail on May 29 at 5:36 a.m., charged with possession of paraphernalia, obstructing an officer and possession of methamphetamine.

Doss was arrested and booked into the Barry County jail on June 1 at 4:33 p.m. His bond is set at \$50,000, cash only.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 9 at 1 p.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

Parsons also noted Doss is on probation for possession of a controlled substance.

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Park reviews progress

Hatchery stocking 1.8 fish per angler through fishing

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

"Thank my staff members next time you see them out and about," Roaring River State Park Superintendent Mike Busekrus told the audience during the park's annual public meeting at the Emory Melton Inn Thursday night.

ROARING RIVER STATE PARK

What: Held annual meeting Thursday
News: Multiple projects completed, new set of projects on the horizon
Stocking: Hatchery currently stocking 1.8 fish per angler

Busekrus credits his staff with working magic in the park over the last year, by completing numerous projects, including

the new wastewater system – a project that had been ongoing for 15 months.

Almost no structure in the park was left untouched by the staff's wand. Cabin 9 received an exterior remodel; two showers in Campground 3 were renovated; improvements were made to the Honeymoon Cabin; the schoolhouse was treated for termites; the park store office and Dry Hollow restrooms got a paint job; a new deck beam was installed above the ground floor on the CCC Lodge; Camp

Smokey received a new shake roof over the staff's quarters, a new dishwasher in the dining hall, and a bathroom upgrade; partnering with Barry County Electric Co-op, new electric service – with part of the connections underground – was installed to serve Cabins 1 – 9; and a new classroom was completed in the Ozark Chinquapin Nature Center, essentially doubling its usable square footage, according to Nature Center Interpreter David Crowley.

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Big sounds, bright sights at Trout Fest



Riley Clemmons performs at the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday at the Aquatic Center Park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

FELONY CHARGES

Who: Crystal Randolph, born 1976, of Seligman, and Ronda Peal, born 1984, of Seligman
What: Each charged with stealing (\$750 or more) and first-degree property damage
More: Copper, aluminum removed from home A/C

2 charged in metals theft

Suspects allegedly took copper, aluminum from home's A/C

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

Two people have been charged with two felonies each after allegedly stealing metals from an outdoor air conditioning unit.

Crystal Randolph, born 1976, of Seligman, and Ronda Peal, born 1984, of Seligman, are each charged with stealing (\$750 or more) and first-degree property damage.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Jeremy Berner, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on May 4, he initiated an investigation of theft and damage to an air conditioning unit. The report was filed on April 9, when the victim said someone had removed all the copper and aluminum from an outdoor air

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May sales tax receipts strong in Barry County

Cassville sets another monthly record

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat
Sales tax to Barry County cities and the county government took a big jump upward in May, with all but one of the seven cities topping totals from a year ago.

Totals received another bump as the Missouri Department of Revenue distributed interest accumulated on monthly collections, covering July 2025 to December 2025. This was the second interest distribution in five months, bringing DOR records up to date. All 37 of the Barry County government bodies collecting sales tax received a distribution per tax, even the sunsetted taxes, totaling \$11,164.61.

SALES TAXES

What: May receipts strong
Cassville: Set new May record at \$121,792
Barry County: Gain of 15% compare to last year

Interest payments have been added to the regular May totals in this report. In none of the cases did the interest payment alone tip the total over the May 2025 sums.

The seven Barry County cities collecting sales tax received \$826,788.15. Comparing the same taxes collected last May, that represented an increase of 8%, not counting Seligman's new police tax and any collections to Washburn, which had its collections suspended for two months in 2025 over failure to file timely reports with the state.

Cassville set a new May record. Its 1% sales tax pay-

ing general bills generated \$121,792.86, up \$3,200.17, or not quite 3%. This is up \$24,000 or 20% from 2023, a level Cassville had held since mid-pandemic 2022. For the year, Cassville's general fund tally is up by almost 10%. The city's use tax total is up another 12%, another frequently seen trend of use taxes outperforming sales tax growth.

Seligman's 1% sales tax yielded \$15,116.45 for the month, up \$1,037.79 from a year ago. That also broke the May record dating back to 2021, before Seligman had a use tax. Seligman's general fund sum for the year is up by a little more than \$5,000, or 8%. Seligman's use tax grew by 9% for the month, putting the 2026 total ahead of last year by nearly 59%.

Purdy, whose sales taxes have held fairly even with 2025 this year, saw its 1%

sales tax for its general fund receive \$5,363.17 with interest, up \$1,392.99, or 35%, from a year ago. It was the fourth gain in five months, but well below the May record of \$8,168.57 from 2021. The current general fund tally is up 13% from a year ago.

Wheaton's 1% general fund sales tax brought in \$5,298.91 with interest, down \$1,531.93 from a year ago, the only Barry County city falling below the 2025 mark. The May record still stands at \$9,983.27 in mid-pandemic 2022. For the year, Wheaton's general fund receipts are down by a little over \$1,000. The city's half-cent tax had one of those odd

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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Voter registration through July 8

The last day to register to vote is July 8 for those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the Aug. 4 Primary Election. People may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or the Monett Chamber of Commerce. Please notify the Barry County Clerk's office of any address or name change. Photo ID required to vote in the August Primary Election. Absentee voting starts June 23 at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two week in-person, no excuse absentee voting begins July 21. If unable to vote in person, a voter may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625 or fax to: 417-847-5311. The office will need: Name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, phone number, party, reason for voting absentee and signature. Those who live in the Monett area can go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information, call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com

Capps Creek Road District to meet

The Capps Creek Special Road District will meet in regular session on June 18 at noon at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

Cassville Water Quality Report available

The City of Cassville's water quality report for the year 2025 is now available online at <https://dnrservices.mo.gov/ccr/MO5010144.pdf>. The document, also called a Consumer Confidence Report, provides important information about the City's efforts to provide safe drinking water. Residents can find detailed information about where their drinking water comes from as well as what trace elements (contaminants) have been detected. Residents can call City Hall at 847-4441 to obtain a printed copy of the report or to obtain more information on the municipal water system.

Carnival at Cassville Health Care

Cassville Health Care and Rehabilitation will host a carnival open to the public on June 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature food trucks, a dunk tank, children's carnival games and a petting zoo.

Monett Historical Society meeting on beekeeping

Monett Historical Society Monthly program will be held on June 16 at 7 p.m. in the Event Center of the museum, located at 422 E. Broadway in Monett. The program for this evening will feature a presentation given by Monett beekeeper, John Schmidt. He will be sharing knowledge and experience as a beekeeper in Missouri. Everyone is welcome.

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Thursday, Move 'N' Groove Low Impact Exercise Class, 11 a.m.; Opera of the Ozarks at FEMA Event Center, 1:30 p.m.; Friday, Adult Painting, 1 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m.; Monday, Pop Up Library at Exeter schools, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Family Paint Night, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Story Time, 10 a.m., Independence Day Door Hanger, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Tween Book Club, 3:30 p.m.

Old Church Gallery Farmers Market open

The Old Church Gallery Farmers' Market runs every Thursday from 8-11 a.m. at the Gallery, located on Farm Road 1240 in Shell Knob. The market offer farm fresh produce, eggs, jellies, relishes, baked goods, cut flowers, handmade crafts and more. The selection varies every week, so come early for the best choice. For more information, people may call 417-342-8671.

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 ercnewsletter@gmail.com with any names and contact information for Eagle Rock alumni.

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

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

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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

Essay winners announced



The Elks Lodge in Holiday Island, Ark., has announced three Cassville Intermediate fifth grade students have earned top honors in their annual Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. Students were asked to complete an essay answering the question, "What does service mean to me." From left: Ryko Campbell, Elks Lodge member; Ella Dutton; Nellie Jo Reid; Lillian Artherton; and Allen Selleck, Elks Lodge member. Dutton's essay also received recognition on the state level. Contributed photo

Exeter celebrates 30th consecutive year of Tree City USA designation



The City of Exeter recently celebrated its 30th consecutive year as a Tree City USA in 2026. This recognition is part of the Arbor Day Foundation's program, which emphasizes the importance of trees in our environment. This recognition was awarded to Exeter in honor of its commitment to plant, grow and maintain trees to benefit the community. Contributed photo

Metal: \$1K in damages to unit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

conditioning unit at his residence.

The report said the top of the unit was lying approximately two feet from the main body of the unit, and the unit itself was described as hollow, with noting inside of it.

The victim identified a family member, Randolph,

as a suspect, saying she had admitted in a text message to opening the unit but denied stealing anything from it.

The deputy who took the report made contact with Randolph and Peal at their residence, where they both allegedly admitted to removing the top of the unit and again denied stealing any-

thing.

The victim estimated the damages to the unit at \$1,000.

Criminal summons have been issued for Randolph and Peal, with no bonds set. Initial appearances are scheduled for Jan. 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

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CORRECTIONS

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

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Area businesses cut ribbons



The Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated Chief Construction Management's membership with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 20. Chamber members, community leaders and guests gathered to officially welcome the business to the Chamber. Front row, from left: Lee Allen, Juanita Stuart, Becky Kenner, Jared Ellis, Taylor Ellis, Debra Nickle, Bruce Nickle, Jerry Ellis, Netta Ellis, Tori Smith and Shannon Beemer. Second Row L to R: Jordan Ellis, Tyler McWilliams, Jeremy Schade, Thomas Portwood, Richard Asbill, James Weaver, John Williams, Mindi Artherton, Joe Hoyt, Trevor Williams and Mike Hagins. Contributed photo

The Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Dyno Rock LLC as one of its newest members with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on April 23. Community members, Chamber representatives and guests gathered to celebrate the business and officially welcome them to the Cassville business community. Dyno Rock LLC offers a variety of bulk landscaping materials for projects of all sizes, helping homeowners and contractors with their outdoor and landscaping needs. Front row, from left: Anthony Cypret, Roper Taylor, Jason Taylor, Chell Taylor, Aubrey Taylor, Madilynn Taylor, Gannon Lebow and Bubba Galvin. Back row: Trey Rose, Shawn Scott, Jeremy Marple, Ben Lindley and Shannon Beemer. Contributed photo



The Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for Herrin Animal Hospital on April 17 to celebrate its recent remodel and 30 years of serving Cassville and the surrounding communities. Community members, Chamber representatives, friends and family gathered to recognize this milestone and tour the newly remodeled facility. Front row, from left: Julie Sheets, Brook Sorensen, Sara Crass, Dr. Brent Herrin, Cordelia Herrin, Faith Jacobs, Hannah and Alyssa. Back row: Tom Sheets, Stan Kelley, Tiffany Miner, Gerry Mann, Barbie Stillings, Robert Edie, Angie Edie, Traci Mitchell, Dale Stillings Jr., Shannon Beemer, Ben Lindley, Angela Artherton, Jon Horner, Missy Craig, Harry Schwartz and Steve Slagle. Contributed photo

On April 16, the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce along with the Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce helped Zone 4 Mini Golf and More celebrate the opening of Hole 20 and its recent membership to Shell Knob's chamber. Community members, Chamber representatives and guests gathered to help celebrate this exciting addition to the popular local attraction, which gives visitors a great place to eat after enjoying all the fun Zone 4 offers. Front row, from left: Tammy Hamm, Kim Haver, Jason Miller, Shannon Beemer, James Beemer, Faith James and Tori Smith. Back row: Keeton Haver, Wyatt Taft, Dan Hamm, CJ Tabor, Rachael Freeman, Missy Craig, Rhonda Stafford, Chris Bolton, Tiffany Miner, Tad Brown, Grace Mayes, Traci Mitchell, Brittany Bernard and Mary Hayse. Contributed photo



The Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Wildcat Ice Cream as its newest member with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on April 10. Wildcat Ice Cream is celebrating three years in business this year. Follow them on Facebook and check out their weekly schedule to see where you can find them. Front row, from left: Josh Golubski, Ben Gruber, tiny Wildcat Evvan Gruber, Tasha Gruber and Rose Love. Back row: Jeff Fugitt, Kiley Stringer and Gerry Mann. Contributed photo

Barry County Health Corner



A bad septic system is a crappy problem

Septic systems are the unsung heroes of public health, treating wastewater for roughly one in five U.S. homes.

When functioning properly, your septic system safely filters dangerous bacteria, viruses, and excess nutrients out of household sewage before recycling the water back into the environment.

The Barry County Health Department helps ensure onsite septic systems are sized and designed to allow for proper treatment of wastewater to protect our community by permitting new systems, replacement systems and repairs.

To protect your household, community and the environment around you contact the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 before repairing, replacing or installing a septic system.

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.

Taxes: County up 15%

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

months when it generated almost exactly half of the one-cent, a rare occurrence in Wheaton. Wheaton's use tax, contrary to the other cities, was nearly half of the total a year ago. The use tax total for the year is down nearly a third.

Washburn, which received nothing a year ago due to a suspension of receipts ordered by the State Auditor, took in \$2,699.98 for its general fund, down \$1,126.54 from two years ago. The May record of nearly \$4,000 still stands from mid-pandemic 2022, before Washburn had a use tax, which started last July. Washburn's general fund receipts for five months are ahead of the first four months of 2025 by more than \$1,400.

Exeter's 1% general fund sales tax generated \$3,728.96 with interest in May, up \$276.74 from last May. That put the 2026 sum down \$1,194.39, or nearly 9%, for the year. Receipts from Exeter's use tax are up by almost \$650, making up half of that red ink.

Monett, which generates more sales tax than any other Barry County city, saw its two sales taxes for a total of 1% produce \$206,366.40 with interest. That was up \$19,803.83, or nearly 11%, from a year ago,

also a May record, beating the old record from 2021 before Monett had a use tax. Monett's general fund receipts for the year are up by more than \$53,600, or 5%. Monett's use tax for the month nearly doubled from a year ago. Use tax receipts for the year are up by nearly 30%.

Barry County's two older countywide half-cent sales taxes for general operations and road maintenance each brought in more than \$247,053 for the month, a gain of more than \$33,336, or more than 15%. That put Barry County's two sales taxes for its general fund at .625%, up by more than \$100,000 ahead of last year.

Barry County's use tax receipts for the month more than tripled from last May, the fifth gain over last year in 2026 and the fourth in a row by a big margin. Use tax receipts for 2026 are up by more than \$425,000 or 44%.

The .375% sales tax supporting Barry County's central dispatching and 911 service, a separate tax that goes straight to the Emergency Services Board, received \$185,275.98 in May, up \$25,007.43, up almost 16% for the fifth gain in a row. Receipts for the year from that tax are up by 7%.

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COMMENTARY

STAFF VIEW



SHEILA HARRIS

Let's burp on Amendment 5

We're getting closer to the truth. The Missouri Western District Court of Appeals ruled Friday that the ballot language for Amendment 5 needed to be clarified for voters before it appears on the ballot in the Aug. 4 primary. Initial language did not disclose the fact that the amendment can create new taxes on previously untaxed goods and services.

Amendment 5 proposes to eliminate the state income tax.

At face value, doing away with income taxes might sound like a good thing, but let's not be hasty in voting "yes" on this amendment. This looks to be a carefully concealed bear-trap, waiting for unsuspecting voters to give the amendment a nod of approval. If that happens, the trap will spring, with not much chance of escape for those who live paycheck to paycheck – including senior citizens like me.

The full extent of the consequences of approving Amendment 5 is unknown. A few aspects, however, are known.

It will allow new goods and services to be taxed, something the original ballot language did not disclose, but does now. Among many other items, real estate transactions can be taxed if the amendment passes.

The amendment will also give the Missouri legislature and the state auditor a full set of keys to the kingdom: the unhampered ability to raise tax rates without voter approval, including rates for constitutionally-established, voter-approved taxes like the Parks, Soils and Water (PSW) Sales and Use tax. The PSW tax will also appear on the August 4 ballot, as Amendment 1, for 10-year voter approval.

Combined individual state income taxes have historically been the state's largest source of revenue. According to the Missouri Department of Revenue's annual financial report for fiscal year 2025, which ended on June 30 last year, individual income taxes generated over \$9 billion. That number represents almost double the amount of the next largest source of revenue, Sales and Use taxes, which generated over \$5 billion.

A loss of \$9 billion in revenue will have to be replaced somehow. The state can't operate on fumes. The responsibility for making up the individual income tax deficit will still fall on individuals – with the preponderance, almost certainly, falling on us small turtles who depend on a weekly or monthly paycheck to eat. With increased taxes on goods and services – some previously untaxed – the price for our needs can increase exponentially.

While Missouri residents paid over \$9 billion collectively in income taxes in 2025, corporations paid nine times less than that amount: just under \$1 billion for the year. The difference between the two amounts is worth noting.

Another tax category worthy of consideration is that of pass-through entities, which paid just over \$7 million in taxes in 2025.

According to the DOR, pass-through entities (as I understand the explanation) are corporations from out of state who want to do temporary business in Missouri. Those corporations will be taxed at the same rate as the individual income tax rate (perhaps zero, if Amendment 5 passes), and the hosting, in-state corporations will receive tax credits for letting out-of-state companies operate within Missouri.

Whichever way you cut it, individuals are floating Missouri's economy far and above corporations, those both in-state and out-of-state.

If we give a yes to Amendment 5, those in the top financial echelons will benefit further, while those at the lower end of the scale – the majority of Missourians – will face higher prices on the goods we buy that are already taxed, plus new taxes on goods and services that were previously untaxed.

Meanwhile, Big Yertle, at the top of the heap, will continue to feed his corporate cronies with tax credits.

Yes, it's likely to encourage large corporations to set up shop in Missouri. Who doesn't want to move where taxes are cheap and water is plentiful? Data centers come to mind. But we lowly turtles can't fill our bellies with data, nor many of the other products large corporations produce.

Although our Republican governor is promoting this tax-restructuring amendment, Amendment 5 is not a Republican nor a Democrat issue. If passed, Amendment 5 will affect each and every one of us – no matter our stripe – while widening the gap between the collective Yertle at the top and us turtles down under.

It's time we start doing some collective burping, a big, loud belch, if you will.

Start with a resounding "No" on Amendment 5.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



COMMUNITY VOICES

Barry County History — Chapter 7

For those of you who have been following my account to the history of Barry County, I know that I said I would talk about some of the people of Barry County and this article will be about people, but not yet about the important historical people of Barry County.

To start with, I'd like to give a shout out to some of the people of Barry County, starting with the Cassville High School FFA students who helped the Cassville Rotary Club have one of their most successful Rodeo events ever. There were over two dozen students who sold pre-event tickets, who worked at concession stands and who helped park cars on Friday and Saturday night at the rodeo.

I would like to give a special shout to four students who helped park cars on the West side – Hale, Cricket, Cooper and Dakota. If you need someone to park cars in a straight line, Dakota is your man. Great job, Dakota.

A second shout out goes to the Barry County Commissioners, who have rehabilitated and remodeled the courtroom at the Barry County Courthouse where the Commissioners hold their meetings. An item of historical interest is that they re-established the upper deck viewing area of the courtroom with the old-style railing. It looks like a movie set from a 1920's movie trial.

I encourage everyone to go take a look, and I especially encourage the history teachers in our area high schools to bring their students to or to encourage their students to come and visit an authentic 1920's courtroom.

Talana Hinson, maybe your speech and debate classes could have a mock trial there, something like, "The Remarkable Incident at Carson Corners." Thank you Steve Blankenship, Gene Robbins and Gary Schad. It is beautiful.

I promise I will get back the people who were involved with the history of Barry County, but first I would like to also talk about some Barry County residents that we recently lost. First is my former 1964 classmate Becky Chaney Henningson. Becky is/was a Barry Countian who came back home to Cassville after attending college and was a teacher, a coach, a ladies golf champion and such a lover of the Cassville school system that she was on or head of the Cassville School Board for many years.

The second Barry Countian that I would like to talk about that we recently lost is Jill LeCompte, or Jill Holman LeCompte. Of course, the LeCompte name goes back in Barry County history to the 1850s, but Jill in her own right was a teacher, assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, and County Clerk.

She poured her heart into supporting and strengthening her community, serving on the Cassville School Board, continuing her lifelong commitment to education and the people of Cassville. My family and historical connection to Jill was then my great-grandmother was Mary Holman Hilburn, who was Jill's great-great-aunt.

Another Barry Countian that we've recently lost is Roger Brock, who attended college and came back to Barry County. He was Administrator of the County Health Department, coached several baseball teams and was an adviser to the Cassville High School fishing team. We lost Roger way too soon.

Another family and historical connection to Roger is that my great-great-grandmother was Morcana Brock Hilburn. So, somewhere up the line, Roger and I were distant cousins. Aren't history and ancestry amazing and interesting? Also, Roger's grandmother is Georgia Hart, who is a charter member of our



LYNN HILBURN

Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society and has stories about almost every family in Barry County.

Getting back to the history of Barry County, we're up to the 1830s which, of course, brings in the timeframe of the "Trail of Tears." Isn't it amazing that the Trail of Tears, the Butterfield Stage Line and the Old Wire Road went right through the middle of Cassville. Talk about Cassville and Barry County being tied to history.

The Trail of Tears came about because in 1830 President Andrew Jackson developed the Indian Removal Act. This was the federal government's way to provide more land for settlement by Europeans coming to America. They were moving the Indians to be West of the Mississippi and really to be West of Missouri and Arkansas into what was to become Oklahoma.

Between 1830 and 1837, The various tribes and groups of Indians located, generally in eastern Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia were encouraged to move to "Indian Territory" (Oklahoma) on their own. From 1837 to 1839, the Indians who had not moved West on their own were required to "force march" from their eastern locations to Indian Territory.

The trail bosses or 'conductors' were given but a few cents per day per person to keep them alive and get them to the Indian territory, a trip of approximately 900 miles (more about the removal trails later).

It was called the Trail of Tears because no matter which group and which route they took, 10-20% of the Indians did not make it. They died from lack of nourishment, fatigue (Imagine walking barefooted across some of our Ozark mountain ranges – in the wintertime), bad weather, and there were some, like my great-great-great-grandfather, who just took his family and left the "train" in southwest Missouri. Grandma Nettie Smith Taylor was half Cherokee, and I am an eighth, and very proud to be, because I hardly ever get a sun-burn.

Historical notes, as related to the Trail of Tears, President Andrew Jackson, because of the Indian Removal Act, was very well responsible for the Trail of Tears. How did President Jackson get famous?

He won the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815 after the Treaty of Ghent had been signed (Dec. 14, 1814). What was the Treaty of Ghent? The Treaty ended the hostilities between Great Britain and the United States from the war called the War of 1812. Rétablit le statu quo ante bellum – The Treaty of Ghent restores the pre-war status. It stated that each country had to give back the land and warships that they had conquered during the war.

What caused the war in 1812? Generally, it came about because Great Britain tried to create a blockade around France during the Napoleonic Wars. They also "impressed" our seamen (taking our seamen away from American vessels and making them serve in the British Navy), and Great Britain was also supplying arms and money to the Indians to continue the fighting against the American colonists (those pesky Indians!).

Also, there were many impe-

rialistic Americans who thought all of North America, north of the Rio Grande, should be part of the United States (Isn't it amazing how history repeats itself?)

Didn't someone just the other day think that Canada and Greenland ought to be part of the United States? The US troops had succeeded in winning some battles in Canada, but the War of 1812 was also the war in which Britain took over Washington DC and burnt down our capital.

After the War of 1812, the more civilized of the American Indian Tribes were forced into southeastern Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. This is why they were there in the 1830s and why Andrew Jackson needed them to move out.

A couple of oddities about the Napoleonic wars and the War of 1812. Napoleon and France had control over most of Europe, except for England. Why, because England had the best Navy in the world. France had no shipyards and no Navy so they wound up commandeering the American vessels to try to make fighting vessels out of them.

Another thing that happened around this time was that American ships, to avoid the British blockade on the western side of France, started going around Gibraltar to enter the southern side of France.

Have you ever heard of the Straits of Gibraltar? This is the location where Europe is separated from Morocco, Africa and the Barbary Coast by only about 9 miles. The Barbary Coast was the northwestern coast of Africa along the Mediterranean Sea consisting of the countries of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli. These countries are/ were part of the leftover of the Ottoman Empire that had a bunch of angry broke men and sailors who needed a livelihood. So, they would stop the virtually defenseless American trading vessels and charge them a toll for safe passing through the Strait to France or other ports (does this ring a bell with anyone?).

Sometimes, the vessel would be stopped more than once and by the time they were through paying their tolls, they had no profit. United States merchant vessels were getting it from three sides, Britain, France and the Barbary pirates.

Tripoli, being the eastmost Barbary country, did not seem to be getting its fair share of the tolls, so they demanded more tolls. The United States had finally had enough and decided they would not pay Tripoli their requested tolls or fees.

Tripoli declared war upon the United States. The US Navy and Marines landed on Tripoli and overtook the city. This was the only the second time that US troops had landed on and invaded a foreign country, and it also marked the first time the American flag was raised in victory on foreign soil. This is famously referenced in the Marines' Hymn: "to the shores of Tripoli". Isn't history fun and amazing? The other countries didn't want to be attacked by the United States, so they all came to a peace treaty.

I know it seems that I am rambling here, and I promise that one of these days I'll be talking about Littleberry Mason, Price McMurtry, the McConnells, the LeComptes, the Stubblefields, the Baylesses, the Rays, etc. and so forth on the beginnings of Cassville and Barry County.

Come and join us at the Historical Society and share a story about your family.

Lynn Hilburn is an officer in the Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society, and invites all to come and join meetings, to provide information about their families or to look up information about their families. Hilburn may be reached at hlhilburn@hotmail.com.

THROUGH THE YEARS

50 years ago

June 16, 1976
— GARRETT MFG. PURCHASES IDC BUILDING HERE

Garrett Manufacturing, Inc., of Cassville has completed negotiations with the Industrial Development Corporation for purchase of five acres and the firm's building on County Farm Road here. A corporate resolution and warranty deed filed in the Barry County Courthouse this week revealed the action. Completed on June 11, the IDC action did not require approval of the membership. Bill Wiley, president, and directors Glen Hall, Jack Byrd, Doyle Thomas and Kenneth Johnston completed the sale in the amount of \$57,862.50. Indebtedness by the IDC on the structure amounted to about \$37,000. This would leave about \$20,000 for IDC use in other industrial efforts. The structure, originally constructed at a cost of \$65,000 for Cassville Tool and Machine in 1972, consisted of 10,000 square feet. Glen Garrett acquired the property and business in October of 1973 and immediately doubled the size of the manufacturing facility. Garrett said this week the firm presently has 55 on its machine job shop payroll and is preparing to hire additional personnel. The Garrett building, financed by the IDC through the Small Business Administration and First National and Barry County Banks of Cassville, was built for the Preddy and Sanders family operations that preceded Garrett's purchase. The IDC, which now has only the Wells Aluminum building in ownership, consists of 152 stockholders who own 1,793 shares. The corporation recently sold remaining land in the IDC park on West 11th Street to Garrett's brother, Melvin, who is in the process of establishing a shop on the property. Garrett Manufacturing is under contract by several firms throughout the country in machining parts. The shop is considered one of the most modern in this area. Most of the shop equipment is computer-driven. The firm has its own computer facilities for record keeping and equipment programming.

— \$195,000 PURDY SCHOOL BOND VOTE JULY 13

Purdy School District residents will go to the polls July 13 in a special election to decide a \$195,000 building bond issue, according to Superintendent Tom Kurucz. Action by the board of education set the date. The proposal calls for the district to incur an indebtedness of \$177,000 in bonds and to transfer for a period of one year 72 cents of the existing 95-cent debt service levy to operation. Superintendent Kurucz said this transfer would provide an additional \$26,000 for the program, of which \$18,000 would be used for the new building construction, \$6,000 for band uniforms and \$2,000 for the existing new gymnasium. Complete details of the bond presentation are scheduled for a board session this week. A public session will be set for patron information prior to the bond election date. In other action before the board, Melvin Casper was released from his teaching contract to attend graduate school in Colorado. Mrs. Ruth Johnson, formerly of Neosho, was employed as a bus driver. Superintendent Kurucz was authorized to seek insurance need bids for the district with a 10 percent increase in coverage. The board approved a 6.6 percent salary increase for teachers. The school's food service department — Carolyn Gage, Freda Schrad, Lena Coones, Lauretta Sharp and Charlene Fly — were commended for their performance this past year. Covering the bond issue, board intentions are to involve school patrons in

the proposal and in circulating information. Those desiring to take part in this effort should contact school officials.

40 years ago

June 18, 1986
— COUNTY ROAD FINANCES BEST OF ALL; \$157,760 BID AWARD

Barry County has one segment of operations in good financial condition. That's the road districts that will, at the end of the year, start reaping benefits of a one-half cent sales tax. And, the road districts will complete their final year of operations without the extra tax with a program of \$157,760 County Aid Road Trust contract. Presiding Commissioner Lloyd Dilbeck said the county should award a contract this week to Hutchens Construction Co. of Cassville for the 1986 road program. Dilbeck said the contract would cover CART road funds only. These are financed through state gasoline tax returns to the county. The Hutchens firm was the lone bidder on the county's road work for the second year. Last year's contract called for \$172,400 in work. George Ulmer, consulting engineer, said the work will include about 39 miles of chip and seal work in about 20 of the county's 26 special districts. He noted earlier that some would do only grading, ditching and maintenance work on gravel roads for their 1986 projects. Next year the districts will benefit to a total of \$500,000 in new tax money. That will be distributed on a total tax valuation and miles of road basis for a full year of collection, according to Ulmer. Districts can expect to receive about one and one-half times their CART funds from the one-half cent sales tax. Road officials said the sales tax receipts, scheduled to begin later this summer, will mean different things to various districts. County officials said some districts had certificates of deposit investments while others were continuously broke. CART funds that will pay for the contracts awarded last week do not include those funds districts have from their local tax levy. Approximation of district local revenues of district local revenues that will be available for local fund work with the new sales tax revenue is as follows: Ash, \$6,788.97; Roaring River, \$21,431.72; Sugar Creek, \$12,907.65; Washburn, \$15,797.74; White River, \$17,973.00; Shell Knob, \$25,014.84; Mineral Springs, \$16,340.55; Flat Creek, \$40,052.25; Exeter, \$23,262.39; Corsicana, \$10,267.02; Butterfield, \$17,961.36; McDonald, \$8,642.22; Jenkins, \$8,195.55; Viola, \$20,855.97; Mountain, \$6,087.40; Crane Creek, \$11,425.38; Aurora (Ozark), \$11,899.28; Pleasant Ridge, \$11,179.14; Kings Prairie, \$14,814.30; Purdy, \$21,253.19; Wheaton, \$19,560.13; Pioneer, \$5,165.91; Capps Creek, \$13,806.27; Monett, \$11,319.45; Liberty, \$1,592.70; Greasy Creek, \$5,220.75. Commission plans are to build a reserve in the county from which emergency and special projects, such as bridge repair, can be accomplished.

— COUNCIL SETS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEARING NEXT TUESDAY

What is termed a close Cassville budget will go before public review in hearings next Tuesday night. Department cutbacks and shifting of designation of city sales tax funds have been ordered by the city council here in budget preparations. Worksheets of expenditures this year to date and proposed 1986-87 budgets reflect a spending of \$323,927 less than last year. Expenditures last year amounted to just over one million dollars, \$1,063,937, compared to a proposed budget of \$740,010 for the new budget period. Actually, Cassville won't be spending that much less than



50 YEARS AGO: PURDY DEDICATES NEW FACILITIES — Purdy's city park was packed with people Saturday as the community dedicated new park facilities and a Neighborhood Center that includes a new library. Funded through a County Court program and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, they are firsts for the Barry County community. Congressman Gene Taylor makes his dedicatory remarks as the shelter, kitchen and center are pictured in the background. Part of the crowd is also shown in front of the speaker's platform. Below, Mayor Bill Hemphill uses the old way to inflate a balloon, while councilman Ralph Davis relies on a more modern method, bottled gas. The two were preparing souvenirs when this photo was made. Democrat file photo

last year; there just won't be some big-ticket items to pay out of city revenues. Included will be some \$200,000 in water refunds resulting from court action filed by Leon Jackson and others, bond payments that were retired last year, less street expenditure and 10 percent reductions in all departments. Total general fund costs last year were \$642,150 and would be \$442,345 under the new budget. Water and sewer operations last year cost \$345,476 and would be \$278,155 for the coming year. Mayor Rolland Meador noted the 6:30 p.m. hearing next Monday would be open to the public. Major expenditures proposed in the new budget include the following: administrative, \$88,425; police, \$151,670; treasurer, \$7,400; building inspector, \$2,550; animal control, \$350; parks and recreation, \$36,130; streets, \$125,100; airport operation, \$4,220; water meter deposit, \$4,000; and disaster planning, \$2,500. Water and sewer distributions call for \$174,435 in the water department and \$103,720 for wastewater treatment. Other expenditures listed in the budget include: general obligation bonds, none; water-sewer revenue bond, \$22,360; water-sewer revenue reserve, none; water-sewer revenue bond depreciation, none; revenue sharing, \$16,000; and airport trust, none.

30 years ago

June 12, 1996
— PARK PARTIES OFFER AREA TEENS A BREAK FROM CRUISING

When Friday night rolls around, area teens usually have three choices for weekend adventure. They can head out of town to watch a movie, stay home and hang out with friends, or jump in their cars and hit the streets of Cassville to cruise town. It's been the same routine for years. But a group of community-minded citizens want to change that. A committee, spearheaded by Public Education Officer Lonnie McCullough, has met twice in the last week to discuss plans for creating an entertainment alternative for area youth called Party in the Park. The intent of Party in the Park is to give young adults a place to party that's drug-free, alcohol-free and violence-free. The party idea came about when city officials and community members identified the lack of youth-oriented entertainment outlets as a concern that needed to be addressed. The first party has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 22. It will be held at the city park, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Young adults who attend will be entertained by Berryville, Ark.,

DJ Jerry Blackston, who performed earlier in the year at the Dogwood Car Show at Roaring River. The event will give teens an opportunity to dance, converse and just hang out with friends. Upcoming parties might also include basketball, softball, swimming and sand volleyball. These parties would be open to young people who have finished their freshman year of high school through age 20. If the program is successful for the older kids, then a similar program may be created to target younger-aged kids. During discussion at the meetings, participants emphasized the need to create a party atmosphere that is non-threatening to area teens — an event that can be labeled as "cool." Promoting the parties will be left up to teens who said word of mouth was the best advertisement. Police Chief Jay Reyes reiterated the fact that the party would not be a chaperoned event. Reyes said although the Party in the Park idea was initiated by the police department, he did not intend for the event to be a "police program." He said he hoped the parties would help break down the barrier between teens and Cassville cops. McCullough agrees with Reyes' assessment. "We want the community to adopt it (the party concept)," McCullough said. "We need to do something for our young adults besides chase after them." Reyes said police officers would be present at the parties to maintain some degree of order and to insure that the event stays alcohol-, drug- and violence-free. He said his officers would dress casually in shorts and polo shirts.

The program received a good response from planners who attended the meetings. Joe Cavness, Cassville High School assistant principal, said: "I'm proud to see that our city officials and police department are actively trying to do something for the young people of this town, and I think it's long been needed. I do think it's starting off on the right foot. We've got some good ideas. Not everything we're going to try to do is going to work; but if they can draw some of the kids off the streets and into these gatherings, I think it's going to be a positive thing for the city." Parties in the Park will be held twice a month initially and could possibly be sponsored more frequently as interest increases. The first party will be sponsored by the Cassville Chamber of Commerce with funding assistance from city D.A.R.E. funds. A grant has been submitted through the Community 2000 program to secure additional funding for future parties, which will be offered to teens free of charge. "This is not a money-making thing for us," said Reyes. "You (our youth) are our city's most valuable resource."

— BIDS FOR NEW BARRY ELECTRIC FACILITY CAME IN UNDER PROJECTED COST FIGURES

Bids on Barry Electric's new headquarters came in under the estimated project cost of \$1.5 million, according to Bill Shiveley, general manager. Project bids were opened yesterday. Shiveley said the bids would be reviewed by the co-op board at its June 24 meeting. If the bids meet specifications and receive approval from the architect, a contract will be issued, Shiveley said. The

project was divided into nine separate categories. Bids received for each portion of the project are listed below. Building shell, concrete and earthwork: \$854,000, R.D. Dale, Inc., Joplin; \$787,038, Merit Contractors, Inc., Springfield; \$945,945, Rich Krammer, Springfield; and \$825,000, Branco, Joplin. Interior and finishes: \$215,000, R.D. Dale; and \$290,000, Branco. Shiveley said both of these bids were contingent on the companies receiving the building bid. Mechanical: \$165,000, Allen's Mechanical, Springfield. Electrical: \$138,965, Bill's Electric, Branson and Webb City; and \$167,718, Joplin Industrial Electric. Plumbing: \$165,000, Allen's Mechanical; and \$59,500, Rusk Plumbing, Joplin. Landscaping: \$15,808.44, Hillcrest Landscaping, Neosho. Off-site utilities: \$51,000, Branco; \$48,000, Allen's Mechanical; and \$40,149.64, Stewart Construction, Cassville. Alternate bid on asphalt paving: \$17,950, Masters and Jackson, Springfield; and \$12,250, Hutchens Construction, Cassville. Shiveley said right now bid totals stand at around \$1.46 million for the project that will provide Barry Electric with a new 7,000-square-foot office and 15,400-square-foot warehouse and truck garage. The 10-acre site, located on Business 37 north of Cassville, will also provide space for open material storage and utility pole racks. Shiveley predicts that the project will take 10 to 12 months to complete.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Meet Lucy B! She was originally found as a stray where a kind loving home took her in until we made room for her. She is a gentle soul who loves a good walk on her leash. Her only downfall so far that we have found is that she thinks cats are evil. Otherwise, she is a beautiful healthy girl looking for her forever family. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





STEVE DAVID BOYKE, JR.

Steve David Boyke, Jr., 73, of Exeter, Mo. passed away Friday, June 5, 2026 at his home.

He was born January 21, 1953 in Waukegan, Ill., the son of Steve David Boyke, Sr. and Gladys (Hatfield) Boyke, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were his brother, Bill Brown and sister, Nancy Brown.

Survivors include his life partner, Jax Baker of Exeter, Mo.; daughters, Jean Hopkins and husband Mike of Sand Springs, Okla., Stacy Day and husband Gary of Tulsa, Okla., Jennifer Center and husband Brian of Fayetteville, Ark. and Devin Boyke and fiancé Wayne Smith of Shawnee, Kan.; sister, Barbara Throsel of Hollywood, Calif.; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He grew up and attended school in Waukegan, Ill., graduating from Waukegan East High School. He was employed as a cab driver

in Chicago, Ill. for several years. After moving from Lake County, Ill. to Exeter in 1999 he drove a truck for Barry County Ready Mix.

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

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TERRY GENE SMITH

Terry Gene Smith, 79, of Cassville, Mo., passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. He was on April 22, 1947. The firstborn son of Gene and Marietta (Terry) Smith, who preceded him in death. Also, preceding him in death was his younger brother, Britt Smith.

Survivors include his younger sister, Sue, and her husband Gary Britton of Dallas, Texas; Rayna Smith and her husband Alex Woolbright of the

Ozarks; Krista Smith and her husband John Healy along with their two children, Kennedy and Ryan of St. Petersburg, Fla.

In his youth, he was an All-American wrestler, a summer surfer, and a football champion at Washington High School in Fremont, California. To avoid the Draft, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1966. He attended Officer Candidate School, and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne division, as a Second Lieutenant. He served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, where he received a field promotion to First Lieutenant. He exited the Army with an Honorable discharge in 1969.

After leaving the Army, Terry returned home to Fresno, Calif. where he was employed as a firefighter. He and his wife, Pamela Day moved to Rocky Comfort, Mo. where they built the Indian Creek Greenhouse, ran summertime canoes on Mike's Creek, and raised their daughters.

Graveside services with military honors were held Thursday, June 4, 2026, at Mo. Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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DANIEL "DANNY" TORTORELLA

Daniel "Danny" Tortorella, 60, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026 at his home.

He was born on May 26, 1966, in Staten Island, N. Y., to Joe and Brenda Tortorella, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death was his brother, James.

Survivors include his wife, Lynn; eight children, Nick, Joe, Carissa, Jenna, Daniel, Miranda, Stephanie, and Russell and 12 grandchildren; his siblings, Michael, Thomas, Anthony, and Patricia; stepfather, Jack Cusick; stepmother, JoAnn Tortorella and his faithful dog, Rocco.

He dedicated his career to the tile and stone trade, eventually founding his successful installation business, Danella Tile.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at Table Rock State Park in Branson, Mo. Cremation arrange-

ments are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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GEORGE LEONARD HOEFLE

George Leonard Hoefle, 87, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Monday, June 1, 2026 at Lacoba Homes in Monett, Mo.

He was born June 17, 1938 in Denver, Colo., the son of Victor W. and Zita (Glass) Hoefler, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death was a sister, Jackie Archuleta.

Survivors include his sons, Mark Hoefler and wife Kelli of Littleton, Colo., Matthew Hoefler and wife Rosa of Denver, Colo., Luke Hoefler of Nederland, Colo. and John Hoefler and wife Jacquelyn of Golden, Colo.; daughters, Lori

Maloney and husband Paul of Eagle Rock, Mo., Patricia Ladebue and husband Roy of Brush, Colo., Lisa Zion and husband Stuart of Arvada, Colo. and Mary Spencer and husband Rob of Arvada, Colo.; brother, Garvin Hoefler of Aptos, Calif.; sister, Jeannie Teague; 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

He grew up in Denver, Colo., where he attended school and graduated from St. Francis High School. He served for three years in the Colorado Army National Guard. George worked as a machinist for IBM for 15 years.

Services were held Saturday, June 6, 2026 at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Father Bill Hodgson conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to Cassville Senior Center in memory of George.

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Summer school students dig into learning

Cassville youth lend hands at Barry County Community Garden

Sixty-five second-grade students and their teachers from

Cassville summer school visited the Barry County Community Garden for a morning of hands-on activities focused on helping their community, growing food, healthy eating and the role of pollinators.

Garden Manager Melissa Hamilton led the visit, introducing students to the garden's mission, while volunteers Rosario Keele and Skip Easter assisted with activities and exploration throughout the grounds.

Students toured the garden, examining vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers while discovering how food is produced. Through interactive experiences, they explored the importance of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators and discussed the benefits of nutritious foods.

During the visit, students smelled herbs and flowers, learned how herbs and flowers are used in cooking, and observed how they support pollinators. They also asked questions about planting, watering, harvesting, and caring for plants.

In a final presentation, they observed how seeds can look so different for



Sixty-five second-grade students and their teachers from Cassville summer school visited the Barry County Community Garden for a morning of hands-on activities. Contributed photo

every plant. Each student received flower and vegetable seeds to take home and plant.

"We are hoping to instill a passion for growing food and helping neighbors in the next generation," Hamilton said. "Experiences like this give children a chance to connect with where their food comes from and see how gardening can make a positive difference in their community."

The visit reflects the Barry County Community Garden's commitment to helping local youth understand food production, healthy eating and environmental stewardship, Hamilton added.

"The garden continues to offer seasonal pro-

grams while serving as a source of fresh produce and resources," she said.

The Barry County Community Garden is located at 10160 Farm Road 2160 in Cassville, Missouri. Volunteers and donations are always welcome to support the garden's mission. Donations may be made through the MU Extension office on the second floor of the Barry County Courthouse in Cassville. Please specify the donation is for the community garden.

For more information, to volunteer, or to partner with the garden, people may contact Hamilton at 417-592-0432 or follow the Barry County Community Garden on Facebook.

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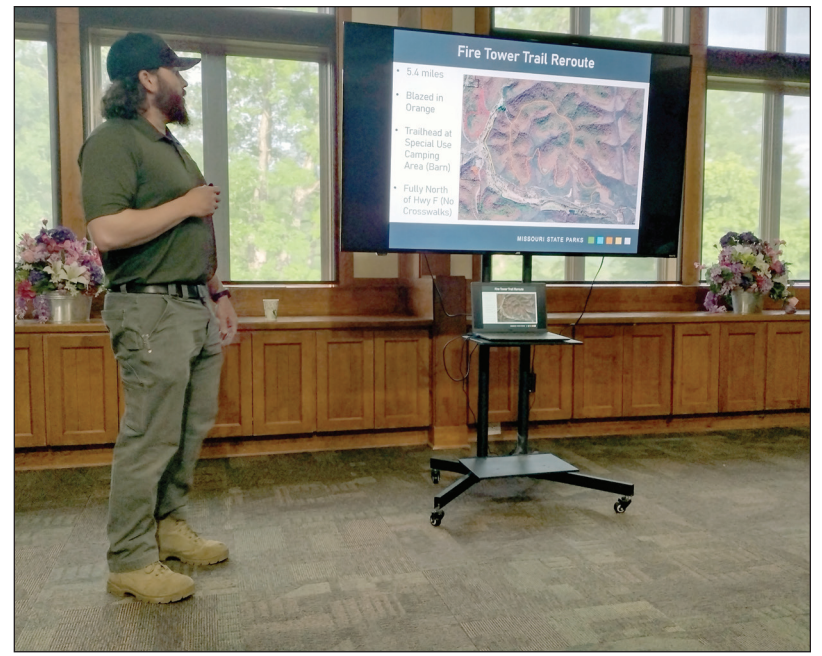
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Amanda Cope, Roaring River assistant park superintendent, reviews events in the park over the past year, during last week's Roaring River State Park public meeting.
Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Murphy Kindoll, natural resource ecologist, explains the re-route of the Fire Tower Trail, during last week's Roaring River State Park public meeting.
Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



David Crowley, natural resources interpreter, talks about upcoming interpretive events in Roaring River State Park during last week's public meeting.
Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Jotham Brown, Roaring River Adventures manager, speaks of the community fundraising events that Roaring River Adventures was a part of last year. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Meeting: Pine Hollow joint burn was largest in state at 4,050 acres

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The new classroom is available for use by school and other groups interested in reserving it for educational experiences.

Since last June, Crowley said more than 6,000 people have toured the nature center, which is open Friday to Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The park offers a variety of interpretive programs through the nature center, including cave hikes, river walks and snake programs. This year, however, they will add to their line-up. New offerings include Fly Casting 101, Night Hikes, Trivia Nights, Fossil Hikes, Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Hunts and Fly Tying.

Weekly program schedules can be found on the park's Facebook page (with the red Making Missouri Memories icon), the park's bulletin boards, or by calling the Park Office or Nature Center.

Upcoming events include Fly Tying & Coffee, the third Saturday morning of every month; the Geminid Meteor Shower, Saturday, Dec. 11; First Day Hikes, Friday, Jan. 1, 2027 (Registration opens Dec 1); and Bald Eagle Day, Saturday, Jan. 16, 2027.

WOW School is scheduled this year for Oct. 9-11. Class registration will open in August, Crowley said. Watch the park's Facebook page and the WOW School website for the date.

Busekrus reminded the community that bus grants are available to help cover fuel costs for schools who would like to bring student groups to the park. Information about the program can be found at <https://mostateparks.com/page/missouri-state-parks-bus-grant-program>.

"When I served as the superintendent at the Nathan Boone Homestead, we had school groups from as far away as the Bootheel who used bus grants to travel to Springfield," he said.

Busekrus said other projects completed throughout the year include tree removal from stream beds, cleaning up storm debris, the reworking of five sites in Campground 2 and the re-routing of Fire Tower Trail.

"Fire Tower Trail is now located completely north of F Highway," Busekrus said.

The new trail head is near the old horse barn.

A group of student volunteers from Penn State University chose Roaring River as the chosen site for

their "Alternative Spring Break," this year. The students spent a week in March working on Devil's Kitchen, Deer Leap, Pibern and Eagle's Nest Trails, Busekrus said.

During the upcoming season, volunteers with an RV-centric organization, "A Year to Volunteer," will be donating their time and labor to make additional improvements to Camp Smokey. Community members and campers are invited to join them.

A couple of new flood-safety measures have been implemented, including the installation of a camera alongside Dry Hollow, which will allow park personnel to gauge the depth of water coming from the west during heavy rains.

"In the past, someone had to run back and forth on foot to warn us how high flood waters were getting," Busekrus said.

According to Busekrus, moving forward, the park will partner with Northeastern University (and other rural communities) in a project called FloodSavvy. The project simplifies the National Water Model into a user-friendly dashboard to provide forecasted river conditions for ungauged streams. Currently, the park's single USGS gauge is located near the bridge on Highway F.

Roaring River Valley has historically been susceptible to flash-flooding, but Busekrus is hopeful that with the new tools in the park's belt, including the installation of new storm sirens last year, earlier flood warnings can be provided to campers.

"Check our Facebook page for weather alerts," he said.

In addition to flood warnings, the fire system at the Emory Melton Inn has been improved, along with upgrades to locks, kitchen equipment and the acoustic system. Roaring River Adventures (RRA), the park's concessionaire, partnered with the park on those improvements, as well as on upgrades to the Park Store, and on HVAC units in several cabins.

Under the direction of Concessions Manager Jotham Brown, Roaring River Adventures also partnered with community groups for charity events last year, including a benefit for the Breast Cancer Foundation, and the holiday Festival of Trees in November and December.

"One of our housekeep-

ers suggested hosting a holiday coat drive using the numerous coat-hooks we have in the inn," Brown said. "That event also proved to be a big success."

"I really want to thank all of our community partners for working with us. I appreciate everything you do."

More exciting events are planned in the park for the upcoming year.

Roaring River Adventures Chef Nina Baltzell will plan and serve quarterly chef-tasting events, in the style of the inaugural event held a couple of weeks ago at the Emory Melton Inn: these, in addition to the special buffets scheduled for holidays.

Baltzell is also looking forward to hosting more private events in the park.

"We hosted our first wedding a couple of months ago," Baltzell said. "We thought it was a great success. We had 100 guests in attendance."

For information about reserving space for weddings, reunions and other types of banquets, visit the Roaring River Adventures Facebook page, or call 417-847-2330.

Roaring River Adventures will also go mobile, Baltzell said, with portable concession meals for park concerts and other events.

Assistant Park Superintendent Amanda Cope said repeats of last year's popular events are again in this year's line-up.

"We're changing our Aug. 15 Kids' Fishing Day, this year, to a Family Fishing Day," Cope said. "We'll have activities that are more family-inclusive."

The second annual Trout O' Lantern Festival is scheduled for Oct. 24 and 25, with prizes awarded for the best decorated campsites. A Trunk or Treat event will be held in the parking lot of the Emory Melton Inn on the 25th.

A Holiday Open House will be held Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, where door sprays can be created under the tutelage of park staff.

That date will also mark the beginning of the Festival of Trees and holiday shopping in the park store.

People can also mark their calendars for Dec. 19, from 5-8 p.m., the date and time of the third annual Candlelight Stroll, said Cope. Last year's event drew 1,500 guests, who strolled among 1,000 luminaries placed along



Roaring River State Park Superintendent Mike Busekrus explains the Parks, Soil and Water Sales Tax that will be on the ballot for voter approval on Aug. 4. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

walkways in the park.

"We had double the number of luminaries and double the number of guests than we had at our first event," Cope said. "Santa will be in the CCC Lodge, and we'll have cookies and cocoa and a limited number of give-away ornaments."

A candlelight dinner will also be served at the Inn for those who schedule reservations in advance.

On an earlier note, a new restroom has been delivered to the park for installation near the fish-cleaning station in Zone 3. Although the restroom will be welcome, there may be some impediments to parking and fish-cleaning until the structure is installed, Busekrus said.

In fish news, Roaring River Hatchery Manager Brad Farwell reported that his team is currently releasing 1.8 trout per projected fisherman, based on last year's tag sales. The fish are 12 inches in length, or perhaps a bit larger, Farwell said.

The oxygen-line project has been completed at the hatchery, and four new UV units have been installed to increase bacteria mitigation capabilities.

Due to Emerald Ash Borer disease, Natural Resource Ecologist Murphy Kendall advises campers not to bring their own campfire wood to Roaring River. The deadly insect-borne disease has played a part in the destruction of some 90 trees in the park over the past year.

"The number one means of spread is through the transporting of infested wood," Kendall said.

The park is working with Forrest-Keeling nursery to replace missing trees by planting saplings the nursery grows from native seeds donated by the park.

Prescribed burns

during the past year included 4,050 acres in Pine Hollow.

"[It] was the largest joint burn Missouri State Parks has participated in, in conjunction with the Forest Service," Busekrus said.

Busekrus has another impressive roster of park improvements lined up for the upcoming year, including continued upgrades to sites in Campground 2, restoration of the CCC Shelter, more cabin upgrades, schoolhouse work and the replacement of playground equipment for Zone 1.

Capital improvement projects, such as those listed above, are paid for by funds generated within the park, along with the infusion of some federal funds.

For operating expenses (salaries, utilities, etc.), Roaring River State Park

is one of 93 state parks and historic sites in Missouri that depend on revenue generated from the one-tenth-of-one-percent sales tax initially approved by voters in 1984. Called the Parks, Soils and Water Sales and Use Tax, revenue from the tax is split evenly between the Missouri Parks system and the state's Soil & Water Conservation Program. Last year, the tax generated some \$140 million in total revenue.

Missouri voters are being asked to renew that tax for another 10-year interval in the Aug. 4 primary.

What has been accomplished with that tax is on full display in Roaring River State Park, which drew 1,254,931 visitors to Barry County in 2025.

In 2028, the park will mark its 100th Anniversary.

Vote on Aug. 4!



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Big sounds, bright sights at Trout Fest



A fireworks display lit up the Aquatic Center Park on Friday night, celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Band Reeves performs during the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday at the Aquatic Center Park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Solomon Crane, 9, proudly holds up his catch for his mother, Avery Magnusson, of Joplin, to take a photo. Crane made the catch during the first Trout Fest trout derby on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Adler Hughes, 5, of Joplin, excitedly talks fishing with his mother, Sydney Beasley, during the trout derby at Roaring River State Park on Saturday, a new offering as part of Trout Fest. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Band Reeves had many of the hundreds of people on their feet for praise at the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Denny Wolf performs with the Wolf Family & Friends during the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday at the Aquatic Center Park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Band Reeves performs during the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday at the Aquatic Center Park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Carolyn Bagby, of Cassville, sings praise while holding her granddaughter, Ellie Sluder, 1, of Cassville, at the



Gypsy Nelson, 3, of Exeter chases after a bubble she caught and popped while playing at the annual Trout Fest concert on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



A fireworks display lit up the Aquatic Center Park on Friday night, celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Kiley Stringer sings the National Anthem ahead of a fireworks display at the annual Trout Fest event on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

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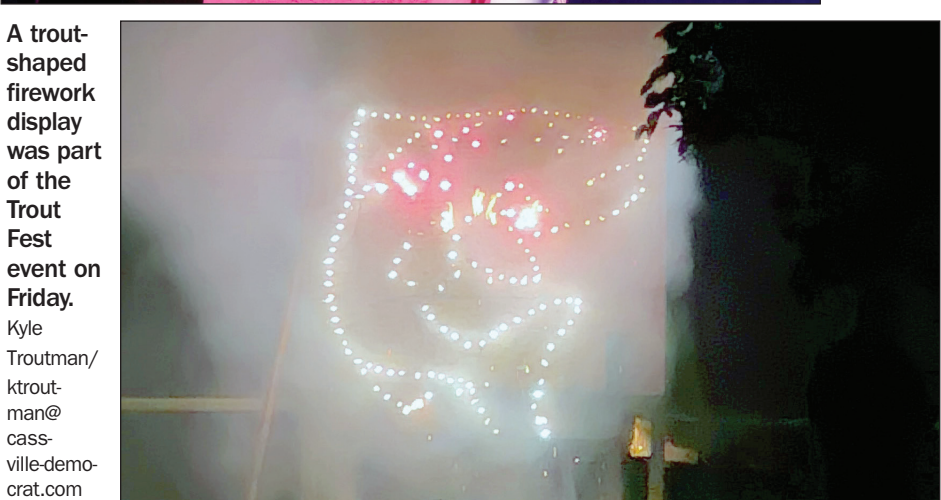
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A trout-shaped firework display was part of the Trout Fest event on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Jordan Aleman, of Broken Arrow, Okla., won the smallest fish prize with a 0.35-pound catch at the inaugural Trout Fest trout derby on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Parker Bills, of Lawrence, Kan., won the biggest fish prize with a 1.6-pound catch at the inaugural Trout Fest trout derby on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

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TROJANS BASEBALL

Record: 6-17
Last result: 6-4 loss to Pierce City in Class 3, District 11 Tournament
Season: Sophomore-heavy ball club gains experience for future

Young Trojans grow with experience

Southwest baseball team finishes campaign at 6-17

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

Wrapping up a six-win season, Southwest baseball coach Derek Mann said the Trojans gained valuable experience throughout the spring, particularly among a young roster that will form the core of the program moving forward.

“Our season was overall pretty decent,” Mann said. “We had a lot of young guys get valuable varsity experience.”

Mann said the team’s biggest growth came in its understanding of the game and its approach during competition.

“We improved on our baseball knowledge and our mentality during a game,” Mann said.

While progress was made, Mann said he would have liked to see the team handle the emotional swings of games more consistently.

“In a lot of games, we let the ups and downs of the game affect us too much,” Mann said. “I would have liked us to be more even keeled instead of riding the emotional roller coaster of each game.”

One of the season’s highlights came in conference play

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

WILDCATS CALL TRACK SEASON A SUCCESS



Cassville’s Mace Bredeson leans forward past the finish line in the 100-meter dash at the Cassville Relays this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Rhoads leads way with new school record, 12th at state

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville boys track and field coach Clay Weldy said the Wildcats showed steady growth throughout the season, leading to what he considered a successful campaign.

“It was successful, but we could’ve been better in a lot of areas,” he said. “We saw a lot of improvement as the season went on, so I grade that as successful.”

Weldy said improvement was evident across the entire roster and in every event group.

WILDCATS TRACK AND FIELD

What: Wrapped up season
Outcome: Success but with room for improvement
More: Senior breaks school pole vault record, takes 12th at state

“Across the board we saw improvements,” Weldy said. “We had our kids get better in all events and have improvements throughout the season.”

Several moments stood out to Weldy during the spring, including a record-breaking performance and a state appearance.

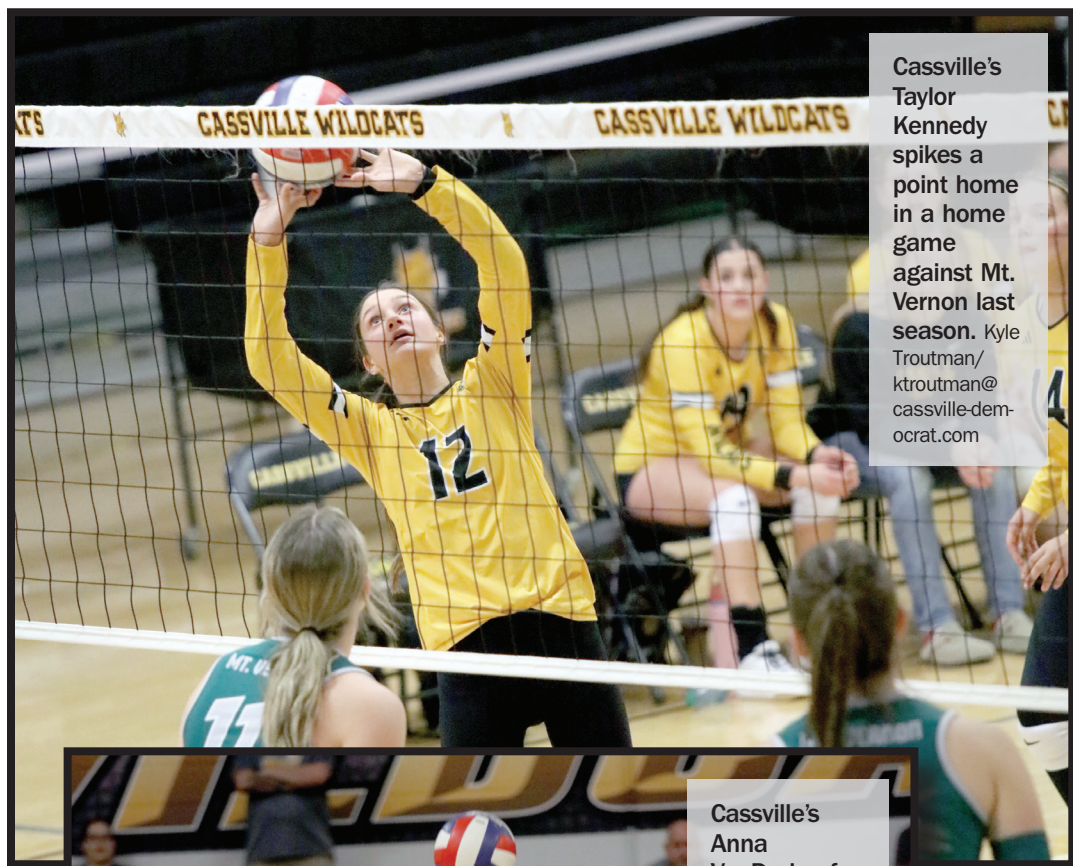
“A couple moments stood out: Corbin making it to state in pole vault and him also breaking the school record in pole vault, and also the Big Race,” Weldy said.

At sectionals, Rhoads and Miller Bettis, of Fair Grove, both cleared 4 meters (13.12 feet) and Rhoads took the top spot by having less misses than Bettis throughout the competition. At state, Rhoads tied for 12th place out of 14 with a height of 3.65 meters.

Rhoads broke the school record at the Wildcat Relays, clearing 14 feet, 1-1/2 inches, topping the 40-year-old

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

Year in Photos — Cassville Volleyball



Cassville’s Taylor Kennedy spikes a point home in a home game against Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville’s Ansley Harris serves a ball in a contest against Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



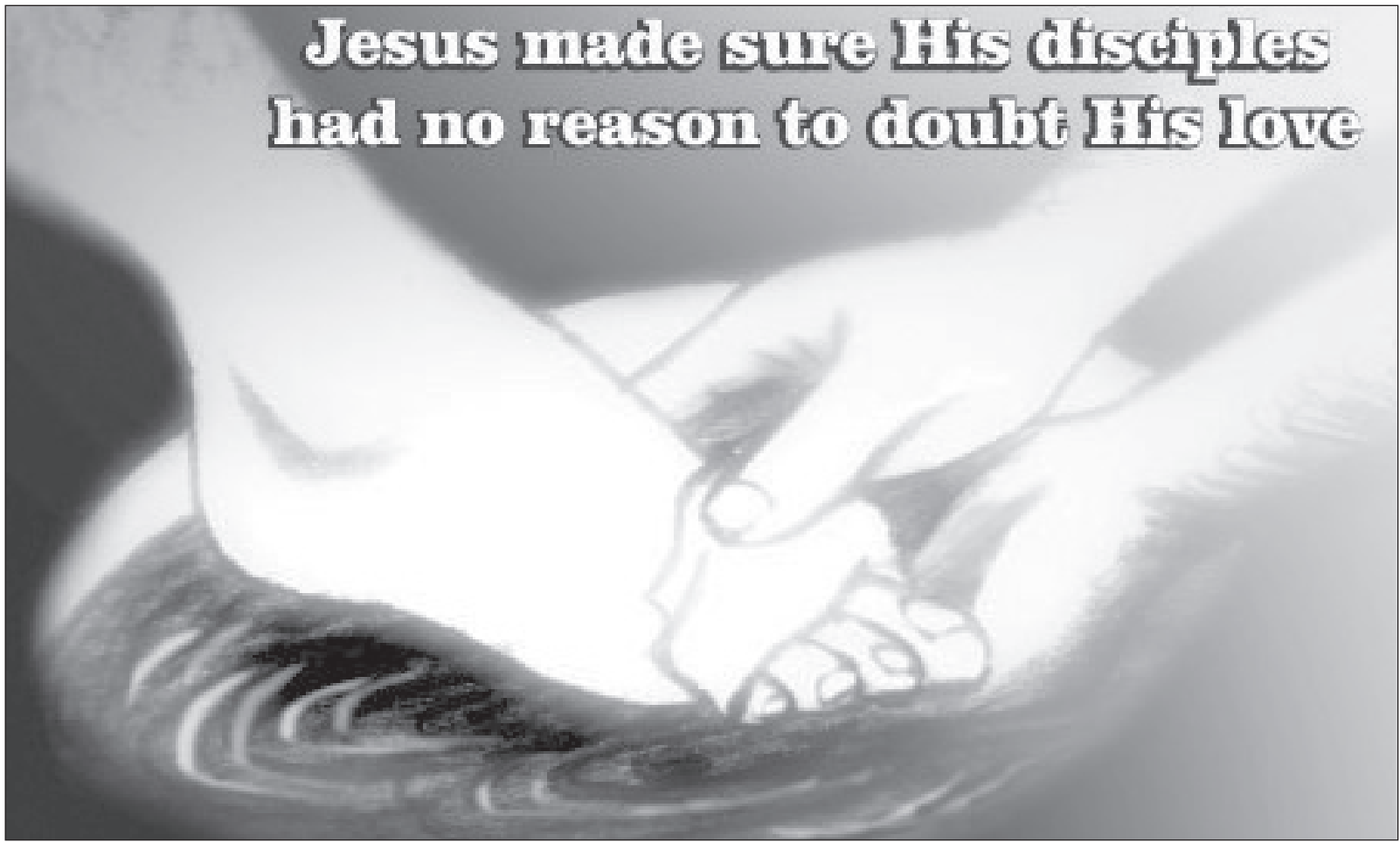
Cassville’s Anna VanDerhoef spikes a ball in a contest against Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville’s Sammi Stockton goes for a dig in a home game against Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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“The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.”

— HABAkkUK 3:19

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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.

LOST PET

LOST DOG: A black long-haired chihuahua with brown markings has been missing since May 12 in the area of Farm Road 1110 on the end south of Highway AA. He answers to the name Alf, weighs about 10-15 pounds, is 15 years old and is people-friendly. Anyone who finds Alf or has any information on his whereabouts is asked to call Linda Sartin at 417-846-0067 or Melissa Sartin at 417-440-1660.

MISCELLANEOUS

NOTICE

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

This operation will be conducted during the approximate dates of May 17, 2026 to May 1, 2046.

Written comments or a request for an informal public meeting may be made by any person with a direct, personal interest in one or more of the factors that the Staff Director may consider in issuing a permit, as required by The Land Reclamation Act, sections 444.760 to 444.790 RSMo.

Mail written comments, or a request for an informal public meeting to: Director, Land Reclamation Program, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. All comments and requests for a public meeting must be submitted in writing to the director's office no later than fifteen days following the final public notice publication date. For more information about this process, please contact the Land Reclamation Program by telephone at 573-751-4041.

1st insertion 05/20/26
 19-22

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

IN RE ALEXIS ALDABA GARCIA, Petitioner
 Case No: 26BR-DR00069

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

Public notice is hereby given that on May 26, 2026, by an order of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, Case No. 26BR-DR00069, the name of Alexis Aldaba Garcia was changed to Alexis Aldaba.
 1st insertion 06/03/26
 21-23

NOTICE OF CANDIDATES PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 Barry County
 The following are candidates for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election, to be held in Barry County, Missouri.
 Polling locations will be open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7p.m.

***DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**
 STATE AUDITOR
 Quentin Wilson, 1503 GREENING LANE, KIRKWOOD, MO 63122
 Gregory Upchurch, 529 CAULKS HILL RD, ST. CHARLES, MO 63304
 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7
 Missi Hesketh, 421 SANTA FE DR, FORSYTH, MO 65653
S T A T E R E P R E S E N T A T I V E - D I S T R I C T 1 5 8
 Chris Foster, 6122 FARM ROAD 1095, PURDY, MO 65734

*REPUBLICAN

CANDIDATES STATE AUDITOR
 Scott Fitzpatrick, 118 SKYLINE DRIVE, CASSVILLE, MO 65625
 Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand Jr., 809 S HARDING ST, OAK GROVE, MO 64075
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE-DISTRICT 7
 John Casey, 1215 E PRICE ST, REPUBLIC, MO 65738
 Grayson Hunt, 817 BARWICK PLACE, WILLARD, MO 65781
 Eric W. Burlison, 2600 E. SOUTHERNVIEW RD OZARK, MO 65721
S T A T E R E P R E S E N T A T I V E - D I S T R I C T 1 5 8
 Scott Cupps, 20825 FR 1230, SHELL KNOB, MO 65747
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE- 39 DIV I
 Johnnie Cox
CIRCUIT JUDGE- 39 DIV II

Robert "Bob" Foulke
P R O S E C U T I N G A T T O R N E Y
 Amy Boxx, PO Box 25, Cassville, MO 65625
 Andrew Cole, 510 4th ST Apt A, Monett, MO 65708
CIRCUIT CLERK
 Craig William, 9692 Farm Rd 2100, Purdy, MO 65734
P R E S I D I N G C O M M I S S I O N E R
 Chad Johnson, 19851 Farm Rd 2185, Cassville, MO 65625
 Steve Blankenship, 13410 Farm Rd 1215, Aurora, MO 65605
COLLECTOR
 Skyler Bowman, 200 Glenwood Circle, Cassville MO 65625
COUNTY CLERK
 Kimi Deal, PO Box 697, Cassville, MO 65625
TREASURER
 Gretta Tripp, 30558 State HWY 86, Eagle Rock MO 65641
RECORDER of DEEDS
 Danielle Still, 2416 Farm Rd 2187, Exeter, MO 65647

***LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES**
 STATE AUDITOR
 Dustin Coffell, 80 FOUNTAIN VIEW TER APT 12, LAKE ST LOUIS, MO 63367
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE-DISTRICT 7
 Kevin Craig, 21411 US HWY 160, KISSEE MILLS, MO 65680

Only Insertion 06/10/26
 22

PROBATE

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

In the Estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00063

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, Decedent:
 On May 11, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.
 The name and business address of the personal representative is:
 VICTORIA ZANE HENBEST, 15488 BUSINESS HWY 37, CASSVILLE, MO 65625
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 HARRY DANIEL SCHWARTZ, 702 WEST ST, PO BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734.

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

by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
 Date of the decedent's death: 05-APR-2026
 Date of first publication: May 20, 2026
 Date of second publication: May 27, 2026
 Date of third publication: June 3, 2026
 Date of fourth publication: June 10, 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 05/20/26
 19-22

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

In the Estate of DONALD COOPER, Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00069

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of DONALD COOPER, Decedent:

On May 18, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of DONALD COOPER, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.
 The name and business address of the personal representative is:
 JULIA DONETTA RIGGS, 3109 SOUTH BLACK FOREST AVE , BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015
 The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: DONALD L CUPPS, ELLIS CUPPS AND HERRIN, 702 WEST STREET, PO BOX 276, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, 417-847-2734.

All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo.
 Date of the decedent's death: 11-MAR-2026
 Date of first publication: May 27, 2026
 Date of second publication: June 3, 2026
 Date of third publication: June 10, 2026
 Date of fourth publication: June 17, 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 05/27/26
 20-23

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION
Saturday, June 13, 2026 – 10 AM

Location: Cassville, Mo from the 911 center on FR 1107 go 1.6 miles, turn left on FR 2142 go 4/10 mile stay straight on FR 1105, go 9/10 mile, Turn Right on FR 2130 go 1.2 miles straight into driveway for GPS this is a Purdy, Mo address. (11743 FR 2130 Purdy, Mo)

REAL ESTATE, 40 ACRES M/L, SHOP HOUSE, NICE SHOP, PLUS CARPORT SHOP – KUBOTA UTV – ATV'S – TRACK LOADER – TRAILER'S – AUTOMOBILE'S – IMPLEMENTS – TRACTOR'S – LOTS OF TOOL'S – FURNITURE – HOUSEHOLD – COLLECTIBLE'S – MISC.



UTV: 2025 Kubota Diesel, RTV-X, crew, light bar, Windshield, Top, Winch, Power Steering, 4X4 only 147 hours, nice, sells with owner Confirmation. **ATVs:** Can-Am outlander 800, 4X4 – Polaris Phoenix ATV. **Track Loader:** Fiat – Allis, 7G-R Track Loader. **Trailers:** 2011 Maxey, HD, 20', 8 lug wheels, Tandem Axle, Trailer with steel floor & ramps – Ponderosa 16' bumper pull stock trailer – Mustang 14' bumper pull stock trailer – 5'X7' Utility Trailer – 3'X5' Trailer – Blair Enclosed 4'X10' Trailer, (no title). **Autos:** 1999 Ford F-250, V10 Crew Cab, Lariat, Auto, 4X4, Leather, with matching Camper Shell only 132xxx Miles – 2004 Toyota Tundra, Limited, Crew Cab, Auto, 4X4, Tonneau Cover, 233xxx Miles – 1978 Jeep CJ5 – 1999 Ford F-150 4X2. **Tractors:** Farmall 656 Tractor with Front Loader – Farmall Super C Tractor (needs work) – John Deere 445 60" Lawn Tractor. **Implements:** John Deere 3 pt 272 grooming, finish mower – 6' 3pt box blade – Mohawk Chief 10' pull type bush hog – 6' 3pt Angle Blade – Front load bale spike – 5' 3pt bush hog – 6' 3pt bush hog – Single plow – Carry All – Old Spring Tooth Harrow – 6' yard roller **Tools:** Kobalt 80 gal. 155psi upright Air compressor – Honda EV2000 Generator – Kobalt roll around Tool Chest – Stihl FS 56 RC Weed eater – Stihl BG56C leaf blower – Echo Timber Wolf CS 590 Chainsaw - Stihl 026 chainsaw with case - Stihl MS170 chainsaw with case – Stihl 017 chainsaw – Lincoln Ac 225 – S welder – Coleman power mate, powered by Honda pro 11,000 Generator – Lots of shelving – Cut off saw – battery chargers – torch set – 3 ton floor jack – ATV seeder – Craftsman 16 gal shop vac. – 12 V. sprayer – tractor draw bar's – Carry all's – squirrel cage fan's – misc. shop vac's - Assorted step ladders, 4', 6', 8' – shop fan – Home lite blower – Furniture dolly - star pressure washer with Honda 5.0 engine – roll around shop cart's – high lift jack – table top drill press – misc. rope – misc. chain – new gloves - Several Ext. Cords – Assorted tool bag's – mech. Creeper – misc. long handle tool's – Car Quest 200/60/40/2 amp charger – saw horse's – several nippers – misc. Floor jacks – bottle jacks – Tie down straps – lots of Trailer hitch's – all kinds of air hoses – weed eater string - all kinds of painting & electrical supplies – all kinds of sm handle tool's, such as pipe wrenches, wrench's, ratchet's, socket's 2" socket set, damp's bolt cutters, screw driver's nut driver's, pliers, hammers, - wiring & elect. Tool's – nails – lg assort. Bolts, screws, & etc. – Drill bits – nuts & bolts organizers – Lot's of am power tools such as, Dewalt, Kobalt, Craftsman, drills, sanders, skil saw, etc. – bench grinder on stand – grinding wheels – several portable toolboxes – all kinds of Hydraulic Fluid, oils, chemicals, etc. – lots of Hardware, new & used, such as hitch pins, Tractor pins, all kinds , to many items to list. A shop full of new & used items, sure to be many surprises. **Beehives:** Hive IQ Bee hives, screens & misc. Bee Keeping items. **Collectibles:** # 5 whiskey crock – Lots of old iron wheels – Long Horn horn's - long horn, horns with Indian Art painted – Native American Art & misc. items – Ant. Brass blade Fan – Fairbanks platform Seale – Wood wagon wheel – Elk horns- sheep horns – Ant. Drill press – Cow skull painted with Indian art – Vintage Coleman Cooler. **Furniture & Appliances:** L Shaped sofa – Tiger oak buffet – Wood Finished plant stand (very nice) - Bent wood rocker – Computer desk's – Buffet – Desk lamp's – wood file cabinet – king size bed – nightstands – cedar chest – office chair – chest of drawers – entry bench – king size bed – cowboy art – misc. patio furniture – Hot point chest freezer – Samsung ss dishwasher. **Ammo:** 40 S&W, 38 special, 357, 12 ga. **Household:** Luggage – Stereo equip – roll of indoor carpet – chimney pellet + grill – bedding – linens – portable radio – lots of rug's & fabric – Fan's - heat shrinkable tubing - midland & realistic radio items – TV antenna – misc. wire, cable, etc. – misc. household trim – new assorted automotive items – many more items not listed. **Real Estate:** 40 acres m/l. fenced pasture & timber, private drive & secluded paved road to drive to drive , shop house, shop & another nice carport building, 30'x50' shop house with large lean-to used as a covered sitting area, enter into a nice living room with wood tongue and groove ceiling open to the dining area and kitchen utility room/ bathroom with double vanity and shower, storage room/furnace room house's hot water heater and pressure tank. From the kitchen is stairs that lead upstairs to a open loft, with a door leading outside to a large 2nd floor deck, sitting area overlooking the pasture. Also, a 3rd lever deck for stargazing and views of the farm. Downstairs ground level from the dining area is a patio door leading out to a covered area for grilling etc. From the kitchen there is a door leading to a large garage with lots of storage and a large overhead door. Central Heat & air , & a Generac whole house generator, well & septic. **Other Outbuildings:** a 30'x50' shop with concrete and elect. Walk door and overhead door's & wood stove – plus a 27'x 36' Carport building, enclosed with 2 overhead doors and a walk door with electric. All on 42 acres m/l. **Note:** This is a very nice property. Gated driveway that leads to 42 acres m/l fences with pasture and timber very private and secluded paved road to driveway. Call 417-847-2507 to view the Real Estate before Auction Day or to pre-register. Don't miss your opportunity. Property like this don't come up for sale very often. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidders' number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee applies. If paying with a check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the auction company bank. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **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 closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agents of the buyer are 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 on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Ron Darnell
P.O.A.: Brad Harris



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



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
 Parker Stumpff
 AR State Champion
 Auctioneer
 #2352

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 05/27/26
 20-23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

At Cassville
 In the Estate of:
 MANUEL GARCIA-FALCON,
 Deceased
 Estate No. 25BR-PR00139

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE

ESTATE OF MANUEL GARCIA FALCON, deceased:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in interest to the personal/real estate of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, on July 11, 2026, or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ,
 Attorney

SAM MADSEN, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 Dates of Publication – 5/27/26, 6/3/26, 6/10/26, 6/17/26

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE IS NOT A COURT APPEARANCE DATE.

It is an estimated date as to when the Final Settlement will be filed with the court
 1st insertion 05/27/26
 20-23

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Monday, June 15, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville go East on Hwy 248, 2 miles. Turn right on Fr 2175 and go ½ mile. Auction on left. (13788 Farm Road 2175 Cassville MO)

REAL ESTATE, FIXER UPPER ON 5 ACRES M/L – TRAILER – TOOLS – WOOD WORKING TOOLS – SMALL BLOCK CHEVY MOTOR & NEW PARTS – PORTABLE CARPORT – MISC



Real Estate: Fixer upper home on 5 acres m/l. Close to town on paved roads. Enter this home under a covered front porch or from the attached 1 car carport into a living room with ceiling fan, windows and a wood burning fireplace with insert, coat closet and a door leading out to the attached carport. The living room is open to the dining area where there is a patio door leading out to a covered back deck. The dining area where there is a patio door leading out to a covered back deck. The dining area is open to the kitchen. The kitchen features a sm bar area, double SS sink with window, lots of cabinets & counter top space, built in Whirlpool dishwasher & built in Amana microwave/hood. Then around the corner from the kitchen is stairs leading down to a full basement, plus 2 bedrooms with ceiling fans, windows & closets, utility area & a full bath. **Downstairs:** Full basement, partial finished where you will find a ¾ bath, 2 bedrooms with windows and closets. Storage room with outside entry. Workshop area or could be a living room, game room, etc with wood burning stove, another storage room or could be used as a 5th bedroom and mechanics room. **Outside:** Attached 1 car carport with storage, covered back deck, detached garage/shed, well & septic on 5 acres m/l. Only approx. 3 miles to Cassville. **Tools & Misc:** Torch set on cart – 12 ton press – U.S. General roll around tool chest with top box – misc battery operated hand tools – Grizzly Polar Bear Series 10" hybrid table saw – (2) engine stands – belt & disc sander – Dewalt 60 gal upright air compressor – lawn mower jack – A Frame engine hoist – roll around engine hoist – (4) chain saws – Stanley tool box – Grizzly G0948 band saw – aluminum fuel tank – new never been put together, small block Chevy motor with new set of 4230 rods & other new parts – receiver hitch, motorcycle carrier – many more items not listed, misc household items. **Trailers:** 5'x14' single axle trailer (no title) – 6'10"x16' tandem axle trailer (no title). **Portable Carport:** 12'x22' RV height. **Note:** This home is a slight fixer upper, location is awesome. 5 acres close to town. Raise your own beef, have a horse, etc. You won't want to miss this one. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to get pre registered. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. 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 are 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: Anthony Eggers
P.O.A.: Kathy Quinlan



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



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

www.stumpffauction.com
417-847-2507

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

IN THE ESTATE OF
Mary Jane Lowe
DECEASED.
ESTATE NO.
26BR-PR00072

NOTICE OF HEARING TO
DETERMINE HEIRSHIP
(SEC. 473.663 RSMO.)

TO:
Heather Renee Burke, 26
Sargent Rd., Boxborough,
MA 01719

Lisa Lowe, 731 S
Allegheny, Tulsa, OK 74112
and all other persons,
known or unknown,
interested or claiming an
interest in the property
hereinbelow described,
as an heir, or through an
heir, of the above-named
decendent.

You are hereby notified
that you are entitled to
appear and be heard at a
hearing to be held

JUNE 25, 2026 8:45
o'clock a.m., in the
courtroom of the Probate
Division at

700 Main Street,
Cassville, Missouri, on
the petition to determine
the heirs of the above-
named decendent, who
died 05/04/2002 and their
respective interests as heirs
in the following described
property:

Lots numbered 103
and 116, all in Arrow Point
Estates Subdivision, as the
same appears from the plat
thereof, recorded in Plat
Book 5, at page 132 in the
Office of the Recorder of
Deeds of Barry
County, State of Missouri,
subject to restrictions,
covenants, conditions,
easements, reservation of
rights of way of record.

Dates of Publication:
First date of publication:
May 27, 2026

Second date of
publication: June 3, 2026

Third date of publication:
June 10, 2026

Fourth date of publication:
June 17, 2026

Dated:
May 15, 2026
BAIRY COUNTY
Craig Williams
Clerk
By: S. Parker

Deputy Clerk
1st insertion 5/27/26
20-23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION

AT CASSVILLE
In the Estate of:
SHARON PERRY,
deceased
26BR-PR00074

NOTICE OF HEARING

To all persons who
claim any interest in the
property SHARON PERRY,
deceased, as an heir of
said decendent or through
any heir of said decendent:

You are hereby notified
that a petition has been filed
in the above court by Brian
Perry, for the determination
of the heirs of Sharon Perry,
deceased, and of their
respective interest as such
heirs in and with respect to
the following described real
property located in Barry
County, Missouri, that the
decendent owned at the time
of his death:

Tract One: Lots 10, 11,
part 12, part 13, Block 2
of Spriggs' Twin Coves
No. 1, as per the recorded
plat thereof, Barry County,
Missouri.

Tract Two: Also, Lot 19,
Block 2 of Spriggs' Twin
Coves No. 1, as per the
recorded plat thereof, Barry
County, Missouri.

Petitioner's attorney is
Harry D. Schwartz, whose
business address is
702 West Street,
P.O. Box 276,
Cassville, Missouri
65625.

You are hereby required
to appear to answer said
petition on June 26, 2026,
at

8:45 o'clock a.m. in the
Probate Division of the
Circuit Court of Barry
County, Missouri,

at Cassville, at which
time and place said petition
will be heard. Should you
fail therein,
judgment may be entered
in due course upon said
petition.
The Cassville Democrat

First Publication:
May 27, 2026
Second Publication:
June 3, 2026
Third Publication:
June 10, 2026
Fourth Publication:
June 17, 2026
Probate Clerk
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate
1st insertion 05/27/26
20-23

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

In the Estate of:
Amy Lynn Russo-Graves,
deceased
Estate No. 25BR-
PR00142

NOTICE OF FILING OF
FINAL SETTLEMENT
AND PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE
ESTATE OF
AMY LYNN RUSSO-
GRAVES,
deceased:

You are hereby notified
that the undersigned
Personal Representative
will file a Final Settlement
and Petition for
determination of the persons
who are the successors in
interest to the personal/real
estate of the decendent and
of the extent and character
of their interest therein
and for distribution of such
property, on or about July
1, 2026, or as may be
continued by the Court,
and that any objections or
exceptions to such Final
Settlement or Petition or
any item thereof must be
in writing and filed within
twenty days after the filing
of such Final Settlement.

CORDELIA F. HERRIN,
Attorney
PETER A. SOUDERS
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin
& Schwartz Personal
Representative
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417)847-2734

ESTATE AUCTION

Friday, June 12, 2026 10 — AM

Location: Springfield, MO. (629 W. Swan ST, Springfield Mo)

REAL ESTATE, FANTASTIC LOCATION - RESTORED LAWN TRACTORS & TRACTOR - OLD RESTORED MOTORS - TOOLS - FURNITURE & APPLIANCES - VINTAGE ITEMS - HOUSEHOLD - MISC



Lawn Tractors - Tractor: 1970's Wheel Horse 655 lawn tractor (restored) nice - Case M 150 lawn tractor (restored) - Old Bonanza trans power 8 hp lawn tractor - 1952 Allis Chalmers G Tractor (restored) nice - Troy Bilt Super Bronco XP 46", 22 hp hydrostat riding mower- misc lawn tractor parts. **Old Restored Motors:** 1936 7CDR Maytag washing machine, long frame - 1936 washing machine (all very nice). **Tools:** Hatchets such as Plumb, Craft Tool USA, True, Stanley - Hammer collection - misc sm hand tools such as pliers, screwdrivers, hammers, sockets, ratchets, wrenches, clamps, tap & die, reamers - vices - battery chargers - nuts & bolts - misc long handle tools - limb trimmer - gas cans - ext cords - brace n bits - lawn mower jack - misc sm power tools such as grinders, drills, etc - Dayton disk sander - grinder on stand - Craftsman tool chest - sm air compressor - weed eater - Duro Force 6.5 hp push mower - 20 lb propane bottle - step ladder - alum ext ladder - wheel barrow - push mower - blade for lawn tractor - yard spike - boat motor jack. **Furniture & Appliances:** Leather sofa & matching chair & ottoman - leather recliner - what knot cabinet - misc end tables - Kimball piano & bench - Hall table & mirror - tea cart - dining table & 6 chairs - vintage cabinet stereo - formal living room sofa, loveseat, (2) matching chairs - marble top end tables & coffee table - occasional chairs - wall mirror - flat screen TV's - very nice oak entertainment center with leaded glass doors - table lamps - king size bed - chest of drawers - dressers with mirrors- vanity chair - jewelry chest - full size bed - night stands - wood TV trays - vintage TV sets - old metal desk - queen bed - vintage log cabin pattern sofa - folding chairs - coffee table - old rocking chair - old wood desk - office chair - knee hole desk - sm desk - full size bed - old love seat - vintage Westing House Refrigerator/Freezer (works) - med size chest freezer. **Oldies:** Disney DVD's - VHS - CD's - old cast iron tea kettle (nice) - regulator dock - world globe - red letter Japan Trua, costume jewelry - neck ties - Route 66 sign - old metal lockers - old radios - old clothes press - old desk lamp - old metal fan - old wood wall phone - old Royal typewriter - Paymaster dollar & cents machine - duck figurines - oil lamp - homemade wood gun rack - Beauty shop chair & hair dryer chair - Harmony guitar - misc pictures - misc old figurines - old colander -galvanized chain link walk gate. **Household & Misc:** wall hangings - kitchen ware such as pots & pans, dishes, Corning ware, plates, silverware, utensils, chicken decor plates, glasses, cups - misc yard ornaments - wrought iron patio set - wicker patio set - dog house - bird bath - misc books - plant stands - misc sm kitchen appliances - Ficca trees - shower chairs - fireplace set - card tables - coolers - step stool - gig head & poles - misc linens & bedding - rods & reels - misc Christmas - several throw rugs. **Real Estate:** Brick home, 3 bedrooms could be more, 3 bath home. Enter this home into a marble floor entry open to a formal living room and dining room then on into the family room with wood burning insert, ceiling fan and a patio door leading out to an enclosed sun porch. Then on out to the back patio area. The kitchen features a breakfast nook with lots of large windows looking out to the backyard, built in Maytag dishwasher, built in Hot Point oven, built in Hot Point electric cooktop, built in Kenmore microwave, Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer, double sink with garbage disposal, sm bar area, sm desk area and lots of cabinets. From the kitchen is the utility room with coat closet and outside entry door leading to the backyard. On down the hall where there are stairs leading to a partial finished full basement, a door that leads to the attached oversized 2 car garage with automatic door openers. Also, a ¾ bath and a bedroom on the opposite end of the home is a coat closet, full bathroom, a linen closet and 2nd bedroom with windows and closet and the master bedroom with ceiling fan, windows, his and hers closets. The full basement is partially finished. Family room, game room, storage room & a workshop area, a bathroom/salon room & stairs leading to the outside. Lots of possibility for extra bedrooms, etc. **Outside Amenities:** Detached garage/shop with back lean to, storage shed, back patio, concrete drive to garage, plus on the opposite end of the home is asphalt & concrete drive for parking motorhome, RV, etc. This home has central Heat & Air. All city utilities and a park like setting. **Note:** This is the Estate of JR Redding. JR built the home in 1969 where he has lived for the past 57 years. This is a fantastic location. Centrally located to everything. Beautiful neighborhood w/ large mature trees. Everything is neat and clean, sure to be surprises. Don't miss your chance to purchase this home at auction on Friday June 12th. Real Estate sells promptly at 10:00 AM. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to get pre-registered. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidders' number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee applies. If paying with a check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the auction company bank. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **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 are 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: JR & Wanda Redding



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



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Friday, June 19, 2026 — 1 PM

Location: Cassville, MO. Hwy 76/86

20 Acres M/L Wooded!!!!

Real Estate: 20 acres m/l wooded, just off Hwy 76. Great deer & turkey hunting, also a great location to build your dream home. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the property before auction or to preregister. **Note:** Hunters special..... Don't miss this great opportunity. **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 are responsible for conducting their 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: Kobe Mueller



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



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

Dates of Publication
- 6/3/2026, 6/10/2026,
6/17/2026, 6/24/2026
1st Insertion 06/03/26
21-24

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

In the Estate of
ELDON WAYNE

GILLENWATER,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-
PR00079

NOTICE OF LETTERS
TESTAMENTARY
GRANTED
(SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested
in the Estate of
ELDON WAYNE
GILLENWATER,

Decedent:
On JUNE 3, 2026, the
last will of Decedent having
been admitted to probate,
the following individual
was appointed personal
representative of the
estate of ELDON WAYNE
GILLENWATER, decedent
by the Probate Division of
the Circuit Court of BARRY
COUNTY, Missouri.

The name and business
address of the personal
representative is:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
 representative is:
 ELDON GILLENWATER
 JR,
 27015 FARM ROAD
 1197,
 EAGLE ROCK, MO
 65641-8122

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 HARRY D SCHWARTZ,
 702 WEST ST, PO BOX
 276,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
 417-847-2734.

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

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

Date of the decedent's death: 20-SEP-2025
 Date of first publication: JUNE 10, 2026

Date of second publication: JUNE 17, 2026
 Date of third publication: JUNE 24, 2026

Date of fourth publication: JULY 1, 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 above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 06/10/26 22-25

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

In the Estate of JOANNA OGANESYAN,
 Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00058

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JOANNA OGANESYAN,
 Decedent:

On May 29, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JOANNA OGANESYAN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's business address is:

SAM MADSEN,
 102 WEST STREET,
 SUITE 5,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 HARRY DANIEL SCHWARTZ,
 702 WEST ST, PO BOX
 276,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
 417-847-2734.

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

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

Date of the decedent's death:

09-MAR-2026
 Craig Williams,
 Circuit Clerk

by S. Parker, Probate Clerk

Date of first publication:

June 10, 2026

Date of second publication: June 17, 2026

Date of third publication:

June 24, 2026

Date of fourth publication:

July 1, 2026

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

1st insertion 06/10/26 22-25

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE

In the Estate of JANET LAVERNE SUMMERS,
 Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00064

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JANET LAVERNE SUMMERS,
 Decedent:

On MAY 29, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JANET LAVERNE SUMMERS, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's name and business address is:

SARA SUMMERS,
 1722 LAME DEER RIDGE RD,
 PROCTOR, OK 74457

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

JAMES J RANDALL,
 P O BOX 151,
 405 BROADWAY,
 MONETT, MO 65708,
 417-235-8688

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JOANNA OGANESYAN,
 Decedent:

On May 29, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of JOANNA OGANESYAN, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's business address is:

SAM MADSEN,
 102 WEST STREET,
 SUITE 5,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625.

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
 HARRY DANIEL SCHWARTZ,
 702 WEST ST, PO BOX
 276,
 CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
 417-847-2734.

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

Date of the decedent's death:

MARCH 22, 2026

Date of first publication: JUNE 10, 2026

Date of second publication: JUNE 17, 2026

Date of third publication: JUNE 24, 2026

Date of fourth publication: JULY 1, 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 above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 06/10/26 22-25

TRUSTEE'S SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default has occurred in the payment of the note described in and secured by the

deed of trust executed by Norman M. Bates, Edward E. Bates and Rebecca Ann Bates on March 23, 2005, and recorded on April 4, 2005, in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri, in Book 05 at Page 2439, and conveying to the trustee the following described property:

TRACT I:
 ALL LOTS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) OF WHISKEY FLATS SUBDIVISION, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDNG TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

TRACT III:
 ALL OF LOT SEVEN (7): SUNDOWN ACRES, IN STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDNG TO

RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

ALSO

A PART OF SUNDOWN ACRES, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BEGGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 7: SUNDOWN ACRES: A SUBDIVISION PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF; THENCE WEST 50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 150 FEET; THENCE EAST 50 FEET TO NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE SOUTH FOLLOWING THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 7. 150 FEET TO POINT OF BEGGINNING, IN STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDNG TO THE RECORDED PLAT

TRACT IV:
 OF LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28), SECONG ADDITION; SUNDOWN ACRES IN STONE COUNTY

MISSOURI ACCORDNO TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF,
 ALSO
 AN UNDIVIDED 1/10TH INTEREST IN THE WELL AND PUMP LOCATED ON LOT 30, SUNDOWN ACRES,
 SECOND ADDITION, FOR USE BENEFIT OF LOT 28, INCLUDING EASEMENT ACROSS LOT 30 FOR THE INSTALATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A WATER LINE.

Tract V: Lot 104 of MIRA MONTE SUBDIVISION SECOND ADDITION, Stone County, Missouri according to the recorded plat thereof.

At the request of the legal holder of said note and in accordance with the provisions of the deed of trust, the undersigned trustee will on June 12, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., sell said property at public venue to the highest bidder, for cash,

at the North door of the Stone County Courthouse, 108 E. 4th Street, Galena, Missouri, to satisfy said note and costs.

H. F. Glass, Trustee
 1736 East Sunshine –
 Suite 405
 Springfield, MO 65804
 (417) 883-6566
 1st insertion 05/20/26 19-22

TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:
 William P Blair III
 and Amy Blair,
 husband and wife
 Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by William P Blair III and Amy Blair, husband and wife dated September 8, 2020

FARMLAND AUCTION

Saturday, June 20, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Rocky Comfort, MO. (2025 Woodchuck Dr, Rocky Comfort Mo) From Wheaton MO at the First Baptist Church from Hwy's 86 & A go West on A Hwy 3.2 miles. Turn left on Woodchuck Dr and go 1 mile. Turn right into the driveway for the auction

LIVE WATER YEAR-ROUND – LARGE SPRING – INDIAN CREEK – 76 ACRES M/L, SELLING IN 2 TRACTS



Tract #1: Large shop house, large spring on 6 acres m/l. Shop house 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Enter this home under a covered front porch into a nice open room where you will find a nice size living room with ceiling fan, windows, wood burning wood stove and a door leading out to a large shop/garage with 14 ft sidewalls, large overhead door and partial floored 2nd floor for storage. Store all your toys, cars, trucks or motorhome. Also, from the living room open floor plan to the kitchen & dining area with windows & ceiling fan. The kitchen features double SS sink with garbage disposal, built in Kenmore SS dishwasher, Kenmore cookstove, built in Frigidaire microwave/hood, Kenmore SS side by side refrigerator/freezer, lots of cabinets & countertop space then down the hall where you will find a full bath, bedroom #1 with walk in closet and a door leading to the bathroom, bedroom #2, then the master bedroom with full bath & walk in closet. At the end of the hall is a theater room, work out room, game room, etc. with outside entry door. The shop/house is approx. 3000 sq ft. **Outside Amenities:** 6 acres m/l with Indian Creek frontage, a large spring with a spring pool with blue/green water that flows into Indian Creek with a park like setting. A storm shelter, a detached 2 car garage with concrete floor, a double portable carport, a pole barn & coral system, an old fashion storm shelter, and a beautiful yard with mature trees. **Tract #2:** 70 acres m/l with pasture, woods, ponds & Indian Creek flows through the property. Hay producing property, great deer hunting and a building site with county water & electric on site. Tract #1 & Tract #2 border so a buyer can buy 1 tract or both. **Note:** Beautiful property, nice home, nice shop, outbuilding, park like setting. This is a hard, almost impossible to find property with live year round water & one of the biggest springs in McDonald County. Large spring with blue/green flowing water. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase land with amenities like this and for all the people over the years that has asked me to find land with creek frontage, here it is. Call 417-847-25027 to preview the real estate before the auction or to learn how to pre register. **Terms:** Cash or good check with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers 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 are 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: Dillon & Savanna Stumpff



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



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 REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.
 www.stumpffauction.com
417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
 Parker Stumpff
 AR State Champion
 Auctioneer
 #2352

and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 20, Page 5549 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, June 23, 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 1, 2, AND 3, BLOCK 2, MARSHALL'S FIRST ADDITION TO MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, EXCEPT THE EAST 47 FEET OF SAID LOT 3.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,
 Successor Trustee
 612 Spirit Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63005
 (636) 537-0110
 File No:
 234182.062326.470058 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 (Casefile No. 258072-1087558).

1st insertion 6/3/26 21-24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Charles J. Hamann, dated May 30, 2025, and recorded on June 2, 2025, Document No. 202502825, in Book No. 25, at Page 2757 in

the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on July 1, 2026, at 9:45 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

Lot numbered Nineteen (19) in Crystal View Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof,
 commonly known as 101 N Spring St, 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: June 3, 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. 258072-1087558).

1st insertion 6/3/26 21-24

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed

of trust executed by Joseph William Hoover, dated August 18, 2017, and recorded on August 18, 2017, Document No. 003016500014, in Book No. 17, at Page 4628 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on July 1, 2026, at 9:45 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

LOT 2 AND 5 FEET OFF THE NORTH SIDE OF LOT 3 IN BLOCK 1 IN PRESLEY'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CASSVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI,
 commonly known as 1685 Presley Dr, 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: June 3, 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. 259078-1091777).

1st insertion 06/03/26 21-24

PHOTO ALERT!

Scan the QR code to see our photo galleries! Photos are available for purchase for \$5 per digital download and prints starting at \$2 each.




Cassville Democrat
 BARRY COUNTY'S BEST NEWS SOURCE



Southwest's Domenick Sierra lets a pitch loose during a contest against Exeter this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Southwest's Zander Corwin brings a ball into his glove during a game against Exeter this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com






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Trojans: Four-year starter Gregory graduates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

against Galena. “We played a conference game middle of the season against Galena,” Mann said. “It was a well pitched game on both sides, and we ended coming out on top, with sophomore Dom Sierra pitching a complete game with 10 strikeouts with 1 walk and 1 earned run. Our defense played very well and we had some big hits to come out with a

2-1 win.” Mann said the team’s two seniors made important contributions in different ways. “Logan Gregory was a four-year starter for us and has been one of our best players since he stepped on the field as a freshman,” Mann said. “He was a top of the order bat and one of our main guys on the mound. He led our team in many ways and will be missed. “Our other senior was Eli Tripodi, who was a dugout guy always helping keep the team up and in good spirits. Eli’s dedication to the program and his teammates was unmatched. Everybody



Southwest's Hayden Wilson attempts to avoid a tag as he tries to take third base in a game against Exeter this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

loved him, and his fun going attitude will be missed.”

Mann said the program will rely heavily on its returning underclassmen next season.

“We had a lot of underclassmen that played for us this year, and that was the bulk of our team,” Mann said. “We started nearly 7 sophomores a game this year, so we will depend on them a lot coming into their junior seasons.”

Mann said the team fell short of its goals but showed improvement throughout the year.

“I don’t think we met our team goals this year,” Mann said. “But, as a team we got better every day and started playing a lot better baseball towards the end of the year.”

Looking ahead, Mann said the focus for next season is straightforward.


“We want to leave it all on the field and to go out and compete day in and day out,” Mann said.

Southwest finished the season with a 6-17 record, but Mann said the experience gained by a young roster should provide a foundation for future growth.



SB SECURITY BANK OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI
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 Cassville • Exeter • Wheaton

WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Trevor Brookes	Tyler Matthew
	
Sadie Koehler	Molly Cox
	

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With Grateful Hearts

An Appreciation Reception Honoring

Jennifer Duncan

Sunday, June 14
2:00 – 4:00 PM
Arnhart Baptist Church

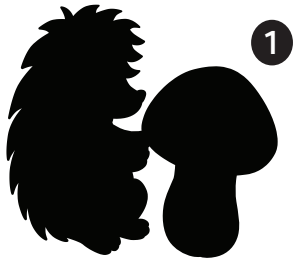
Join us for a come-and-go reception as we express our gratitude for Jennifer's years of faithful ministry and service.



KIDS' COLUMNS
A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

Private eye

Find the hedgehog's matching shadow.



ANSWER: 5

JUST kidding

Q: What has ears but can't hear?

A: A cornfield.



JUST kidding

Q: What did one plate say to the other?

A: Dinner is on me.



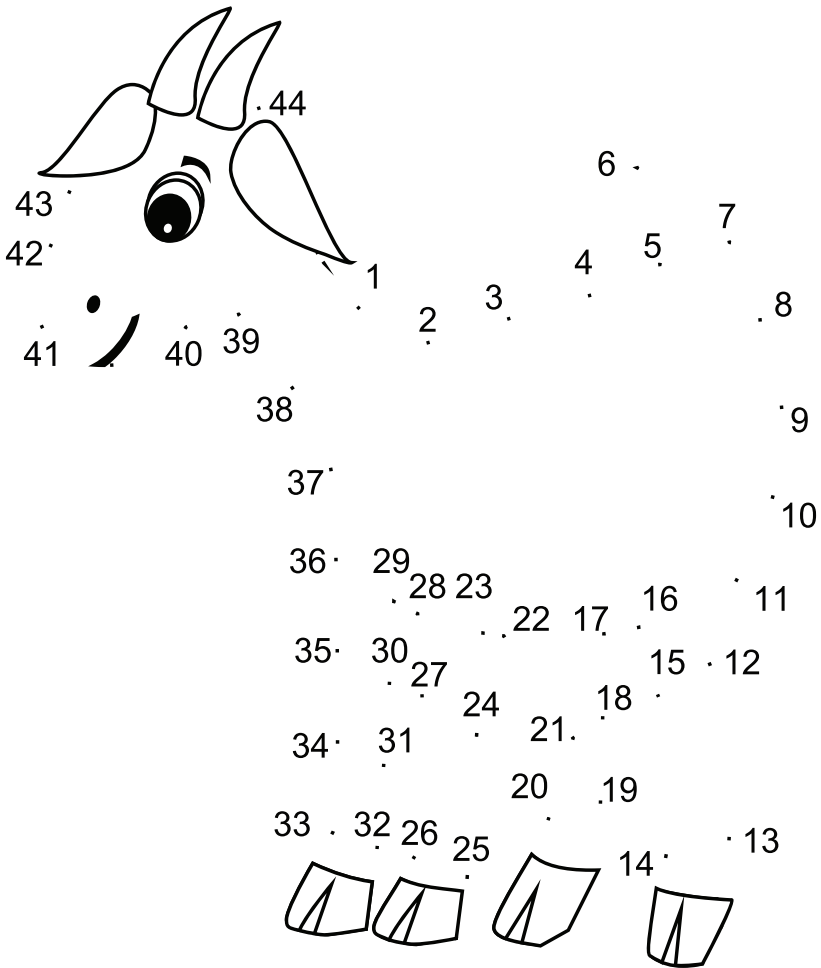
JUST kidding

Q: Why did the student eat his homework?

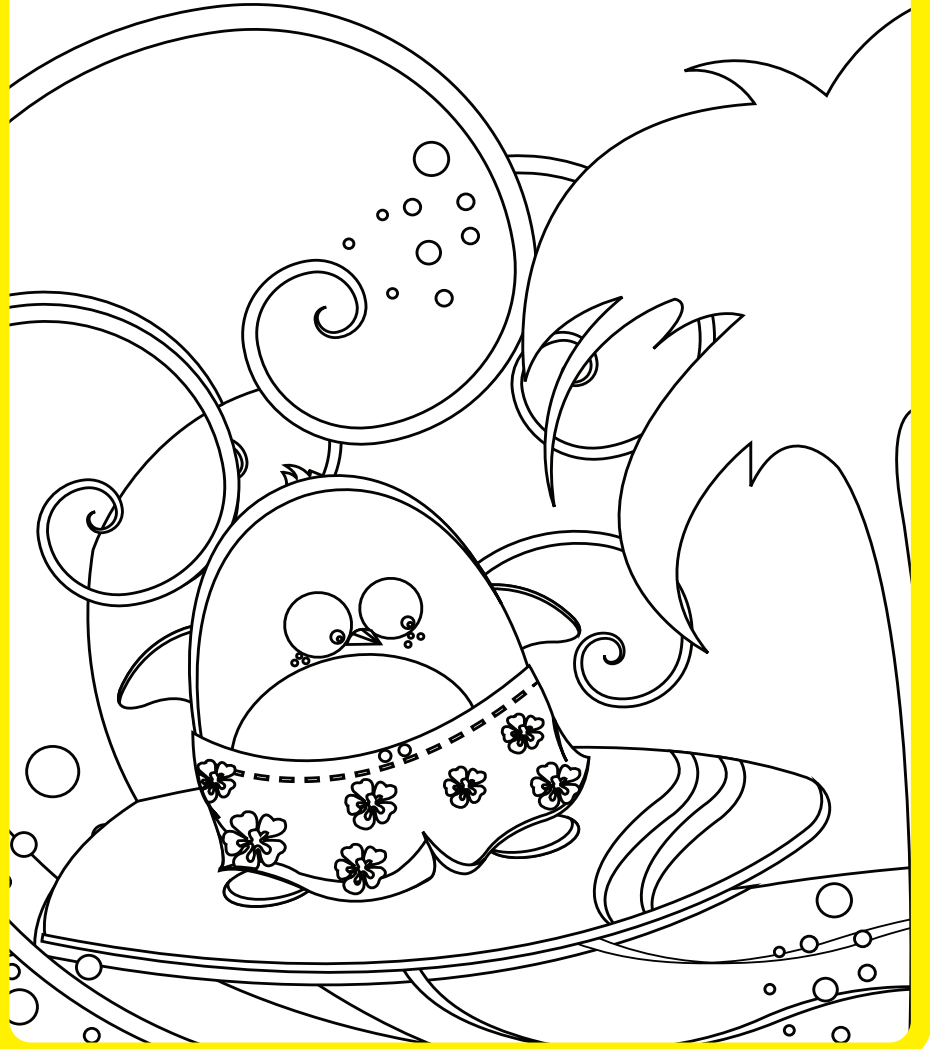
A: The teacher called it a piece of cake.



DOT TO DOT



For the up-and-coming artist



Sudoku 4 x 4

	3		
2			
1			4
		1	

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

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

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

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A line of Wildcats race one another in the 100-meter dash at the Cassville Relays this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Brextin Sprague launches himself into the sand during the triple jump competition at the Cassville Relays this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-demo-

Track: Progress-focused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

record of 14 feet, 1 inch set by Allen Osborne, which was matched 30 years ago by Jeremy Huse.

Weldy credited the senior class with providing leadership while also producing points for the team.

"They were really good leaders for us, and they scored a lot of points for us this spring," Weldy said.

Looking ahead, Weldy said the Wildcats will benefit from returning experience throughout the lineup.

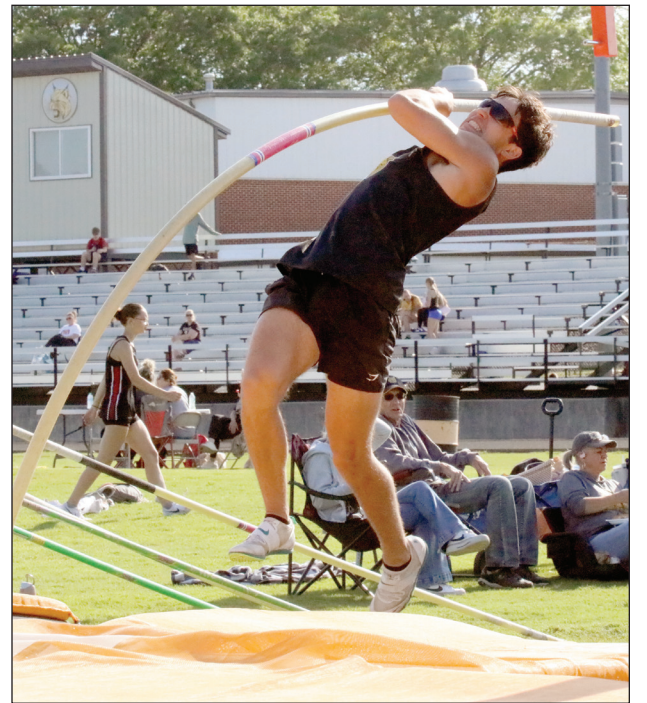
"We will return a lot of kids across most of our events, so that experience will come in to play as we

start next season," Weldy said.

Weldy said his primary goal remains individual improvement from the beginning of the season to the end.

"We just look for each kid to be better at the end of the season than they were at the beginning of the season," Weldy said. "Through that improvement, the other stuff will take care of itself, like advancing to state, etc."

With a strong group of returning athletes and a season marked by consistent progress, Weldy said the focus will remain on continued development as the program prepares for next spring.



Cassville's Corbin Rhoads competes in pole vault at the Cassville Relays this season, where he set a new record for the school. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

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