



MAN INTERFERES WITH FIREFIGHTERS, CHARGED FOR METH — PAGE 3A

<<< A RECORD-SETTING SEASON

Lady Wildcats win Big 8, set numerous individual records. — 1B



CASSVILLE Democrat

JUNE 17, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

Malone gets life sentence

No possibility of parole for man who killed Exeter woman

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

An Exeter man has been sentenced to life without the possibility for parole for killing his girlfriend at their home in Exeter.

Following a three-day jury

SENTENCING

Who: Aaron Malone, 24, of Exeter
What: Sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole
For: Murder of Aspen Lewis, of Exeter

trial in Jasper County in April, Aaron Malone, 24, was found guilty on four counts, including first-degree murder, abandonment of a corpse, tampering with physical evidence in a fel-

ony and armed criminal action.

Malone was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder count, and three years imprisonment in the Department of Corrections for each of the other three counts, running concurrently with the life sentence. Prior to the sentencing, Malone's motion for a new trial was overruled, as there was no legal cause or reason having been shown why the sentence and judgment of the court

should not be pronounced.

Malone was released from the Barry County jail on June 12 for transport to the Department of Corrections.

According to an April press release from Barry County Prosecutor Amy Boxx, Malone was charged on Nov. 24, 2024 with the murder of Aspen Lewis, his former girlfriend, causing multiple injuries to her hear and neck.

"The evidence at trial was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

BOND REVOKED

Who: Anthony Sizemore, born 1988, of Cassville
What: Had appellate bond revoked and was transported to the Department of Corrections
For: Sizemore was found guilty of third-degree child molestation in bench trial

Appellate bond revoked

Sizemore now in prison awaiting appeal result

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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A Cassville man found guilty of third-degree child molestation in bench trial in March and sentenced in May has had his appellate bond revoked and is now at the Department of Corrections awaiting his appeal result.

Anthony Sizemore, born 1988, of Cassville, was sentenced to 8 years in the Department of Corrections on May 15 by Judge Alan Blankenship in Stone County. Sizemore filed an appeal and was released on a \$10,000 appeal bond with the conditions he may not have any contact with minors other than his biological children, and no contact with the victim.

On May 26, Christian Crum, the mother of the victim, submitted a request to revoke the bond, and the motion to revoke hearing was held on June 5.

Amy Boxx, Barry County prosecuting attorney, said at sentencing, Blankenship allowed Sizemore the appeal bond over her objection.

"Because of the nature of the offense and the age of the victim at the time of the offense, Mr. Sizemore was not entitled to an appeal bond," Boxx said. "We filed a motion to revoke his bond, citing the applicable statutes and caselaw, and noticed that up for hearing on Judge Blankenship's next court date in Barry County. Upon review of that motion and argument, the court revoked the bond that should not have been given."

Sizemore has since been transported to the Department of Corrections while his appeal is pending. Sizemore has ordered a transcript from the trial.

In the letter, Crum wrote to Boxx as the concerned mother of Faith James, the victim in the case.

"I respectfully request that your office move to revoke or set aside this appeal bond because it appears to violate section 544.671 RSMo.," Crum said in the letter. "That statute provides, in relevant part, that, 'Notwithstanding any supreme

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

'Monkey See, Money Do' delights



Maria and Pedrito share an embrace as they devise a plan to help recover the missing monkeys and prove to Maria's father that they deserve his blessing to marry. The scene was played out during an Opera in the Ozarks presentation of "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. The event was sponsored by the Cassville Branch Library. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat

National Park Service seeks comments, partnerships with residents

3 high potential historic sites identified in Draft Comprehensive Plan

BY SHEILA HARRIS

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The route of the original Butterfield Overland Mail — an ambitious, 3,000-plus-mile enterprise that operated from 1858 until 1861 — bisects Barry County from its northeast corner to the Arkansas line, and today, remnants of the once heavily-traveled road still exist, if one knows where to look.

On Jan. 5, 2023, U.S. Congress designated the Butterfield mail route as a National Historic Trail. As a result of this designation, in collaboration with local, state, Tribal, and nonprofit partners, the National Park Service (NPS) has put together a plan to develop, preserve and bring public attention to the impact of the Butterfield Overland Mail Company, and to commemorate its history.

The NPS invites the public to review and comment on its Draft Comprehensive Plan through July 3.

In addition to comments, the NPS is seeking collaboration with cities and private landowners along the trail.

According to Barry County history, Civil War troops forded Flat Creek a total of 13 times en route from McDowell to Cassville, so it's possible that intact remnants of the trail still exist on private properties between those (and other) locations. Such trail remnants are part of local — and now national — history.

The Butterfield mail route entered Barry County from the northeast, near Wise Spring, and exited at a point southwest of Washburn. Along the way, the mail route passed through Cassville (as noted in the NPS draft plan) and through or near the communities of McDowell and Washburn.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

Cassville man charged with terroristic threat

Man allegedly said he would 'shoot up' Monett business

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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An arrest warrant has been issued for Cassville man charged with making a terroristic threat toward a business

in Monett.

Payton Morris, born 2004, of Cassville, is charged with second-degree terroristic threat.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Officer Briana Lomeli, with the Monett Police Department, on May 22, police were dispatched to Miracle Recreation Equipment Company in Monett regarding a threat.

Upon arrival, Lomeli made

contact with a witness who stated an employee, identified as Morris, had threatened to "shoot up" the building.

The incident, Lomeli said, began at about 12:40 p.m., when Morris was finishing his shift with coworkers hen he abruptly began making statements about being accused of raping a child. Lomeli said Morris got into a verbal altercation with another witness, saying racial slurs and throwing a

pipe, then allegedly saying to the witness and surrounding employees that he would kill the witness and "shoot up the building," where more than 50 individuals are employed.

Coworkers instructed Morris to leave the premises, after which, he exited the building.

A warrant was issued for Morris' arrest on June 10, with a bond set at \$50,000, cash only.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



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LOCAL

Butterfield: Owners retain property rights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

According to the NPS, the legislation authorizing the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail identified approximately 3,152 miles of trail on its original “Ox-Bow Route,” which extended from St. Louis, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn., to San Francisco, Calif. In its southern-dipping course, the trail passed through the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

In order to qualify as a national trail, a trail must meet certain criteria: The route must be established by historic use; be historically significant as a result of that use; and be sufficiently known to permit evaluation of public recreation and historical interest potential. The route need not currently exist as a discernible trail in order to qualify, states the NPS.

In 2024 and 2025, NPS staff traveled across the historic trail to document and evaluate “high potential historic sites” and “high potential route segments.”

In Barry County, the NPS identified three high potential historic sites: Smith Station, at the northeast corner of the county, near Wise Spring, on Farm Road 2020; Crouch’s Station, a few miles northeast of Cassville on Farm Road 1135; and Harbin’s Station, one mile south of Washburn, in a pasture on private property.

The John Smith Station was constructed near Wise Spring, in the northeast corner of the county, on Farm Road 2020. A spring house and remains of the station’s foundation are still visible at the beautiful spring-lake setting, where historical markers commemorate the site.

Crouch’s Station, located northeast of Cassville on Farm Road 1135, was operated by John D. Crouch, a Virginia-born merchant, and his wife Martha. Crouch acquired the property in March 1857. Today, the station site and possible historic remnants are on private land adjacent to a public road. The setting remains largely intact, and the site is commemorated by a historical marker.

Harbin’s Station was the southernmost relay station in Missouri, and consisted of a log house and corral located on the west side of the mail road. The station was named for its operator, John G. Harbin, who migrated from Tennessee in 1845 and purchased the property in 1857. While the original log structure burned in the 1940s, the historic road and a series of foundation stones still mark its location. Located on private farmland, the setting maintains some of its 19th-century appearance.

In addition to high-potential historic sites, the NPS identified Farm Road 1050, southwest of Washburn from Missouri State Highway 37 to Missouri State Highway DD, as a “high potential segment of road.” The gravel road — one lane in many places — evokes the nature of the Butterfield route as it once existed, as it runs alongside Big Sugar Creek into Washburn and Seligman Hollows, before intersecting with Highway DD then continuing as the Old Wire Road into Arkansas.

High potential sites and segments provide scenic value or offer an opportunity to vicariously share the original users’ experience of the historic route, the NPS states.

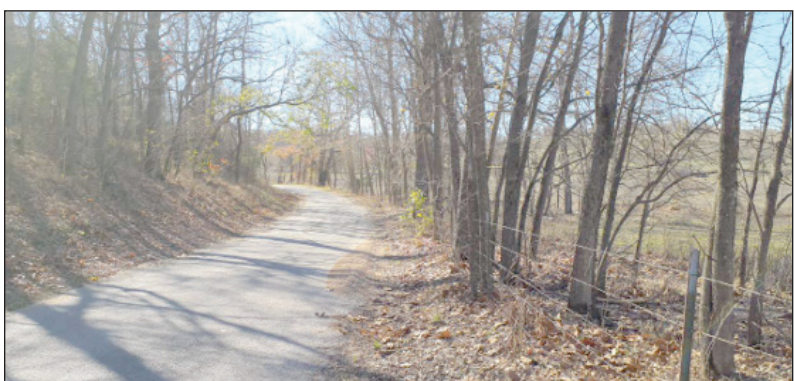
The history of the original Butterfield Overland Mail route is colorful. In Barry County, the trail was created and first used by the Osage Tribe.

The trail infamously became known as the Cherokee Trail of Tears when southeastern tribes were forcibly removed from their homelands after the passage of President Andrew Jackson’s Indian Removal Act in 1830.

In September, 1857, John Butterfield of Utica, New York, headed a group of investors



Smith’s Tavern, located near Wise Spring, in northeast Barry County, is pictured in 2025 on a wooded hillside spring area with stone foundation remnants of a nearby historic marker. Contributed photo



Crouch’s Station, located northeast of Cassville on Farm Road 1135, is pictured in 2025 near the former station site with a historical marker and open landscape. Contributed photo



Harbin’s Station, located south of Washburn, on private property, is pictured showing a historic road trace near the former station site. Contributed photo

who signed a contract with the US Postal Service to create a cross-country mail route from the Mississippi River to San Francisco, California. The contract called for semi-weekly mail service, subsidized at \$600,000 per year, with service to begin within the following year.

In Missouri, from its eastern terminus in St. Louis, the mail traveled by rail to Tipton, in central Missouri, where the mail’s first journey by stagecoach began. Almost 24 hours later, after multiple stops, Butterfield stages reached the route’s western terminus in San Francisco.

Initial preparations for the daunting route called for the construction of relay stations along its 3,000-plus miles, “where passengers could embark or disembark, horse or mule teams could be changed, and animals could be stabled in readiness for the next stage,” the NPS plan states.

According to the NPS, by the time stage service on the “Ox-Bow Route” ended in 1861, the number of relay stations had increased from 140 to 200 stations, located within an average 20 miles of each other.

At the relay stops, passengers were allowed 10 minutes for “personal needs,” unless a twice-daily meal was served, in which case, 40 minutes were allotted.

After the mail route began operating, stages ran day and night, seven days per week, regardless of weather and road conditions.

Congress voted to suspend service along the original Butterfield mail route in March, 1861, just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Afterward, the trail received heavy military traffic and became known as the Wire Road.

The National Park Service seeks partnerships (without necessarily requiring a formal agreement) with Barry County landowners and communities to operate, develop, and maintain portions of the

Butterfield National Historic Trail. The NPS can provide technical assistance to partners, including assistance with interpretation, site design, preservation, historical research, mapping, strategic planning and trail marking.

“All partnership initiatives are voluntary,” the NPS emphasizes. “Partnership certification begins with a conversation between the landowner or manager and the federal trail administrator about the historical significance and management needs of a particular trail-related property. Then, the landowner or manager and the National Park Service may enter into a voluntary partnership to manage, protect, and interpret the site for visitors. Commitment to that partnership is formalized with a simple, legally nonbinding partnership certification agreement that states the parties will work together toward those mutual goals.”

The NPS assures landowners that historic sites and segments associated with the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail that exist on private property are only made accessible to the public through landowner consent.

According to the NPS draft plan, no federal restrictions or requirements are placed on private landowners.

“The owner/manager retains all legal rights to the property,” the NPS plan states.

As administrator of the trail, the National Park Service looks forward to sharing this piece of American history with the public.

For details on how to help preserve and promote a segment of our county’s and nation’s history in partnership with the National Park Service, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ddzhrx68>.

The comprehensive draft plan can be downloaded and viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/msc66xfe>.

Comments will be accepted through July 3.

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 Thursday at noon at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

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.

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., Dino Ice Egg Excavation, 2 p.m., MO Coaster Craft, 5:30 p.m.; Friday, closed; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m.; Monday, Flip Flop Wreath, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Story Time, 10 a.m., Teen Paint, 2 p.m., Scrapbooking, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Kids 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.

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.

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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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Man interfering with firefighters charged for meth

70-year-old arrested after interfering with firefighters during blaze

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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A Verona man is being held on the Barry County jail on two felony charges and a misdemeanor after allegedly bringing methamphetamine into the facility after his arrest.

Billy Hancock, 70, of Verona, is charged with delivery or possession of a controlled substance at a jail, possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor pos-

session of drug paraphernalia.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Deputy Billy Forester, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on June 9, while local fire departments began fire suppression operations on a fully involved structure fire, Hancock knowingly interfered with the fire operation by continuing to go toward the fire, preventing firefighters to continue operations.

In the process of detaining Hancock for interference, Hancock allegedly pulled his arms away and attempted to flee after being told he was under arrest.

Upon arrival at the Barry County jail, Hancock allegedly knowingly possessed and delivered a small baggy containing a crystal-like sub-

stance, which field-tested positive for methamphetamine, as well as 66 small baggies located inside his left boot.

Forester noted Hancock has a criminal history that includes charges of DWI - persistent offender and receiving stolen property in 2014, and operating a vehicle without a license - third or subsequent offense in 2015.

Forester also said Hancock knowingly resisted and attempted to flee after multiple attempts to arrest.

Hancock is being held in the Barry County jail on a cash-only bond of \$15,000. He has been arraigned, and a bond hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.



Graduates from the Compass Network Academy in Cassville pose for a photo. Compass delivers high-impact, hands-on learning experiences designed to help rural middle school students build the skills and confidence to succeed in school, work and life. Contributed photo

Compass Academy Network hosts graduation at Cassville location

Compass Academy Network (CAN) hosted its public graduation ceremony on Friday at the Cassville Performing Arts Center, celebrating the students' achievements with families, educators and mentors.

Compass delivers high-impact, hands-on learning experiences designed to help rural middle school students build the skills and confidence to succeed in school, work and life. The free four-week, full-day summer program offers courses in leadership, creative expression, civic engagement, and personal development, all at no cost to families. Students

also receive meals, transportation, materials, and a Walmart gift card upon successful completion of the program.

Compass also invests in the next generation of rural educators through its Peer Mentor program with paid, hands-on teaching experience for local college students preparing for careers in education and community service.

"Our mission at Compass Academy goes far beyond traditional learning - we focus on empowering young people to recognize their own worth and capabilities," said Debra Humphreys, founder and CEO of

Compass Academy Network. "Compass offers the opportunity for students to develop intellectually, personally, and as active leaders in their community, while enjoying a memorable summer and building lasting friendships."

Compass Academy Network is a nonprofit founded in 2019, that supports rural education by providing free summer enrichment programs for middle school students (grades 6-9) and by developing a pipeline of committed and qualified educators in rural communities.

CAN's 2026 summer program marks signif-

icant growth, now with nine locations across Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma and including nearly 420 students from nearly 65 schools. In addition, nearly 30 college students will receive paid internships gaining valuable teaching experience, alongside over 40 experienced local educators.

Applications are still open for the July 2026 Compass summer session in Joplin, MO.

For more information, people may contact jnorton@compassacademynetwork.org or learn more about Compass at www.compassacademynetwork.org.

Barry County Health Corner



Septic neglect stinks - literally

No septic system is designed to last forever, but proper maintenance can greatly extend the life of your septic system.

A properly functioning septic system will safely filter dangerous bacteria, viruses and excess nutrients before waste is recycled to the environment. To maintain your septic system septic tanks should be pumped at least every 3-5 years. Pumping a septic tank helps the system by removing grease and solids that build up in the tank.

When grease and solids are not regularly removed from a septic tank, they can end up flowing in to your lateral field leading to costly repairs. If you're unsure about your septic tank location, the Barry County Health Department has kept records of septic tank location for all permitted septic systems since 1996.

The Barry County Health Department strives to protect our community and the environment through issuing permits and maintaining detailed records for all new, replacement and repaired septic system in Barry County.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 417-847-2114.

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

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW

In our backyard

For the next month or so, keeping my normal level of work productivity will be a challenge.

On Thursday, the FIFA World Cup began, and I will be taking every opportunity I can to watch any of the four or more games per day over the next three weeks, then the slew of knockout round games for the next few weeks after.

Those of who that follow this column know my love for soccer. I started playing when I was 3, played competitively and refereed at a high level throughout my teen years, and, at multiple points throughout my youth career, played with and against people who have worn the US crest on the international stage.

I have many, many fond memories of World Cups in my formative years, from France's 1998 run and the infamous Zinedine Zidane headbutt to the 2002 8-goal domination by the original Ronaldo (R9) of Brazil to the Italian title in 2006 the summer after I graduated high school. I could literally go on for thousands of words about the memories of those three tournaments and more thereafter.

It's an uncanny thing, the World Cup, because no matter your fandom or favorite team or player, the tournament always does one thing — unites the world in excitement over a game billions (yes, billions) of people can share the proverbial breaking of bread.

The Super Bowl, the NBA Finals, the Stanley Cup and the World Series all garner interest, but there's something about watching a game between two countries (like Iran and New Zealand right now) where you can count on there being watch parties and similar reactions to key moments all across the world.

The expansion of this year's tournament has also brought in World Cup debutants like Curacao, an island nation with a population 3/4 that of Springfield's that scored a goal on Sunday against Germany, to Cape Verde, a nation of under 500,000 that held Spain — a tournament favorite — to a 0-0 draw in their opener this (Monday) morning.

Every four years, I have watched tournaments in France, Germany, South Africa, South Korea and Italy, among other countries, dreaming of having the means to be in the stadium for just one game, no matter the teams playing. Attending a World Cup game has been on my bucket list since before I could spell Luxembourg (a country that has never qualified for the World Cup but was part of the 1994 soccer game I had for SEGA Genesis).

Now, at the age of 38, that dream is coming true in Missouri's backyard. At the end of this month, I will be traveling to Kansas City to watch Netherlands play Tunisia and Algeria face Austria, with both games being played in the familiar Arrowhead Stadium, where I have attended multiple Chiefs games and, one time, been on the sidelines.

While it would be amazing to watch any of the USA games, proximity and my pocketbook led me to choose the two games I did, and with good reason. A star player for the Netherlands, arguably the best defender in the world in Virgil Van Dijk, plays for my favorite English Premier League team, Liverpool. I'm beyond excited to see him play in person. As for Algeria and Austria, that game has the potential to be a possible knockout game, the third and final for each in a group that also includes Argentina and Jordan.

Like Curacao, Cape Verde and Uzbekistan, it's Jordan's first-ever qualification to the tournament. The country shares its name with my wife, who I promised would be mentioned in this column — promise kept.

While those who love the game will be glued to the tube, as they said in 1998, for the next month, I can't help but think how far soccer has come at our local level.

Nearly a decade ago, a few of us who love soccer in Cassville banded together to create Seven Valleys Soccer Club with the intent of growing the sport in the fields of Barry County. Today, the impact of that effort cannot be understated. The Cassville High School boys soccer team has had numerous players in the last few years making significant impacts on the team — one that averaged just over four wins per year from 2017-2021 to a team that has won 49 games since from 2022-2025.

Likewise, the ladies were not excluded, and their accomplishments with a fresh crop of Seven Valleys alumni has been a sight to see. In this week's edition, the season recap of the Cassville High School girls soccer team lauds a squad that won the program's first-ever Big 8 Conference title and set a new season wins record, not to mention the many individual records set by — you guessed it — Seven Valleys players.

Leading up to this World Cup, I watched a couple documentaries. "Soccer Meets America" chronicles the rise of the sport in the U.S., from a sport in the 1980s people had never heard of to now rivaling baseball in popularity. "You Don't Know Where I'm From, Dawg" chronicles the path of Clint Dempsey, a kid from a small Texas town who became one of the faces of the sport to my generation of players and fans, and who now is a commentator for this year's tournament.

I hope all of the kids in Cassville who play or have any slight interest in soccer get to watch these World Cup games and see and feel the passion I had for the sport at that age. As much as I love it, it's an itch that will never be fully scratched.

I hope the game continues to grow locally and beyond. Like most sports, it teaches skill, discipline, sportsmanship and all kinds of life lessons I still subconsciously use in my everyday life to this day as I approach 40.

If you are a fan of sports at all, and whether you know anything about soccer or not, give the biggest World Cup games a watch. You won't be disappointed in the passion, the pageantry and the excitement of tens of thousands of fans packing stadiums across the country witnessing the biggest spectacle in the world.

Also, if you watch the Netherlands-Tunisia or Algeria-Austria games and see me on TV, send me a screenshot.

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



KYLE TROUTMAN

COMMUNITY VOICES

Shhh...don't tell anyone, but...

"The greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places." — Roald Dahl

What do Cassville, Shangri-La, El Dorado, and Atlantis all have in common?

They are places defined entirely by the secrets they keep. While the latter three are born of myth and gold, the first breathes real air. Yet, all of them exist just out of reach of the public eye. They are sanctuaries where the glories of the location dissolve from the public's compass.

When I first came to town to teach at Crowder, no one explained what drew you all here and kept you here. The long lineage of families was more than a coincidence of time and circumstance. The physical beauty to me, as obvious as it was, gave me not a clue as to its future worth. And, when I began to meet people in the public square, no one pulled me off to the side and whispered to me the riches that are Barry County.

Rolling meadows, fascinating topography, a river that is aptly named for its magnificence, and how the sun cascades down on the land in a way that would make a landscape painter exclaim its charms.

It took me a while to understand what Cassville is — a place where people still care, a genuine civic interest that protects as much as nurtures, a culture that is as patriotic as it is compassionate to the fellow citizen, regardless of economic hierarchy.

Yep, I had to discover your secret by myself. It did not require a secret handshake or a hidden door leading to a club meeting, I simply had to discover on my own what you have been hiding in plain sight. Thank you very much for being patient with me.

The realization, once it finally moved from my brain and became embedded in my heart, was surprising — awe-inspiring even. No, no, even though I am a writer and English professor, I choose those words carefully with no hyperbole intended. What happens when the secret gets out?

For decades, Barry County has enjoyed a degree of insulation from the rapid growth experienced elsewhere. We have watched larger communities expand while our own population remained relatively stable. Stability can be comforting. It creates the illusion that tomorrow will look much like today.

Yet all around us, the map is changing.

To the north, Springfield continues to grow and expand outward. Communities such as Nixa, Ozark, Rogersville, and Republic have experienced significant population



TERRY HELD

increases as development pushes farther into southwest Missouri. To the south, Northwest Arkansas continues its remarkable transformation into one of the nation's fastest-growing economic regions. Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville are no longer isolated communities; they form a regional powerhouse whose influence extends well beyond state lines.

Even quiet, out-of-the-way towns like Pea Ridge (only 20 minutes away) are experiencing unprecedented growth.

Surprise! Now they are struggling to establish a Master Plan, a day late and a dollar short. It is no longer population creep; it is a full-blown explosion of people moving into one of the most desired regions in the United States. Have you tried driving on Arkansas Highway 72 outside Pea Ridge during Monday to Friday drive time? Yikes!

Barry County sits between these two expanding spheres. For years, that geography has been an advantage. Increasingly, it will become a catalyst. Growth rarely announces itself with a trumpet. It arrives quietly, slowly, then boom — all at once.

Initially, a new housing development appears. Yay! Then, another. Traffic becomes a bit confounding. Property values begin to rise. Those visitors to Roaring River decide to stay. Then corporate workers discover the treasure of the natural landscape and move in.

Investors appear like a rapidly moving storm, and there it is, in your midst, a population explosion. Population forecasters are like meteorologists; sometimes they are right, and sometimes they are way wrong.

Understand, please, growth is not the enemy. New families can strengthen schools. New businesses can create opportunities. Economic development can improve the quality of life and expand the tax base that supports public services. Most of us would welcome thoughtful investment and renewed vitality (Crowder is ready for that growth).

The challenge is not growth itself.

The challenge is growth without preparation. This is where the work of our civil servants and politicians becomes vital. Their long-term vision for Barry County is one we all need to share in and work towards. Fortunately, we have a wonderful cadre of leaders. But what about you, dear Cassvillian?

Are you ready for the next chapter that is certain to unfold here in Barry County? Perhaps the most important question of all is this: What do we want Barry County to look like for our grandchildren?

Those conversations are not signs of pessimism. They are signs of stewardship. Cassville and all of Barry County are a wonderful place to live, to raise a family, to enjoy all that life has to offer. Our culture of helping one another, in my opinion, is superb — not what I have experienced in other places I have lived. If the citizenry of our wonderful county, the local citizens, elected officials, business leaders, educators, and community organizations engage these questions now, we have the opportunity to guide our future intentionally.

If we wait until growth is obvious to everyone, many of the most important decisions may already have been made.

The future of Barry County should not be determined by accident. Nor should it be determined by the fate of circumstance. The remarkable thing is that we are not starting from scratch. We already possess the ingredients that make communities thrive: natural beauty, strong institutions, civic pride, resilient people and a genuine sense of place.

Those attributes are becoming increasingly valuable. Perhaps that is the secret, or part of it.

For years, we have viewed Barry County as a quiet corner of Missouri, comfortably distant from the pressures transforming other regions. Yet, what if our greatest challenge over the next 20 years is not decline, but growth? What if the best-kept secret in Southwest Missouri is reaching the point where it is no longer hidden?

Maybe we should talk a little more often about growth and what we want it to look like, but until then...

Shhh. Don't tell anyone.

Terry Held is an English instructor at Crowder College, Cassville. The views expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of Crowder College. He would appreciate hearing what you think. He can be reached at TerryHeld@Crowder.edu.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Camp stories

Back in 1933, a 97-acre camp for girls was opened on the banks of Shoal Creek near the village of Pioneer in north Barry County, west of Purdy, and named Camp Sylvania.

Owned and operated by Elizabeth Allen, of Pierce City, originally, the property was intended to be used as a boy's camp, but after the death of her father L.L. Allen in 1931, Elizabeth changed the plans for the camp to accommodate girls instead.

Lewis Lucious Allen was born in St. Louis but had lived in Pierce City since 1870, where he was cashier at the Lawrence County Bank for 40 years. Mr. Allen's father, L.L.L. Allen, served as bank president. Incidentally, his father was named Barnabas Allen and his grandmother was Amy Camp.

After retiring from banking in 1912, he formed the L.L. Allen Insurance company, evidently garnering enough income to envision a children's camp. Work began on 10 cabins with a dining hall a year earlier in 1932, along with rec room and tennis court.

Other activities included swimming, boating, and horseback riding. Along with Elizabeth Allen, who had spent three years as secretary of the Valley Young Women's Christian Association, the camp was administered by her friend Amy Lou Holmes, a graduate of Brownsville Junior College

in Texas, having previous experience at Campo del Arroyo at Rio Hondo near Brownsville, Texas.

Later during World War II Amy Lou Holmes completed a welding course in Dallas in a record five days and was given a factory job to aid in the war effort. However, Miss Allen did not live long enough to enjoy her family's dream, dying in 1935 of tuberculosis while residing in Colorado Springs for her health.

Tragedy struck the camp again on March 22, 1936, when two trucks loads equipment were stolen from the camp, including lights, silverware, rugs, blankets and anything else the thieves could get their hands on in this era of depression.

Gene Richardson was arrested in Joplin for the crime and transferred to Barry County, where he was charged with the robbery. He escaped the Barry County Jail in May of 1936 after sawing through a steel door, along with a Monett carnival worker named Robert Burns accused of shoplifting.

Richardson was apprehended in Phoenix, Ariz., and brought back to Cassville by Sheriff Evan Shore that December, where he was sentenced to 10 years in the state penitentiary by Judge E.E. Smith after pleading guilty.

In 1937, the girls camp was opened to the general public by Mary Lou Holmes, who now owned

the camp, and her partner Mrs. Pearl Nuckols, as a family resort, catering to the local residence of Monett when not being used by the girls during eight weeks in summer.

In 1947, the Camp Sylvania property was acquired by the Christian Church for \$15,000 and renamed Camp Yo-Co-Mo, also referred to as Yo-Ko-Mo, or YoCoMo Bluff. The church was able to pay off the mortgage on the property by 1952. Events such as the Christian Endeavor Conference of 1948 and Presbyterian Youth Conference of 1949 were held at the camp. The camp was also popular with 4-H clubs of various counties such as Barry, Lawrence, Newton, Dade, McDonald, Stone, Barton and Jasper.

According to a 1949 newspaper article "Facilities at the camp are larger than those a Roaring River, making it possible for Jasper County 4-H'ers to attend all at one time."

I imagine Roaring River State Park was in constant competition with the campground for attendees and the accompanying revenue generated. Other camp attendees in the 1950s included Boy Scouts, Methodist MYF conferences and Y.M.C.A groups.

In 1972, the camp owners, Ninth District of Christian Churches of Disciples of Christ, sold the property to Henry

O. Head of Mississippi, known as Heno. The camp was subsequently renamed Camp Soaring Hawk. The camp was enjoyed in the 1970s and 1980s by the children of the Barry County Youth Camp, a camp supported through donations for children who would not otherwise be financially able to attend a summer camp.

In 1996, Camp Soaring Hawk was purchased by the Barnabas Foundation led by Paul and Cindy Teas. The camp was then repurposed to serve disabled youth and renamed Camp Barnabas. The Teas journey of faith is chronicled in the book "Camp Barnabas: Champion for the Challenged" by Heno Head, Jr.

Camp Barnabas continues to operate, occasionally receiving national attention, as when the television series "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" visited the camp back in 2005, the episode even winning an Emmy.

For over 90 years, children have benefited from enduring dreams brought by faith through the changing ownership of the campground, each vision serving its time and place. Hopefully the story of helping children never ends, even though the summer inevitably must.

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

50 years ago

June 23, 1976
— RAINFALL WAS NEEDED, BUT SIX INCHES IN EIGHT HOURS FLOODS

This area needed rain, but six inches in about eight hours was more than streams and drainage ditches could handle. Weather predictions had a 30 percent chance for rain Wednesday, but storms slid into the area shortly after midnight Tuesday. Cloudbursts in the area produced heavy downpours. The storm was accompanied by heavy lightning but little wind. Officially, at the U.S. Forest Service 8 a.m. measurements were 3.29 inches. However, home gauges throughout the area had between five and six inches. Shell Knob reports said six-inch gauges were overflowing. Mary Ann Thomas, recorder at the Cassville Ranger District of Mark Twain, said average rainfall for June was about four inches. Previous to Wednesday's downpours, .51 of an inch had been recorded here, and it was still raining at press time. A dry late winter and indications of June being without moisture had some agricultural interests concerned. In January this year the area had .39 of an inch, with .30 recorded in February. March had 3.33 inches, April 6.02 and May 5.63. Mrs. Thomas said this puts moisture to date at the station at 19.47 inches. Normal for a 12-month period in this area is somewhere around 40 inches. Traffic on Cassville's Main Street was slowed but not closed due to Hawk Branch and Little Troublesome overflowing between 10th and 11th Street drainage ditches. At press time, Flat Creek was staying within its banks, but promises of additional moisture could produce flooding in some areas. Weather observers had issued no flood watches for this area. In fact, 6 p.m. forecasts failed to mention anything like the downpours being on their way into this area. Ponds that were beginning to show the effects of low moisture this month were once again brim full as a result of heavy runoff in the rains.

— STATE PLAN HAS \$7.5 MILLION FOR ROARING RIVER PROJECTS

Roaring River State Park is included in a 10-year Missouri program for park expansion, according to announcements by James Wilson, director of the Department of Natural Resources. The overall program would call for expenditure of \$36.6 million. Roaring River's figure for improvement costs calls for \$7,445,000 according to reports. The local park program calls for acquiring an undesignated area in southwest Missouri near Roaring River and Table Rock Lake to provide new area acquisition and development of 200-plus acres, with priority given to preservation of stream corridors or natural areas. This would cost an estimated \$2,800,000. In addition, \$4,645,000 is slated at Roaring River for major reorganization of use areas, including a new concession complex, expansion of camping facilities, demolition and renovation of outdated structures, new utility systems and general renovation of grounds; acquisition of 1,300-plus acres needed for expansion; purchase of conflicting in-holding uses; and trail development. State efforts to secure private property in the park last month resulted in a backing down by the Department of Natural Resources when commissioners set a \$92,000 price tag on the commercial site owned by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Edmondson and leased by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Box. The state plan, probably necessitating a bond issue approved by the legislature, would put more money in the next 10 years into parks and recreation than has been spent in Missouri's entire 155-year history, calling for total additions and improvements costing \$201.1 million. Plans for expansion are being devel-

oped by a St. Louis firm. Under preliminary reports, 78,122 acres would be added to the system's present 80,350 acres. The plan places a major emphasis on developing new recreational opportunities within the park system near Kansas City and St. Louis. Roaring River State Park presently contains 3,459 acres. The exact acquisitions intended by the plan are not available at this time from park sources. However, it is known the park system has eyed that area of the Roaring River stream that is between present park boundaries and Table Rock Lake or Eagle Rock. The last previous land addition to Roaring River was several years ago when the Conservation Commission acquired acreages up Dry Hollow. This addition was for the purpose of installing retaining structures to reduce flooding and gravel fill in the stream.

40 years ago

June 25, 1986
— ROARING RIVER'S AHEAD OF RECORD SETTING YEAR'S PACE

If Roaring River State Park continues at the present rate of trout tag sales, the 1986 season will break existing records. In fact, the park is experiencing an outstanding year according to all departments. Targeted are the years 1980 through 1983, all which ran over the 100,000 mark for trout tag sales. The existing record of 106,924 was established in 1981. That year, the pre-July 4 figure stood at 48,204 anglers using the stream. As of Sunday, the number was running over 2,500 above that at 50,931, reported Charles Curry, hatchery superintendent. With the halfway mark of the eight-month season past, the park is running nearly 5,000 tags above the same period last year. Curry's opinion of the increases are shared by concessionaire Jack Nickols. Both agree the water conditions have been good this year. Domestic travel increases are bound to be helping. Gasoline prices are a factor, along with ideal weather in this area. Nickols also said improvements to camping facilities have returned some folks who left Roaring River for other areas during construction stages. Cabin additions, renovations of the park motel and general improvements in the park are all helpers to bigger attendance figures. Curry said his crews had stocked over 115,000 fish during the half-season period. He said the fish weighed about 86,250 pounds and required nearly 129,275 pounds of feed. The hatchery crew includes assistant Skip Doak, Terry Fuller, H.E. Stephens, Marvin Farwell, Rod Tucker, Mac Thomas and Bill Murphy. Merle Rogers, park naturalist, said his department experienced the largest month of May on record. During that time frame, 3,133 persons used naturalist facilities, tours and programs. Assisting Rogers this summer in evening programs, games, nature and hatchery tours are seasonal naturalists Don Brink, Sharon Zielmann and Lisa Drysdale of Springfield and Karen Daldom of Aurora. Nickols said the overall accommodation increase of people at Roaring River amounted to about 12 percent. He said restaurant use was showing a considerably greater increase this year. Bill Ash, assistant superintendent at the park, said at the end of April the Missouri Department of Natural Resources reported a 20 percent increase in park use. Numbers of people were computed by the state at 34 percent above the previous year. Ash said May and June figures would follow about the same trend. Park officials said increases were expected to continue at Roaring River since coming months were the heavy-use times as visitors flock to the popular facility to take advantage of what's available around

the clear-running stream.

— OACAC HELPED 870 FAMILIES WITH PROGRAM

"We were able to help 870 families with food at our May commodity distribution," said Una Henderson, supervisor for the OACAC Barry County Neighborhood Center. OACAC distributes commodity foods to low-income families three times each year. Families receive cheese and butter, and a choice of honey, nonfat dry milk, cornmeal, flour or rice, depending on the number of people in the household. "People who want to receive commodity foods need to be registered with us," said Mrs. Henderson. Families can register by providing three months' proof of income for everyone in the household, and proof of Social Security numbers for everyone age 18 and over. "We will distribute food again in September," said Mrs. Henderson, adding that those who already have registration cards should be sure to renew them if they expire before October. For more information about commodity foods, contact the OACAC Barry County Neighborhood Center, 200 E. Fifth, Cassville.

30 years ago

June 19, 1996
— LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RECOMMEND SK SUB-STATION

About 100 people were present at the VFW Hall in Shell Knob Tuesday night, where Sheriff Ralph Hendrix of Barry County and Chief Deputy Richard Hill of Stone County agreed that the Shell Knob-Viola area needs a sub-station manned by a full-time deputy. The Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce sponsored the public forum for the purpose of exploring issues and resolutions to law enforcement difficulties in the area. All concerned agreed that monetary constraints in the sheriffs' departments prohibit hiring an adequate number of deputies. Additionally, the fact that Shell Knob is so far removed from Cassville and Galena makes policing logistics complicated. This was supported by demographics and statistics provided by each official. Barry County has only eight deputies. Stone County has 11. One portion of the program had community volunteers reading questions prepared by the chamber's law enforcement committee. Although Hendrix and Hill were not given an exact list of questions in advance, they were provided with an agenda along with a request to be prepared for particular statistical questions. Through these series of questions, it was determined that Barry County has a road officer assigned in the general Shell Knob area eight hours each day. Stone County has no one assigned but responds when called. Hill estimated that 2 percent of the calls made in Stone County originate in the Shell Knob-Viola area, while Hendrix reported 115 calls so far in 1996. Both officers confirmed that daily logs are kept, which verify each officer's whereabouts and activities during their shift. Barry County has five reserve officers, and Stone County utilizes 15. A reserve officer must be certified but receives no compensation from the county. When questioned about application for federal and state grants to help provide additional deputies, equipment and implement new programs, Hill indicated that Stone County had been able to initiate its DARE program through a grant but stated no other plans to make applications in the future. Hendrix also said the Barry County DARE program resulted from a grant, but he has made no other application for supplemental funding. Both counties utilize drug task forces in their areas. Hendrix has also worked with the Missouri Department of Public Safety, and Hill recounted



30 YEARS AGO: HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? Master gardener Evelyn Hardwick and her husband, Lee, spend many hours together working in their garden. They begin planting beets, cabbages and other vegetables in cut-off milk jugs inside their home around March, before transplanting them outside. Hardwick volunteers her time to help others learn about gardening. She can be contacted at home or through the University Extension office in Cassville. Democrat file photo

that Stone County called upon the South Central Major Case Squad in the Michelle Winter case. Hendrix and Hill agreed that Shell Knob needs a sub-station with a full-time officer assigned to it. Having that officer commissioned in both counties was their preference, thereby allowing the officer the freedom to operate without restrictions in each county. In order to achieve this, two things would have to occur: commissioners from each county would need to agree to fund the sub-station and deputy, and prosecution procedures would have to be defined. Presently, Barry County has a sub-station in Monett. A dually commissioned officer is shared between the two counties. Hill further suggested that Shell Knob could raise funds to help offset expenses if the commissioners would agree to support a sub-station. Questions and suggestions from the floor followed. One suggestion was to hire a secretary to type reports following arrests so that deputies do not have to spend their time typing when they could be on the road. Another audience member reminded those present that Shell Knob has a strong voter block and encouraged residents to use their voting power in upcoming elections. He emphasized that Shell Knobians must approach commissioners regarding the needs in Shell Knob. The Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce will sponsor two other forums in July. On July 16 at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, candidates for Stone County Sheriff will be invited to address the public. A similar meeting for Barry County candidates will be held July 23 at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall.

— MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS HER TIME TO HELP OTHER GREEN THUMBS

Spring has faded, and summer has finally arrived. Many area residents can now be seen bending over flower beds and gardens, ridding their plantings of pesky weeds. One Purdy woman is particularly serious about her gardening. Her name is Evelyn Hardwick, and she holds the title of master gardener. Hardwick gained her credentials four years ago when she enrolled in the

master gardening program offered through University of Missouri Extension. Her instructors were people from the university and other specialists in various horticulture fields. The different speakers covered many areas, ranging from maintaining grass and fruits to identifying plant diseases. The university furnished a large notebook filled with material, and they continually add and delete from it to keep it up to date. To be recertified as a master gardener each year, Hardwick must volunteer 20 hours of community service. She can be found answering questions about plants at Wal-Mart or making gardening house calls. Hardwick said she usually receives approximately 50 to 60 calls during the summer. She said the most common calls this year have pertained to reviving plants after a harsh winter and late spring. Her solution — give them tender loving care, lots of water and a little pruning. Hardwick, who spends many hours working in her garden with her husband, Lee, said a common mistake is planting gardens too late. "We start planting our beets, cabbages and other vegetables in cut-off milk jugs in the house around March before we transfer them outside," Hardwick explained. "So we're already finished with some of our crops." Another helpful gardening tip from the master gardener is to rotate your garden. "Don't grow the same plants in the same spot every year," she instructs. "It depletes the much-needed nutrients from the soil. If you plant your tomatoes in a certain spot one year, plant your green beans there the next year. This keeps the soil nice and rich." Hardwick said she is more than happy to help others with their gardening.

— COUNTY WILL DECIDE FUTURE OF JAIL PROJECT

Barry County Commissioners have asked County Prosecutor David Cole to review a contract received from Branco Enterprises for the proposed expansion of the county jail. Bids for the jail project were opened on May 2. The lowest bids received were approximately \$169,000 over budget when architectural fees were added.

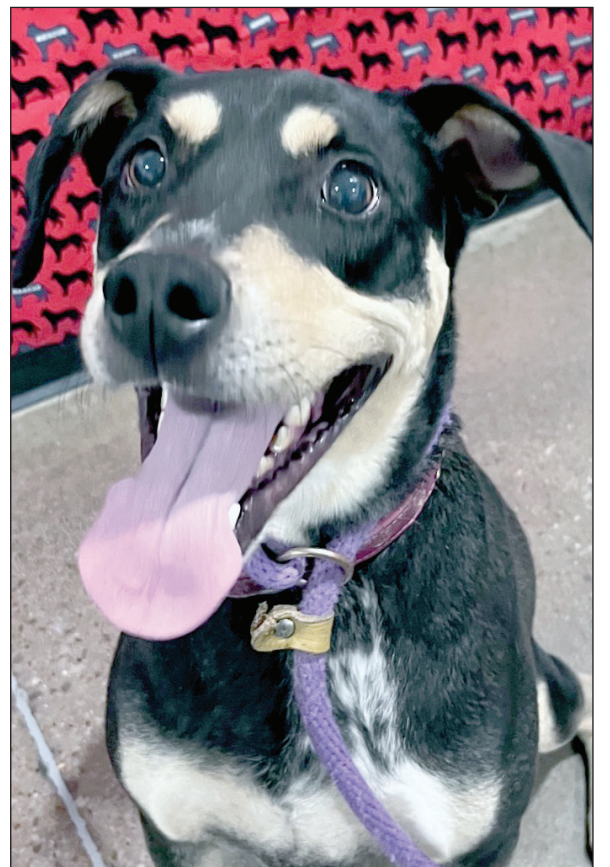
The county had earmarked \$500,000 for the project. The commission decided to postpone awarding of a bid until they could discuss their options with Jim Lichty, architect. Branco was the lowest of five bids received from general contractors. The company's bid was \$371,000. Security equipment and detention modules make up the additional cost. A final decision on the future of the jail project is expected to be announced on June 20. The commission held a bid opening at their June 17 meeting. They received five bids on computer equipment for the prosecuting attorney's office. Bids received were from Computer Helper, \$7,744.40; Gateway 2000, \$8,031.00; Good Earth Computers, \$10,281.00; Skywalker Communications, \$8,324.98; and Software Specialists, \$7,216.97. Commissioners voted to accept the low bid from Software Specialists.

— LOCAL CHURCH WILL CONSTRUCT NEW AUDITORIUM

Members of First Baptist Church in Cassville voted unanimously Sunday night to accept a bid for construction of a new auditorium. A contract was awarded to R.E. Smith Construction of Joplin, who was the low bidder. Pastor John Duncan said the new auditorium will have a seating capacity of around 650. The church leadership plans to continue offering two morning worship services. The congregation outgrew the old sanctuary, and worship services have been held for the past couple of years in the fellowship hall, which was added to the original church building in 1993. The 11,000-square-foot addition to the 113-year-old church will include an office complex in addition to the auditorium. It will be built where the front parking lot now sits. The old sanctuary will eventually be remodeled into Sunday school space. Duncan said the exterior of the building will be masonry brick. The decorative limestone entrance to the old sanctuary will be moved to the new entrance. Hood-Rich Architects estimate the building project will take about one year to complete. Duncan said work should begin by mid-July.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Hi! I'm known now as Delliha, but I started at the Haven as Lady May. I'm a good girl who came back to the Haven because my person had medical issues and could no longer care for me. I'm pretty sad about that, but I know I can find my new person. I'm a hound/shepherd mix and my date of birth is Dec. 18, 2020. I'm a perfect medium-sized girl. 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, please email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





**THOMAS LANE
"TOM" BROOKS**

Thomas Lane "Tom" Brooks, 59, of Exeter, Mo., passed away peacefully Monday, June 8, 2026, in Cassville, Mo.

He was born March 13, 1967, in Pueblo, Colo., he was the son of Marland and Dorothy (Barrett) Brooks, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were his stepfather, Charlie Simpson; his sister, Carol Eaton, and his beloved dog, Eli.

Survivors include his son, Coltan Brooks, and daughter, Holly Brooks, both of Rogers, Ark.; his sister, Carrie Brooks; his nephew and his niece, all of Springfield, Mo., and

many other cherished family members.

He was raised in Pueblo, Colo., where he graduated from Pueblo County High School. He worked several years as a certified Harley-Davidson mechanic developing the problem-solving mindset that would guide him throughout life.

He moved to Ark., and started a career building custom machinery. He later moved his family to Arizona where he shared the love for motorcycles with them through his time at Hacienda.

Returning to southwest Mo., Tom began attending Emmanuel Baptist Church. He faithfully drove the church bus and later served as a Deacon.

Services will be held at 4:00 P.M. Thursday, June 18, 2026 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Cassville. Brother Danny Heupel and Pastor Rich Cummings will conduct the services.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to the family in

memory of Tom.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



**JOHNNIE
"KENNETH"
STANLEY**

Johnnie "Kenneth" Stanley, 87, of Exeter, Mo. passed away Sunday, June 7, 2026 in Cassville, Mo.

He was born August 6, 1938 in Wheaton, Mo. the son of O.C. and Twyla (Harrell) Stanley, who preceded him in death.

Also preceded him in death was a brother-in-

law, Jack Ruark and a nephew, Tom Ruark.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane of the home; one daughter, April Shockley and her husband David of Wheaton, Mo.; two granddaughters, and one grandson; feightve great grandchildren; brothers, Dennis Stanley and his wife Reva of Sibley, Mo., and David Stanley and his wife Penney of Exeter, Mo.; sister, Linda Ruark of Monett, Mo., and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins he counted as close friends and many wonderful friends and neighbors.

He attended school at Ridgley then Wheaton, Mo. He served his country in the United States Army for two years while stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia. Upon returning home he was employed by EFCO Corporation in Monett for 12 years, he then began farming full-time. He hauled cattle for Springfield Livestock Auction for many years. He attended the Ridgley Assembly of God Church.

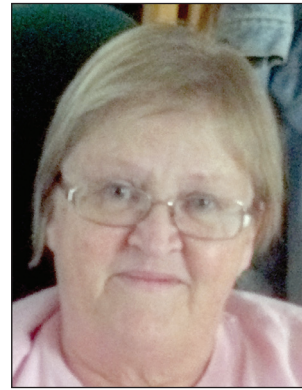
Services were held June 12, 2026 at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Reverend Matt

Tripp conducted the services. Burial with military honors will be at Chitwood Cemetery in Wheaton, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Hospice Compassus in memory of Kenneth.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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**CASSANDRA F.
SMALLWOOD
(BAIN/CHAPMAN/
STANLEY)**

Cassandra F. Smallwood (Bain/Chapman/St Stanley)
June 25, 1951 - June 4,

2026
Sandy passed away after a long battle with Lewy Body dementia. In her life she worked as a paraprofessional teacher in Bartow County, GA, and the Springdale, AR police department. She was a Navy wife for almost 20 years, a friend to many, and inspiration to others. She leaves behind her brothers Tony Bain & Family of Clarksville, TN, Jonathon Bain & Family of Duluth, GA, sisters Lucinda Milsap (Bain) of Blue Ridge, GA and Kayrnn Henry (Bain) & Family of Blue Ridge, GA. She also leaves behind son Joseph Stanley, daughter in law Jenifer, granddaughters Regan and Samantha, daughter Amber Roberts and son in Law Donny Roberts as well as her babies, dogs Rebel and Lucy. We miss and love you, mom. There will be no service in accordance with her wishes, and the family requests instead of flowers donations be made in her name to the Lewy Body Dementia Association at <https://lbda.org/>
PAID OBITUARY

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Naugle awarded plaque, pin for record bass catch



Danny Naugle, left middle, a Cassville resident and Shell Knob native, was recently presented a plaque for his state record yellow bass catch, a 2-pound, 7-ounce fish measuring 16.5 inches, defeating the previous state record of 9 ounces set by Jessica Murry, of St. Peters, in Match 1995. Naugle caught the fish with a pole and line at about 6 a.m. on May 13 from a dock boat slip in Shell Knob. He had been fishing for about 45 minutes and caught the bass with minnows on a 4-pound line. For the catch, he was presented with a state record plaque and master angler pin. Naugle said he is having a replica of the fish made by Cole Cruick Shanks. He has fished in Shell Knob since childhood, learning from his father and grandmother. It is his first state record, and he said he will be keep an eye on his catches a little closer now. Pictured with Naugle, from left, is Jessica Naugle; Eli Naugle; Henry Naugle; Cpl. D.B., with the Department of Conservation; and Cole Beuterbaugh, with the Department of Conservation. Heather Gusta/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Malone: Inconsistencies in original statement

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

that Malone had struck the victim in the head multiple times, strangled

her and shot her in the head," Boxx's release said.

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

According to the original probable cause statement, deputies were dispatched to a residence located in Exeter in reference to a possible abduction. Upon arrival, Deputies made contact with Malone, who reported Lewis, 24, was missing.

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

were located in Aaron's statement."

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

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

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

On Nov. 26, 2024, Boyd and Maj. Angela Cole met with Malone and advised him they wanted to locate the victim, Boyd's release said. Malone allegedly took

authorities to where Lewis was located, deceased and covered with leaves and sticks in a wooded area near Shell Knob.

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

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

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

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

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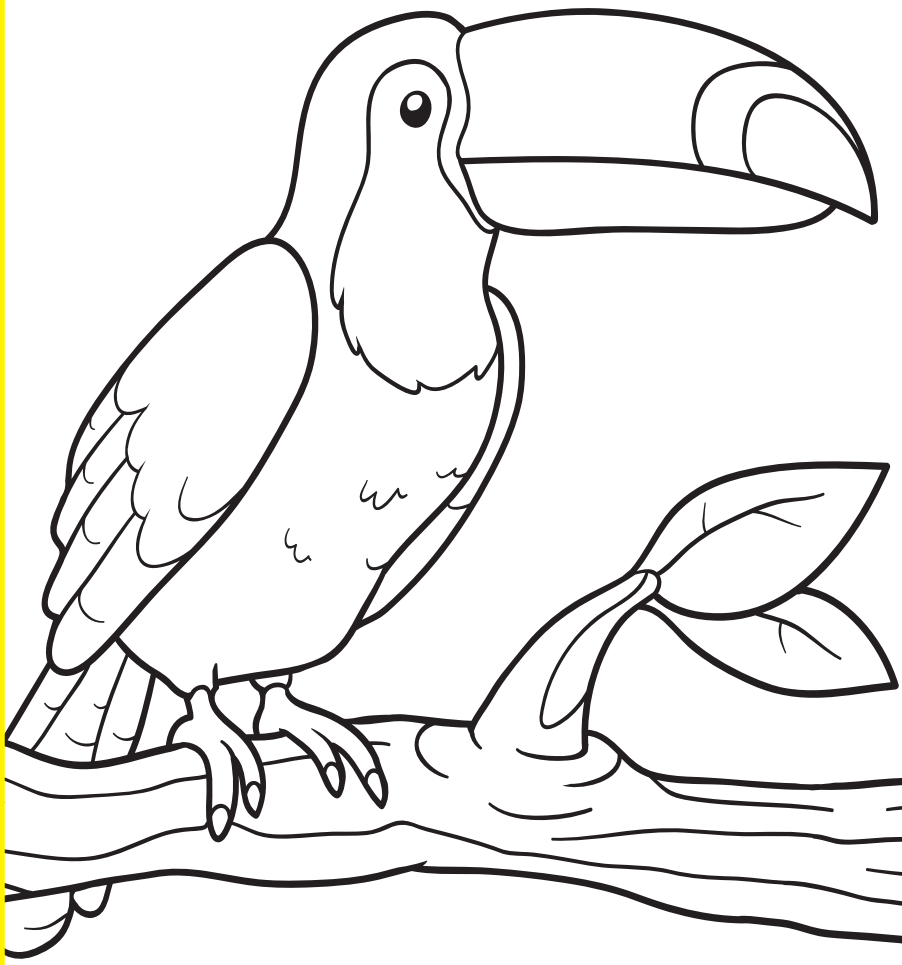


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JUST kidding

Q: What should you do if you get peanut butter on your doorknob?

A: Use a door jam.



JUST kidding

Q: What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup?

A: Anyone can roast beef.



JUST kidding

Q: What kind of haircuts do bees get?

A: Buzzzzz cuts.



Amazing maze

Help the hedgehog find his way to his delicious mushrooms.

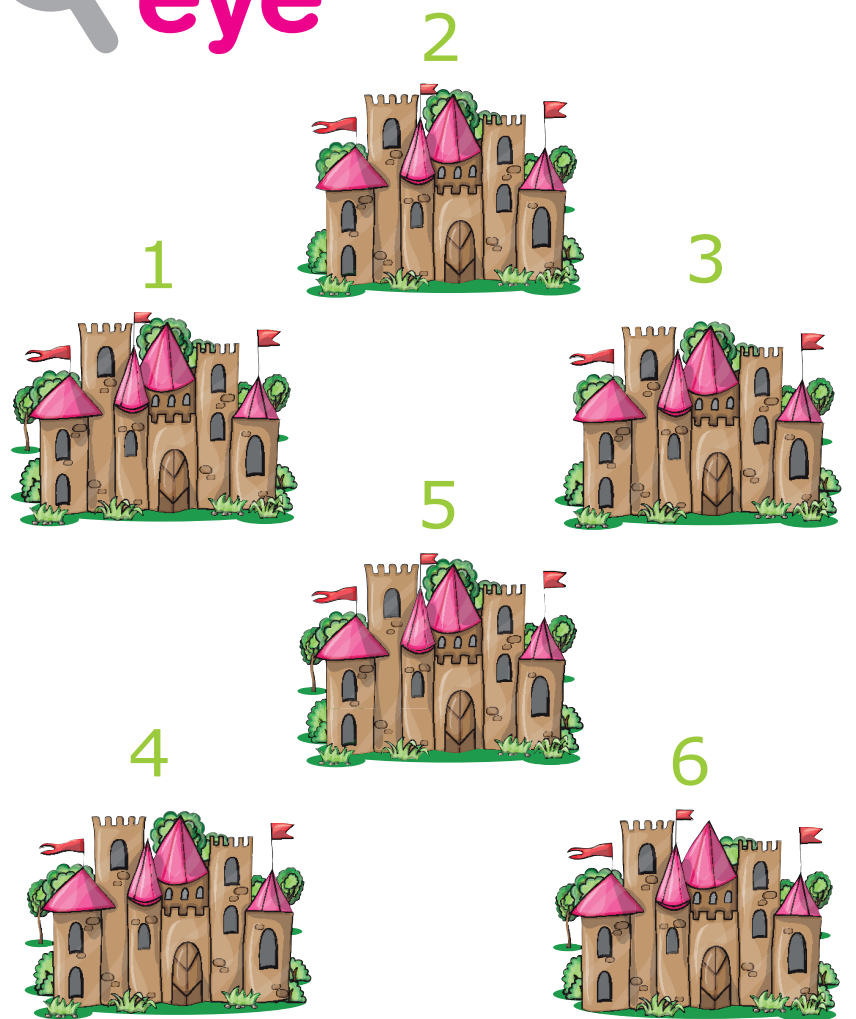
START



FINISH

Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 1 + 5

Sudoku 6 x 6

	△	×			
			□	△	
	○			+	
×	□				
○	×		□	△	
△			◇		○

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

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

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▽	□	+	◇	×	○
◇	○	▽	+	□	×
□	+	×	▽	○	◇
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+	◇	○	×	▽	□

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'Monkey See, Money Do' delights



The zookeeper, distraught over the disappearance of his beloved monkeys, refuses to consider marriage proposals for his daughter, Maria, right, and Pedrito, left, plead for permission to marry, but the worried father remains focused on finding his missing animals. The scene was during an Opera in the Ozarks presentation of "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Following the successful search for the missing monkeys, Maria and Pedrito finally receive the zookeeper's approval to marry during an Opera in the Ozarks presentation of "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. The event was sponsored by the Cassville Branch Library. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Performers from Opera in the Ozarks present "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. The interactive production encouraged student participation throughout the performance, and each child received an educational activity packet featuring information about the play and related games. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



The missing monkeys sit and pout after being denied their favorite treat, bananas, during a humorous scene in the Opera in the Ozarks presentation of "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. The event was sponsored by the Cassville Branch Library. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Cassville summer school students enthusiastically point and call out directions after being invited to help locate the hidden monkeys during the Opera in the Ozarks presentation of "Monkey See, Money Do" at the Cassville FEMA Event Center. The event was sponsored by the Cassville Branch Library. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Revoked: Appeal in Southern District Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

court rule or judicial ruling to the contrary, no defendant who has pled guilty to or been found guilty of any felony sexual offense under chapter 566, where the victim was less than 17 years of age at the time the crime was committed...shall be entitled to bail pending appeal after June 29, 1994." Crum noted Sizemore's conviction falls under Chapter 556, and James was under the age of 14 at the time. "These facts appear to fit squarely within section

544.671's "no bail pending appeal" category, and the language of that statute ("notwithstanding any supreme court rule or judicial ruling to the contrary") suggests the court has no discretion to grant an appeal bond in these circumstances," Crum said. "For the safety of the community and in order to conform to Missouri law, I ask that your office: Review the sentencing and bond orders in 24BR-CR00578-01; file an appropriate motion in the trial court and/or take any necessary action in the Court of Appeals

to revoke the appeal bond and remand Mr. Sizemore to the custody of the Department of Corrections; and Inform the victim and family of any upcoming hearings or decisions related to this bond, consistent with their rights under section 595.209 RSMo. "Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and for your work on behalf of victims and

public safety in Barry County. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide." Sizemore's appeal case is in the Missouri Southern District Court of Appeal, and he is being represented by Attorney Jonathan Sternberg, who has filed an entry of appearance. A hearing date has yet to be set in the case.

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SOUTHWEST TRACK

What: Enjoyed successful season
How: Multiple state qualifiers, multiple school records broken
Highlight: Senior Tobias Smith defied odds to qualify for state

Odds defied, season successful
Multiple school records broken at Southwest

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

Southwest High School's track and field team put together a season to remember this spring, highlighted by state qualifiers, a state medalist and multiple school records.

"I'd give the season a B+," said Steve Voyak, Southwest track and field coach. "Four athletes went to sectional, three more went to State, and we had one All-Stater. Add in four school records broken (both javelins and high and long jump by Dylan Frost), and it was a good season."

Voyak said one of the most impressive stories of the season belonged to senior Tobias Smith.

"Since track is more of an individual vs a team sport, I will focus on an individual," Voyak said. "Senior Tobias Smith had no business making it out of District given the staunch competition, let alone qualifying for State but he ran his two best races of the year at District and Sectional and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

LADY 'CATS ENJOY RECORD-SETTING SEASON



Cassville's Ava Hinson makes a save in a victory over Aurora at home this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville wins Big 8, multiple stat records set

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

After a season averaging less than 0.5 goals per game, the Cassville girls soccer team, infused with an influx of talented underclassmen, turned in a season to remember — breaking the single-season wins record and setting multiple other individual stat records.

Jake Forste, Cassville girls soccer coach, said the Lady Wildcats put together one of the most successful seasons in program history, combining a conference championship, a playoff victory and significant contributions from the young roster.

"I think we pretty clearly had a suc-

LADY WILDCATS SOCCER

Record: 15-4

Last result: 8-0 loss to Springfield Catholic in district semifinals

More: Multiple records broken, team set up for future

cessful season," Forste said. "Winning the conference for the first time was cool. Going 15-4 was pretty cool. And then winning the playoff game against a very good Osage team, who Mercy ruled us in the playoffs in 2021, was a very vindicating way to make it to the second round."

Forste said the season ended against a

strong opponent, but that did not diminish what the team accomplished.

"Running into the state fourth-place team in Springfield Catholic, as tough as it was to lose, they were clearly the better team on that day, so it felt like a natural end to the season," Forste said. "Overall this season, we played really well. We integrated six freshmen in our top 15, and I think those freshmen accounted for like 59 goal contributions between goals and assists. So altogether, pretty successful season."

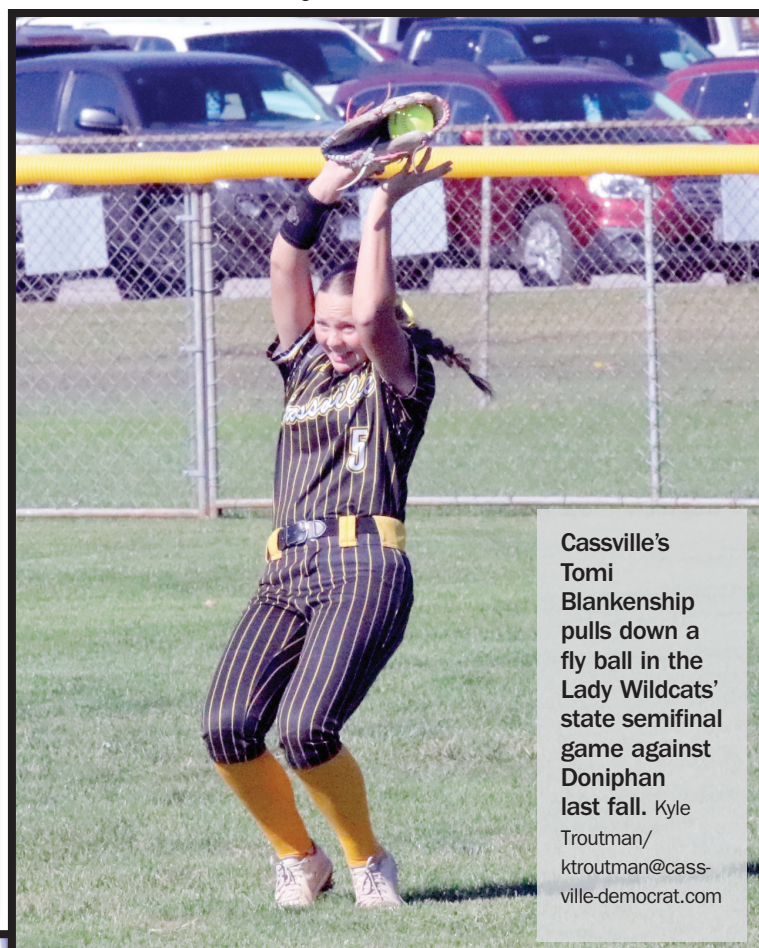
Postseason awards reflected that success, with freshman Briley Artherton

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

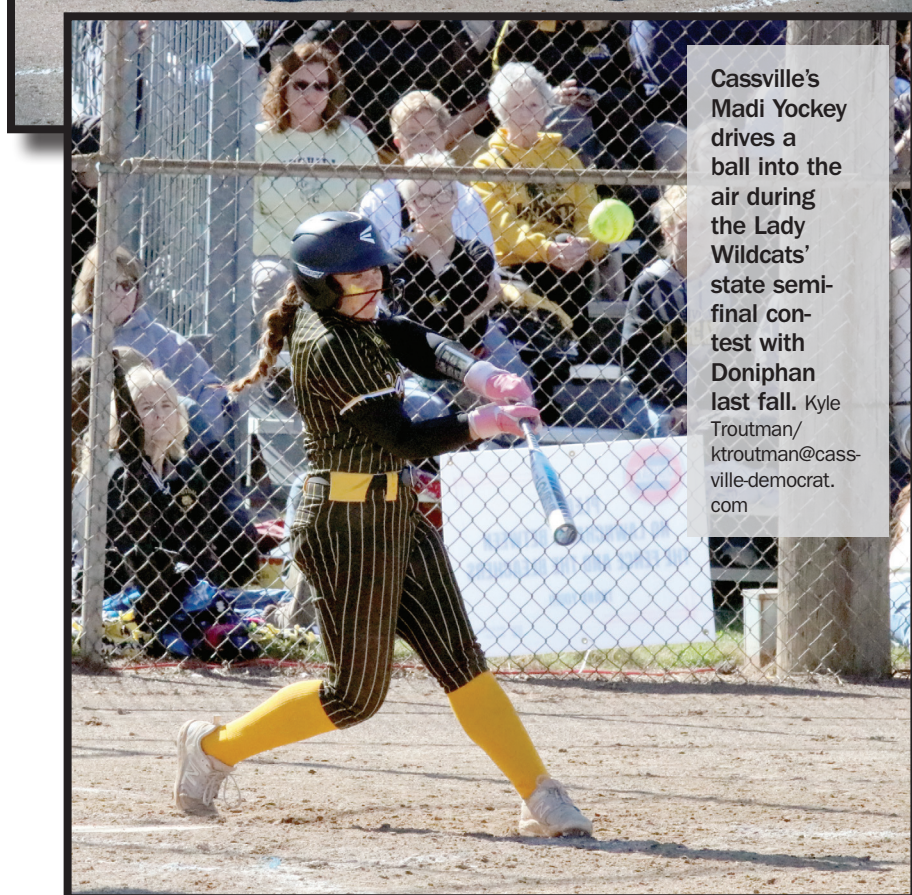
Year in Photos — Cassville softball



Cassville's Aubrey Stoufer loads up a pitch in the state semifinal against Doniphan last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Tomi Blankenship pulls down a fly ball in the Lady Wildcats' state semifinal game against Doniphan last fall. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Madi Yockey drives a ball into the air during the Lady Wildcats' state semifinal contest with Doniphan last fall. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Tyra Sturgell slings a ball to the infield during Cassville's state semifinal contest against Doniphan last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

As we mark our anniversary

As the time approaches that our nation marks its 250th anniversary, the date from which we observe the day is that of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The opening of the document is about the source of human rights, posited as self-evident truth. This description makes the truth, in its historical context, to be both considered objective and universally accepted.

In unfolding the document, the rights listed are a right to life, a right to liberty and a right to the pursuit of happiness. They are posited as originating, not from any human institution or decision, but from the Creator.

The term "Creator" is used,

not to identify any particular people, religion or other boundaries, but are preceded by the term "all" are created equal.

Throughout our history as a nation, we have faced challenges and events of growth as to how universal and how inclusive that understanding really is. Those challenges stand as a testimony to how firm, unchanging and ever relevant those truths really are.

If we examine the back side of the one-dollar bill, we find the saying "IN GOD WE TRUST" all capitals, in the center. On either side are the two sides of the great seal of the United States. The front side shows the Bald American Eagle as the symbol



WILLIAM HODGSON

of strength and freedom. The shield in front of the eagle shows details of our original flag along with the stars over the eagle's head. In the talons are an olive branch for peace and 13 arrows showing that the cost of peace is sometimes war.

The other side is also significant to our anniversary. At the bottom of the pyramid are the Roman Numerals for

1776. The saying underneath the pyramid refers to the "new order of the ages," and the one over the eye of providence at the top represents "He watches over our beginnings."

Last month, Pope Leo released a 52-page pastoral letter on protecting humanity and human dignity in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). In it, he acknowledges the continued progress of human science while cautioning that AI must be managed carefully. He presented a choice between two models taken from the Old Testament. One is the Tower of Babel, a human effort to reach the heavens by human efforts alone, and the other, the rebuilding of the Temple

after the exile, described in the book of Nehemiah. This one was an undertaking of the project under God's guidance and with the cooperation of many peoples whom the Lord disposed to be of good will and cooperation with the people Israel.

The care with which we manage AI is a crossroads very similar to the bold beginnings of the signers of our Declaration of Independence. We must both trust God and cooperate with Him.

Pastor Fr. William Hodgson is the priest at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-4948 or stedwardcassville@gmail.com.

Find all of our devotionals, guest written by local pastors, online at: www.cassville-democrat.com/tag/devotional

BIBLE VERSE:

"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him."

— PROVERBS 23:24

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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

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

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION NOTICE

In accordance with Section 138.010 RSMo., notice is hereby given that the Barry County Board of Equalization will convene on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Old Courthouse Commission Room, located 700 Main St. Cassville in the Barry County Courthouse. Any person who disagrees with the Assessment of their property may appeal to the County Board of Equalization. The appeal shall be filed with the County Clerk's Office no later than July 13, 2026.
 To receive an Appeal Form, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or send your request to: jennis@barrycountyclerk.com
 Only insertion 06/17/26 23

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN CONTROL OF A STATE MEMBER BANK OR BANK HOLDING COMPANY

John H. Garrett, individually and as Trustee of each of the Filip J. Garrett Bank Trust u/a/d March 20, 2024, Sara E. Garrett Bank Trust u/a/d March 20, 2024, John H. Garrett Bank Trust u/a/d March 20, 2024, and Ida M. Garrett Bank Trust u/a/d March 20, 2024, all of Southport, North Carolina, Jeffrey S. Scott, individually and as Trustee of each of the Hayden Scott Trust created under the Sharon K. Garrett Revocable Trust dated November 1, 2000, as amended, and the Avery Scott Trust created under the Sharon K. Garrett Revocable Trust dated November 1, 2000, as amended, all of Purdy, Missouri, Tyler Scott, Purdy, Missouri, Shelby McCaffrey, Purdy, Missouri, Richard W. Scott, Purdy, Missouri, Sara E. Garrett, Springfield, Missouri, Ida M. Garrett, Springfield, Missouri, and Filip J. Garrett, Springfield, Missouri, a group acting in concert, intend to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to acquire 25 percent or more of the shares and thereby control of Purdy Bancshares, Inc., Monett, Missouri. Purdy Bancshares, Inc. controls First State Bank of Purdy, Purdy, Missouri. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the notice.
 You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis,

P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, MO 63166-0442. Comments may also be submitted electronically to comments.applications@stls.frb.org. The comment period will not end before July 7, 2026, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact Holly Rieser, Senior Manager, at (314) 444-4713. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the notice if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.
 1st insertion 06/17/26 23-26

PROBATE

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 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

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

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 decedent.
 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 decedent, 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
 BARRY COUNTY
 Craig Williams
 Clerk
 By: S. Parker
 Deputy Clerk

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

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 decedent.
 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 decedent, 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
 BARRY COUNTY
 Craig Williams
 Clerk
 By: S. Parker
 Deputy Clerk

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

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 decedent 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, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 Dates of Publication – 6/3/2026, 6/10/2026, 6/17/2026, 6/24/2026
 1st Insertion 06/03/26 21-24

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 decedent 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, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 Dates of Publication – 6/3/2026, 6/10/2026, 6/17/2026, 6/24/2026
 1st Insertion 06/03/26 21-24

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 decedent 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, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 Dates of Publication – 6/3/2026, 6/10/2026, 6/17/2026, 6/24/2026
 1st Insertion 06/03/26 21-24

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 & corral 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.

Personal Property: Air compressor – Craftsman 10" table saw – Ryobi chop saw – Guardian 17,500 watt generator – weed eater – Toro push mower – chain saw – trash pump & hose – trailer ramps – animal cages – ECO smart hot water heater – AC window units 12' step ladder – Coleman lantern – Black Stone grill – smoker – Coca Cola patio cooler – computer desk – knee hole desk – flat screen TV's – Hutch (nice) – washer & dryer – bunk beds (nice) – (2) sofas with recliners on both ends – armoire – electric fireplace – (2) rocking/recliners (nice) – long horns – deer antlers – buck deer mount – old tobacco tins – old wood box – carry all with storage box – more items not listed. **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



www.stumpffauction.com
417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

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 decedent or through any heir of said decedent:
 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 decedent 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 decedent 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, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 Dates of Publication – 6/3/2026, 6/10/2026, 6/17/2026, 6/24/2026
 1st Insertion 06/03/26 21-24

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

In the Estate of: ELDON WAYNE GILLENWATER, Deceased.
 Case Number: 26BR-PR00079

estate of the decedent 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, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
 P. O. Box 276
 Cassville, MO 65625
 (417)847-2734
 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

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

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

Continued on page 4B

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

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:

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 Probate Division of 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 Probate Division of 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

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

S A M A N T H A PRESCOTT,
405 BROADWAY STREET,
MONETT, MO 65708,
417-235-8688

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

1st insertion 06/10/26
22-25

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 Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 06/10/26
22-25

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION - NON-RESIDENT FIDUCIARY) IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE

In the Estate of **JAMES LAWRENCE HOUSER**,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00056

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of **JAMES LAWRENCE HOUSER**,
Decedent:

On MAY 29, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of **JAMES LAWRENCE HOUSER**, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

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

WILLIAM D. HOUSER,
10000 N. CENTRAL EXPWY, STE. 800,
DALLAS, TX 75231

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

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

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

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

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

Date of the decedent's death: 19-JAN-2026

Date of first publication: JUNE 17, 2026

Date of second publication: JUNE 24, 2026

Date of third publication: JULY 1, 2026

Date of fourth publication: JULY 8, 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 06/17/26
23-26

GUN AUCTION

Friday, June 19, 2026 — 5:30 PM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville, MO go East on Hwy 248, 2 miles. Turn left on FR 2175 go 3/10 mile to auction on left. (12961 Fr 2175, Cassville MO)



Guns: Colt King Cobra stainless 3357 mag revolver – Colt Python, stainless 357 mag revolver – Colt Anaconda, stainless 44 mag revolver – Smith & Wesson, stainless 500 mag revolver with ported barrel – 1980 Black Hawk 44 mag revolver with 9" barrel – Colt police special 32-20 – Smith & Wesson stainless 38 special revolver – Colt semi auto .25 Cal pocket pistol – Colt semi auto 22 call short – Smith & Wesson stainless, 38 special revolver – Smith & Wesson 38 special revolver – Smith & Wesson stainless 357 mag revolver – Dan & Wesson .22 LR revolver – Dan & Wesson 357 mag revolver – Kimber 1911 semi auto .45 Cal – Taurus semi auto, 9 mm – Chamber Arms 38 special revolver – Ruger 357 revolver – High Standard revolver with holster – Jawbone G Force Arms 9 mm – (2) Henry Lever action 22 call – GLFA GL-15 multi Cal 21.2680, 5.56 Cal – Golden Boy lever action .22 call – (3) Palmetto 5.56 tactical, AR 15 – JTS AK 47, 12 ga shot gun – Springfield double barrel 20 ga – Stevens single shot 20 ga – H & R mdl 158 single shot 20 ga – H & R single shot 10 ga – Stevens single action 44 shot – Savage lever action 300 with brass counter – Savage lever action .308 with brass counter – Savage bolt action 243 with Vortex 3x9 scope – New England firearms single shot 17 HMR with Tasco 3x9 scope – Ithaca lever action single shot .22 – Marlin semi auto .22 LR – Marlin bolt action, JM barrel .22 mag with Simmons 3x9 scope – Savage lever action .22 mag. **Note:** This will be a nice gun auction, a very nice gun collection put together over the years by Gary Fields. Note the special time 5:30 PM on Friday June 19th. See you there!!! **Terms:** Cash or credit card only. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee will apply. Must have a current drivers license to obtain bidder card. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. No out of state hand gun buyers unless buyer provides a FFL. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Gary Fields



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



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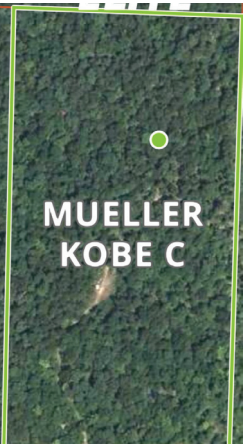
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Auctioneer
#2352

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Friday, June 19, 2026 — 1 PM


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Owner: Kobe Mueller



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



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Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

1st insertion 06/17/26
23-26

TRUSTEE'S SALES

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 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.

PUBLISH ON:
May 27, 2026
06/03/2026
06/10/2026,
06/17/2026
1st insertion 05/27/26
20-23

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

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1st insertion 6/3/26
21-24

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
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

Soccer: Winning Big 8 for first time in a feather in Cassville's cap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

named Big 8 Player of the Year, senior Ava Hinson being named Big 8 Goalkeeper of the Year for the second consecutive season, and Forste named Co-Coach of the year with McDonald County's Emilee Summerlin. First Team All-Big 8 awards went to Artherton, Hinson, freshman Reagan Doucet and senior Tyra Sturgell. Junior Lydia Cupps also secured an honorable mention.

Artherton contributed 10 goals and 15 assists, one short of the team's assist record. Hinson logged 10 clean sheets and a 0.777 goals against average, both new team records, as well as three assists. Doucet scored 21 goals, a new team record, and added 6 assists. Sturgell, returning team MVP and captain, contributed 2 goals and 2 assists, and Cupps scored 4 goals and assisted 6.

Forste said one of the team's biggest areas of growth was learning how to win close matches.

"We went 8-1 in one-goal games, and that's just not a phenomenon that just happens," he said. "I think that shows a lot about our ability on the front foot and the back foot. Of those eight one-goal wins, I believe six of them were shutouts."

"As the season went on, it just felt like we became more comfortable in those situations. It felt like situations that not only could we tolerate, but we could thrive in."

While pleased with the offensive improvement from the previous season, Forste said consistency remains an area for growth.

"We had a handful of games where we exploded offensively," Forste said. "But, we had a handful of games where maybe we scored one or two and it felt like we should have had five. I'd love to see more of that consistency. Instead of one goal here, one goal there, nine goals here, 11 goals there, we're getting three-plus more often than not."

Forste said of the record-setting 15 wins, two matches stand out above the rest.

"I think the Monett game, to



Cassville's Reagan Doucet launches a shot in a win over Aurora this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

beat that team to win the conference at home in overtime was just a pretty cool moment," he said. "It doesn't matter what the records are. That's quite easily our biggest rival, everybody knows it."

Forste also pointed to the Wildcats' postseason victory over Osage.

"The playoff game versus Osage is one that I won't forget anytime soon," Forste said. "That was a team with some really talented scorers. It really felt like the best week of practice I can recall in several years. Thirty minutes to an hour of film every day. Scout team trying to execute the things that they do."

"It really felt like a convergence of scouting, film and practicing at a high level that got us that playoff win. That was a super cool moment too. Not to mention, Reagan broke our single-season goal scoring record in that playoff game for the win."

Forste said replacing the senior class will be difficult, especially in goal and midfield.

"Ava is pretty clearly the best keeper we've ever had," Forste said. "It's just such a big loss from a leadership perspective, from an on-field presence per-

spective and, to be honest, from a soul-of-the-team perspective. She's pretty lighthearted. Her leadership style is smiling, having fun, supporting teammates and all that stuff."

Forste said senior Sturgell's impact often went beyond the stat sheet.

"She's just been our glue for three years," Forste said. "She's not flashy. She doesn't score a bunch. She just defends her position at an extremely high level. She is the connective tissue in everything that she does."

"She's just one of those players that never comes off the field, never complains and just works her butt off."

Cassville's other three seniors came off the bench, but their contributions cannot be understated.

"We're losing just some great teammates in Liberty Hilburn, Kierstyn Kalbaugh, and Diana Arguelles. But, we're returning all the goals except for two from this year's team. So we feel pretty good about that. We'll have to figure something out in gold, but we've got a few ideas there."

Despite losing five seniors, Forste said the future remains



Cassville's Briley Artherton takes a shot in a contest at home against Aurora this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

bright because of the returning talent.

"Briley was the Big 8 Player of the Year as a freshman, which kind of tells you all you need to know about her," Forste said. "She's just phenomenal. As the year went on, she became more of a game breaker with the ball on her foot. Her last 10 or 15 games were just pretty brilliant."

Forste also highlighted Doucet's record-setting season.

"Reagan broke our goal scored record with 21 and broke our contributions record with 27," Forste said. "She's just a walking nuclear bomb on the field."

The Lady Wildcats also received key contributions from other freshmen.

"Cynthia Alonso was our most improved player as a freshman," Forste said. "Gracy Farsungchin chipped in with 9 or 10 contributions. We had a few freshman defenders like Alexis Lands who was able to come in and stabilize the back line."

"We couldn't let these freshmen be freshmen. They had to come in and contribute right away, and they really answered the bell, I mean, in a big way."

Forste said the Lady Wildcats accomplished most of the goals

they set before the season.

"We wanted to win the conference, and we did it for the first time," Forste said. "That was a big feather in our cap and a real monkey off our back. We wanted to crack the top 20 of the state rankings and stay there and we ended the season at 18. And, we wanted to win a playoff game, and we did that."

Looking ahead, Forste hopes the program continues to raise its expectations.

"I hope we're not satisfied with just one playoff win," Forste said. "I hope we try and make it back to another district final. Let's play where the lights are brightest. Let's be in a position to win a district championship."

Reflecting on the season, Forste said the experience rekindled his passion for coaching.

"This was a great group of girls," Forste said. "As somebody who's been around the game a long time, over 30 years at this point as a player and coach and over 12 as a coach, you love these seasons that really rejuvenate you."

"For me, this was just a truly rejuvenating experience. I'm already ready for next year."

Southwest: Coach looks for more effort next year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

beat the overwhelming odds."

"He made up more than 30 seconds over two weeks and beat guys he hadn't beaten all season," he said. "And to do it senior year and qualify for State for the first time, wow."

While pleased with the season's accomplishments, Voyak said there was still room for growth.

"[We needed more] effort," Voyak said. "I have three or four other athletes that should have been better than they were. They have incredible potential. That's my fault as the coach, but they also must be accountable for their actions."

"They need to work harder, because I do think the results will come."

One performance in particular stood out among the season's highlights.

"Junior Lane Hendrix broke the school record in javelin at Seneca," Voyak said. "Some young athletes talk a good game but are not willing to sacrifice and put in the time. He really worked on his footwork and fundamentals, and it paid off. And, he clearly means business, because he broke it again at Districts."

Voyak credited the senior class for providing leadership and memorable performances.

"Tobias Smith led by example," Voyak said. "Nobody runs the miles he runs on the guys' side. Dylan Frost drew

a crowd at most every meet. Everybody wanted to see Dylan jump to see if they were going to see something amazing that night. He broke two long-standing school records in less than a week."

"Olivia Clanton was steady and consistent throughout her four years of track. Whatever I asked her to do, she did, without any complaints."

Voyak said several underclassmen are positioned to lead the program moving forward.

"Lane will be our senior captain next season," Voyak said. "He is both fun and serious at the same time. Sidney Roe will be the girls captain. I want to see her take on more of a leadership role next season."

"She is incredibly consistent but I want to see her lead some of our other athletes."

Juniors Cash Harbick (shot and disc) and Lucas Ingram (sprints/relays) made significant strides this season, Voyak said.

"Sophomore Bailie Miniard has real talent in the sprints," he added. "Freshman Race Pippin is definitely ready to take the next step in the jumps. And, junior Jazmyn Rivas has real talent as a runner but needs to take it to the next level to start seeing some strong results."

Voyak said the Trojans enjoyed a successful season but could have accomplished even more with greater effort.

"We had a good season, but with a little more



Southwest senior Tobias Smith runs in the 1600-meter race at the Cub Relays in Monett this season. Smith shaves 30 seconds off his time as the postseason approached to qualify for State. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

effort, we could have been even more successful," he said.

Looking ahead, Voyak said he is eager to see the program compete in a new conference and continue building on this year's success.

"It will be fun to be in a new, highly competitive conference (Ozark 9)," Voyak said. "It will be fun to see where we stack up against all the new teams. We want to get more athletes to state, break more school records and win more medal."

"We have a strong middle school program, so I will be excited to welcome all of the eighth-graders to the program."

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