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# CASSVILLE Democrat

JUNE 3, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

## FELONY ARREST

**Who:** Raymond Brownsberger, 30, of Shell Knob  
**What:** Is charged with first-degree assault (attempted murder), unlawful use of a weapon while intoxicated, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child and armed criminal action  
**Bond:** Set at \$100,000 cash only

## Man charged for shooting

Argument leads to alleged discharge of firearm

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

A Shell Knob man is being held in the Barry County jail on four felony charges after allegedly shooting a victim during an altercation.

Raymond Brownsberger, 30, of Shell Knob, is charged with first-degree assault (attempted murder), unlawful use of a weapon while intoxicated, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child and armed criminal action.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Sgt. Abby Parsons, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, authorities were dispatched to a residence located in Barry County on May 23 for a shooting report.

Deputies arrived and detained Brownsberger, who had made a statement on the 911 call that he had shot the victim one time. The victim was transported by ambulance to the hospital with a gunshot wound to the shoulder. Deputies secured a Taurus G3C at the scene.

In an interview later, the victim said people were sitting around a fire and Brownsberger was arguing with an unknown subject. The victim said he stepped in between Brownsberger and the unknown subject to separate them when Brownsberger allegedly shot him. The victim stated he and Brownsberger had both been consuming alcohol.

Two witnesses were later interviewed at the Barry County Sheriff's Office. The first witness said Brownsberger requested the victim leave the property after making derogatory statements to a third witness who was not interviewed. The first witness said the victim refused to leave and had struck him in the head a couple of times.

The witness said he stepped in between Brownsberger and the victim, and the victim came at Brownsberger again in an aggressive posture, then Brownsberger shot the victim.

Parsons' statement said the first witness had marks along

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

## PAINTING UP THE POCKET PARK



Cassville art student Lili Naugle paints a portion of the new mural being painted at the incoming pocket park where the former Hall Theatre stood in Cassville. Williams said the class aims to have the mural completed by the week of June 20. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

## PURDY SCHOOLS

**What:** Financial strategy reviewed  
**Early Learning:** Expanding from 30 students to 44  
**More:** Test scores show significant growth in math skills

## Purdy school board reviews state law action

Superintendent to push for help with endowment funding

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

There was both good news and bad news at the Purdy school board meeting in May as district leaders try to navigate uncertain financial waters.

The good news, Superintendent Travis Graham reported, was the Missouri General Assembly did not push through the myriad of changes to state financing proposed for public schools. Changes were proposed in the legislature over property tax reform, open enrollment, mandates on governance, new rules on individualized education programs, bullying, limiting screen time, financial transparency, and a parents' bill of rights.

Several of these, Graham suspected, would return priorities for next year's session. Voters will have a say as well as Gov. Kehoe's proposal to eliminate state income tax in favor of much higher sales taxes goes to voters in August.

Graham said legislators turned down the proposal to grade school districts on an A-to-F letter grade. Since Kehoe mandated the letter grade anyway, the issue goes into the hands of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which has to come up with a framework for making the evaluation. That puts the issue into the hands of educators, rather than politicians.

Graham added that the district will not have to face a dual accountability system in the immediate future, evaluated both under the Missouri School Improvement Plan 6 and the letter grade. He noted Purdy will need to re-evaluate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

## Exeter woman charged with setting trailer ablaze

Victim was asleep in residence at time fire was set

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

An Exeter woman had been charged with two felonies after allegedly setting a trailer home on fire while a person was sleeping inside.

Elizabeth Burkett, 44, of Exeter, is charged with first-de-

## FELONY ARREST

**Who:** Elizabeth Burkett, 44, of Exeter  
**What:** Is charged with first-degree arson and first-degree domestic assault  
**Bond:** Is set at \$100,000, cash only

gree arson and first-degree domestic assault.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Cpl. C. Bray, with the Barry County

Sheriff's Office, the alleged offenses were committed at 10:31 p.m. on May 26 near Exeter.

Bray said Burkett allegedly procured a propane torch bottle and started a fire in the west side interior room of her residence, a single-wide trailer home.

Another occupant who also resided at the residence was asleep in a bedroom approximately 10 yards from where

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Commentary.....Page 4A
- Through the Years.....Page 5A
- Obituaries.....Page 6A
- Kids' Columns.....Page 9A
- Church Page.....Page 2B
- Classifieds/Legals....Pages 3-5B



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# LOCAL

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 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.

### Rep. Burlison staff to be in Shell Knob

U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison has announced a districtwide Constituent Services Week taking place June 1-5, with stops across Missouri's 7th Congressional District. Burlison's staff will be available in person at the Shell Knob Library, located at 24931 Hwy. 39 in Shell Knob, from noon to 3 p.m. to assist constituents with casework at federal agencies, including issues related to the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits, immigration, the Small Business Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, passports, and other federal services.

### 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.

### Democratic Central Committee meeting Tuesday

The Barry County Democratic Central Committee will meet on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Cassville Branch Library.

### Monett Historical Society meeting on beekeeping

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

### Corsicana Road District to meet

The Corsicana Special Road District will meet in regular session on Tuesday at 7 p.m., at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

### 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.

### Pizza Party Potluck in Eagle Rock

The Eagle Rock Community Association, located at 27824 Hwy. 86, will host its monthly potluck at 6 p.m. on June 8. The pizza party potluck invites attendees to make their own pies for sharing.

### 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., Marty Hahne Magic at FEMA Event Center, 2 p.m., Book Club, 5:30 p.m.; Friday, American Recipe Box, 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m., Movie with the City at dusk, about 8 p.m.; Monday, Painting with Erica, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Story Time, 10 a.m., Scrapbooking, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m.

### Calling all Eagle Rock school alumni

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

### 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](http://oatstransit.org) to view local schedules under "Bus Schedules," then click on the county of service. OATS Transit is hiring drivers statewide to continue serving riders. Openings are listed on the OATS website.

# Cassville man dies in sidewipe wreck

## Collision causes vehicle to overturn, driver ejected

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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

A Cassville man died in a wreck at 8:20 p.m. on May 25 on Farm Road 2020, one mile south of Cassville.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a westbound 1995

Jeep Cherokee, being driven by a 69-year-old Cassville man, and an eastbound 2008 Chrysler Town and Country, being driven by a 66-year-old Cassville man, struck each other in the side, causing the Jeep travel of the roadway and overturn, ejecting the driver.

The Jeep driver was transported to Mercy Hospital in Cassville, where he was pronounced dead by Dr. Hartman at 9:36 p.m. He was then transported to

Fohn Funeral Home.

The Chrysler driver suffered moderate injuries and was transported to Mercy Hospital in Cassville.

The Chrysler driver was wearing a safety device, and the Jeep driver was not. The Chrysler sustained minor damage, and the Jeep was totaled.

This is the 51st fatality of the year for Troop D of the Patrol, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri, including Barry.

## National Nursing Home Week celebrated



Pam Hall has recently joined the team at Cassville Healthcare and Rehab as the new Administrator of the facility, which celebrated National Nursing Home Week May 11-15 with residents, families and staff. This year's theme as an "International Cruise" to bring fun, laughter and engagement to residents throughout the week. Residents received passports, participated in themed activities, enjoyed daily "Captains Announcements," and traveled the world through music, decorations, food and fellowship. "Our residents deserve joy, dignity and opportunities to create meaningful memories," Hall said. "We wanted to make this week special, exciting and full of smiles for everyone involved." Daily gatherings were led by "Captain Pam" and Admiral Nikki, DON who was in charge of the wellness deck as residents enjoyed the world in celebration of National Nursing home Week. Contributed photo

## Shooting: \$100K cash bond set

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

his hairline and under his right eye from where the victim had struck him.

The second witness, a juvenile under the age of 16, said in an interview he witnessed the males verbally arguing about a female, and that the first witness broke up a physical fight between Brownsberger and the victim. The witness said he observed Brownsberger go to his vehicle and return, and said he was approximately five feet away from the victim when Brownsberger allegedly shot him, holding the victim's hand as he fell.

Brownsberger was interviewed at the Sheriff's Office

after being advised of his rights, stating he and the victim were having a fire to cook a pig, and he had consumed seven or eight beers.

Brownsberger said the first witness advised him the victim had made advances toward the third witness, leading him to ask the victim to leave. Brownsberger said the victim became argumentative and punched the first witness twice.

Brownsberger said he went to his truck and got his gun, and he said he kept telling the victim to leave. Brownsberger said the victim attacked him by choking him, and the first witness

was able to get the victim off.

Brownsberger said he then asked the victim to leave again and the victim advanced toward him. He said he pulled his gun and shot the victim, believing to be 12-15 feet away from the victim at the time. Brownsberger said he called 911 and was scared of the victim.

Parsons listed no pending charges or priors in the probable cause statement.

Brownsberger is being held on a cash-only bond of \$100,000. A bond hearing is scheduled for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

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**CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT**

June 3, 2026  
Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five  
Number 21

(USPS092920)  
600 Main Street • P.O. Box 486  
417-847-2610  
Troutman Media LLC

**Annual Subscription Rate**  
Local and non-local rate \$52.00  
Senior and military discount rate \$47.00

Periodicals Postage Paid At Cassville, Missouri 65625  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Cassville Democrat P.O. Box 486 Cassville, MO 65625  
EMAIL: [cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com](mailto:cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com)

**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](mailto:kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com).

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# 85-year-old injured in ATV wreck

Vehicle overturns down hill west of Washburn

injured in a wreck at 2 p.m. on May 26 on Farm Road 1040, two miles west of Washburn.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, an 85-year-old man, of

Washburn, was driving a four-wheeler, year unknown, northbound when his vehicle overturned down a hill, ejecting the drive.

The man suffered serious injuries and

was transported to Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville, Ark.

He was not wearing a safety device, and the vehicle sustained no damage.

**BY KYLE TROUTMAN**  
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com  
A Washburn man was

## Boxx receives Missouri Lawyers Media award



Barry County Prosecutor Amy Boxx is a recipient of the 2026 Women's Justice Award — Public Service, given annually and sponsored by Missouri Lawyers Media. Boxx, pictured with the award, was unable to attend the ceremony due to the Aaron Malone murder trial. According to the Missouri Lawyers Media website, the Women's Justice Awards "recognize women across Missouri who have demonstrated leadership, integrity, service, sacrifice and accomplishment in improving the quality of justice and exemplifying the highest ideals of the legal profession." Boxx was one of 13 to win a Public Service award, and other winners included judges, defense attorneys, legal aids and more. Contributed photo

## 6 Retire From Southwest school district

A total of six Southwest School staffers retired last week at an end-of-the-year ceremony hosted by Superintendent Tasha Tilford. Angela Long (counseling, 27 years), Josie Stubblefield (elementary, 21 years, not pictured), Ann Odenbrett (elementary, 14 years), Bill Caldwell (high school agriculture, 10 years), Rich Hendrix (maintenance), and Brenda McKinney (high school business, 4 years) were honored for their years of service. Contributed photo



## Barry County Health Corner



### Stay safe in the summer sun

Now that Summer is approaching and warmer weather is here, it is always important to remember how to protect yourself and practice smart sun safety. It's not always possible to avoid sunlight completely, but there are things you can do to ensure that you are not getting too much sun when you are outdoors:

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours. This is one of the best ways to limit your UV exposure from sunlight.
- Wear light-weight clothing that covers your arms and legs. This will help to protect your skin.
- Wear hats with a wide brim helps to protect your head, face, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that block UV rays to protect your eyes and the skin around them. Ideal sunglasses should block 99%-100% of UVA and UVB rays. Do not assume that sunglasses provide UV protection if they aren't labeled.
- Use sunscreen with at least SPF 30 to help protect skin that isn't covered with clothing. Remember to reapply frequently and as needed especially when swimming or sweating.
- Children are usually exposed more than anyone because they are enjoying playing outside and participating in different outdoor activities. Parents and caregivers should protect children from excess sun exposure by using the steps above: seek shade, use protective clothing, apply and reapply sunscreen, and put on a hat and sunglasses. It's important to protect children as fully as is reasonably possible.
- Babies younger than 6 months should be kept out of direct sunlight and protected from the sun using hats, stroller covers, umbrellas, and protective clothing. Some experts don't recommend using sunscreen on babies. Check with your infant's doctor about using sunscreen and which type and brand might be best to use.

Everyone usually enjoys spending summer activities together with family and friends. Following these simple steps can help ensure that your summer is both fun and safe! If you have any questions or concerns about Sun Safety, please contact our office 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



KYLE TROUTMAN

### Roaring Inn-to fine dining

After turning the ripe old age of 38 just a couple of weeks ago, I had my first-ever amuse-bouche.

I've watched lots of cooking shows — my favorites being "Chopped" and "Hell's Kitchen" — and I've seen fine dining portrayed time and time again on TV, but I had never experienced it.

Amuse-bouche, which literally means "mouth amuser," is a single, bite-sized hors d'oeuvre served complimentary at the start of a meal. The start of that meal was at a banquet table in the center of the lobby of the Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center.

Last Wednesday, Nina Baltzell, the chef at the Inn, sent an invite for Sunday's four-course dinner with a choice of entrée: Pan-seared trout or stuffed ribeye.

Though I am a Troutman, the ribeye called my name, and I opted into a newly offered, unique dining experience at the park. And, I can honestly say, I was impressed.

I've been to the Inn many times. The Opening Day buffet is a staple for me after putting in 4 early hours of work every March 1. We have hosted two Ozark Press Association conventions in the Conference Center, with the restaurant catering. On paper delivery Wednesdays, my wife, Jordan, has been known to pop by the restaurant for lunch, especially during summer when my oldest daughter is along for the ride.

Yet, as much time as we have spent in the building, Sunday's experience was a whole new one.

I walked through the front doors thinking the meal would be in the Conference Center, similar to the Chamber Banquet. Instead, I saw the Inn like I never had before.

A banquet table for at least 20 spanned the center of the lobby. It was inviting, well-set, well-lit — and the anticipation among the 13 total attendees was palpable.

With an open bar and good company, the four-course experience began with Baltzell introducing the evening and the amuse-bouche to set the stage — a maple bacon-wrapped, pineapple- and candied pecan-filled bite (I hope I got that right because she purposefully didn't tell us about that one, simply, "enjoy").

After an appropriate amount of time, which I now gather is a staple of fine dining, out came the appetizer. That ahi tuna and avocado mousse may have been my favorite. But next, again after a time, arrived the spring salad, all locally sourced from Harvick Farms. The goat cheese on top nearly topped the ahi tuna.

The entree was next, and I was right with the ribeye, notably also locally sourced from Circle M Meats. A thin-sliced roulade style, I don't even know what it was stuffed with — but it was exquisite.

I did have to smile to myself, because the horse-radish sauce tasted almost exactly like the steak sauce I make myself, so even in that banquet table moment, I tasted a bit of home.

The trout entree came on a bed of mushroom risotto, and though I didn't have that plate, my mouth watered at it. The fish, Baltzell said, were freshly caught from Roaring River that morning, which garnered a round of applause from the table.

About two hours after the specified arrival time, dessert came in the form of sherbet with blueberries, strawberries, and two mint leaves. The sherbet and the berries were tasty, but those leaves of mint took me back to my Papa's backyard in Wichita about 30 years ago, and as far as meal experiences go, that couldn't have ended better.

Baltzell is hoping to set dates for quarterly fine dining experiences like Sunday's at the Inn. The table, however, balked.

Monthly, they urged, would be well-attended.

Many of us, nary all of us, have spent either some time or significant time at Roaring River State Park. From generation to generation, there's an undeniably special feeling about those campgrounds, that Inn, the store and every zone of that river.

What happened Sunday was a new chapter in that more-than-century-old novel. It was a different experience, and a really amazing one. Next time you stop in the Inn, ask about Baltzell's dinners.

It's a memory at Roaring River I will never forget.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## COMMUNITY VOICES

# The real graduation begins now

The caps have been tossed. The selfies have been taken. Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa shed more than a few tears. And, Aunt Maggie has told you at least four times that it seems like yesterday when you were playing tee ball and playing with the dirt the whole time.

Proud families and friends have filled the stadiums and gymnasiums auditorium with applause and relief.

Graduation season is often painted as the finish line, as the triumphant ending to years of exams, deadlines and uncertainty. But for this year's graduates, I hate to say this, the diploma is not the destination. It is the starting point. That is why I always congratulate each graduating class and wish them success and happiness on the next chapter of their lives. It is the starting point of the next chapter.

The next steps in the next chapter after graduation matter more than many students realize, not because every decision must be perfect, but because the habits formed in the first few years of adulthood often shape long-term success and happiness.

At this time, I reflect upon one of my first college professors, Dr. Wilhoit, who told us that one of the most important steps graduates can take is learning how to adapt. He was so profound. In the Fall of 1981, we had no idea of the extent that the modern workplace would change and how it could evolve so quickly. Industries evolve and jobs that exist today may look completely different in five years.

I recently saw a quote that is so applicable, "A degree opens doors, but adaptability keeps them open." Because of this, learning will be a lifelong responsibility, not something that ended with final exams this May.

Another item that I emphasize when talking with students is the critical next step of building meaningful relationships. It's easy for graduates to focus entirely on resumes and applications, but careers are often shaped by the people we know or meet in school or our jobs.

And, relationships or networking does not have to mean awkward business events or collecting LinkedIn connections. It can simply mean maintaining contact with professors, classmates, internship supervisors and community leaders. Strong



JON HORNER

relationships create opportunities, guidance and support during difficult moments.

Four decades later, I vividly remember the people who helped me along my career path. Russ Robinson, Scott Spencer, Tim Frye, Bill Easley, Doug Warbinton and Ted Jenkins are just a few of those who believed in me and took a chance on me when I was just floundering around and trying to find my way. They remained friends and valued mentors.

Another important aspect for any graduate is the willingness for graduates and their families to accept uncertainty. Graduates often feel pressure to have every detail figured out immediately: the ideal career, the perfect city, the right relationship, the five-year plan.

In reality, very few people move through adulthood in a straight line. Career changes are common. Mistakes are inevitable. Setbacks happen.

For example, I started at Drury University in 1981 as a music major. I then transferred to Missouri State University and eventually decided upon a major of finance and banking. The road for me then went to the University of Arkansas Law School and then I found my way back to the world of banking, which has been my vocation for the past 40 years. I'm very fortunate that my incredible parents, Bill and Adella Horner, were incredibly supportive and understanding as I found my way in life.

Finally, graduates should remember that comparison is one of the fastest ways to lose perspective. Or, as I've always told my kids, "Comparison is the death of happiness."

Social media creates the illusion that everyone else is advancing faster, earning more or living more exciting lives. Please don't

get caught up in this comparison trap.

Adulthood is not a race with identical starting points or timelines. As I tell students so many times, the important point is to be yourself and be proud of each step of your journey.

Graduation is not the moment life becomes easier or clearer. It is the moment that responsibility and opportunity begin to coexist. Yes, that's a scary thought. But, it will also include moments that will be wonderful and a few that will take your breath away.

The next chapter will include ambition, uncertainty, mistakes and growth. That is not failure. That is simply adulthood and life.

It is common for older generations to question whether young people are ready for the future. But, after being around some of the members of the Class of 2026, I truly believe that today's students possess the intelligence, adaptability and skills needed for a rapidly changing world.

Young people have always been told they are unprepared until they become the generation that leads. I'm betting on you and wish you all the best in this next chapter.

I vividly remember my high school graduation, just over 45 years ago today. The gym, which didn't have air conditioning, was stifling. In spite of the circumstances, I still look back upon it as one of the most enjoyable moments of my life.

My friends and I describe the hot gym experience as one of our many character-building experiences. Four days later, I nearly died when I was a passenger in a horrific car accident. Thanks to God's grace and the amazing God given abilities of the late Dr. Andres Apostol, I survived. Because of this, every day since then, 16,440 for those of us who are counting, has been a gift and a blessing.

I definitely have a reason to look forward to every approaching day. And, similarly I encourage each graduate to approach each day ahead of you as a gift and a blessing.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026.

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

## YOUR VIEW

### Quit fighting for me, work for me

**Dear Editor:**

So far, Barry County has the best county office holders anyone could possibly want.

They feel like my family and I am proud of them. Our State Rep. Scott Cupps tries really hard to do the best he can. And, I will support our State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick any day.

But honestly, I am disappointed in most of the others in State and Federal office. We need a healthy balance of both parties to hold everyone accountable. When we refuse to vote for good candidates from both parties, this is what happens. Choose good people from

both parties and hold all of them accountable. We cannot give one party a free pass to do anything they want. We voters have a responsibility to be vigilant and hold everyone accountable.

Why do people not vote? There is not much incentive to vote when you already know only one party will win. Why waste your time? And if there is an issue on the ballot you already know will be written in a way almost no one can understand, what they are voting for or against.

People tell me they don't even watch the news because all they see is fighting and name calling.

If they are not fighting the other party, they are fighting each other in primary battles and thinking about how they can use their present office to create issues to go to even higher office.

I could tell you so many other reasons, but I don't want to write a book. I am getting old and do not have any power at all, but like Billy Long used to say — I am fed up.

I have been quietly telling our leaders in person, "Please quit fighting for me and just work for me." They just go back to fighting. This is not how I want to spend my time in my golden years, but this has become my mission

for my final years and if nothing ever changes.

At least I will know I have done the best I could. If I want people whom I send to Jefferson City and D.C. to be brave, then I, as an ordinary citizen, need to be brave.

If we lose some friends by speaking out, it means we value our state and our country so much that we consider that possible sacrifice worth it.

PS: Why do people vote for candidates who say the nastiest things about each other in a primary? That only encourages them to continue acting that way.

**Yvonne Kerr**  
Monett

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**50 years ago**

**June 9, 1976**  
**— DEVELOPMENT WILL INCLUDE WAL-MART AND PIZZA HUT**

A 25-acre development at the southeast edge of Cassville will include a Wal-Mart Discount Store and Pizza Hut franchise, according to information released this week by McClung Realty, Inc., of Eureka Springs, Ark. The realty firm purchased the property from Johnny Eggleston of Seligman. Clell L. McClung acknowledged the purchase included 10 acres for Wal-Mart Properties, Inc., a subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Ark. A one-acre tract contiguous to the Wal-Mart site was sold to Bill Atherton of Tulsa, Okla., a franchisee of Pizza Hut. Both transactions were listed as possible future sites by Wal-Mart and Pizza Hut. McClung said the remaining 14 acres in the location would be open for various types of development. He said plans are to begin in the near future in upgrading the property. Wal-Mart, headquartered in Bentonville, has no commitment on time elements involved in construction of a store here. At the present time the firm operates 130 outlets in nine states. Most of the store concentration is in Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Atherton, operator of 32 Pizza Hut franchises, left open the time element on establishing this business here. The land is located three-tenths of a mile outside Cassville city limits on Highway 112-76-86 between Cassville and Hilltop. Eggleston purchased the land several months ago from Glen White. At present the entire area is used for agricultural purposes. During the company fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 1976, Wal-Mart added 21 stores to the chain operation. Closest operations to this area at present are Monett and Aurora in Missouri and Berryville and Rogers in Arkansas. Sales in company stores during the past fiscal year amounted to \$340.3 million. McClung said further development of the remaining 14 acres would be decided when his firm had completed initial phases of upgrading the raw land. On highways leading to Roaring River State Park and Table Rock Lake, the land is adjacent to the Seven Valley Courts and Paul Curry property. Park Road Courts are located across the highway from the 25 acres. McClung, Wal-Mart and Pizza Hut stated further plans for their respective properties at the site would be announced in the future.

**— COUNTY CLIMBS TO SECOND RANKING IN STATE DAIRY**

Barry County, long high-ranking in Missouri dairy cattle statistics, has climbed to second place just in time for observance of June Dairy Month, according to Roger Marcoot, area dairy specialist, and Ken Morris, area farm management agent, of the University of Missouri Extension Service. Both combined to stress the importance of the county's dairy operations for the special observance. Barry County's 12,600 dairy cows ranked second only to Webster County's 13,100, according to Marcoot. Third in ranking is Polk County with 11,800 animals, Wright is fourth with 10,600, Christian has 9,300 for fifth and Greene County's even 9,000 is sixth. The county's gain in ranking resulted from an increase of 2,200 cows over a year earlier. The total number of cows now in the county are located on 230 dairy farms. Average herd size is listed at 55 cows. Using the Missouri average production figure of 9,600 pounds of milk per cow, Marcoot estimated Barry Countians produce more than 120 million pounds of milk annually. He said this milk sold for nearly \$10.6 million. Adding another \$1 million for cattle sales, he said the industry provides between \$11



**30 YEARS AGO:** Karen Hester's class views the equipment in an ambulance courtesy of EMT Donna Lung. Democrat file photo

million and \$12 million to the county's economy annually. Morris noted the county has long been one of the highly concentrated dairy counties. "We have almost come to expect a two to five percent decline in dairy cow numbers and a similar increase in milk production. In 1975 we reversed the trend and have gained in ranking in Missouri," he said. Morris said a total of 608 farms in Barry County are listed in reports as having cows and selling milk or cream, but the majority of the 230 are classed as dairy operations. Most marked improvements in dairy operations recently, according to the two observers, make the average cow not quite good enough. Better feeding, breeding and management are stressed. Business generation by the dairy herds estimated by the extension service places \$4.5 million in cash business for feed and concentrates. Major costs of producing hay or pasture fertilizer and lime amount to about \$1 million. Haying and forage harvesting equipment and storage will produce another \$12 million or more in business. Another business aspect for the dairy country is approximately a \$500,000 hauling bill getting the product to processors. Morris said this averages about \$36 a cow. Marcoot and Morris speculated the dairy increase might be greater in this area were it not for the growing costs of getting into the operations. A per-cow investment in land and facilities is running about \$3,000 per head at this time. This places a 70-cow herd operation at approximately \$210,000. Future possibilities of the industry are looking better than in 1974 and 1975, according to Morris. Complete future returns seem to hinge on feed prices, demand for milk products and competition from domestic and foreign supplies and substitutes. Industry observers, while complimenting Barry County dairy farmers for their gain in state ranking, said it is important they continue to adopt new management techniques to improve their efficiency and profitability. They said it is only through a profitable enterprise that the dairy business can remain an important contributor to the county's economy.

**40 years ago**

**June 11, 1986**  
**— CITY TOLD JAIL COULD CLOSE IF FINANCES REMAIN SAME**

Cassville city government learned Monday night that the Barry County jail might close September 1 if county finances don't improve. Police Chief Ray Burnette relayed a message from Sheriff Jim Hopkins because of Cassville's involvement in dispatching, fire alarm and prisoner keep. Chief Burnette told the council Sheriff Hopkins had told him the jail would close this fall in further cutbacks of personnel due to Barry County finances not being sufficient to maintain staff. The sheriff also said federal revenue sharing is slated to end at that time, causing more cutbacks in the sheriff's budget. "Unless revenue sharing continues or other sources of income are available, I have been told by Sheriff Hopkins that

services now provided the city of Cassville through the Barry County jail will not be available after September 1," Burnette said. Cassville pays a dispatcher eight-hour shift as in-kind participation with county government and services. The council was told if the jail closed, the sheriff and deputies would operate out of their homes and vehicles. Prisoner keep would probably be contracted with adjoining counties. City fire dispatch on a 24-hour basis is handled out of the jail. Communication with city police is also maintained out of the jail. There was no response from the council, which apparently adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Presiding County Commissioner Lloyd Dilbeck said Tuesday he had not talked to the sheriff directly about the jail closing. He said further funding would be impossible. Dilbeck said \$57,000 of revenue-sharing funds budgeted for the sheriff this year had two checks coming before scheduled ceasing of the program. They would be in \$19,000 amounts. Dilbeck said the sheriff had also mentioned new requirements limiting hours of employees and required logs of hours and miles traveled that were causing law enforcement officers problems. In regular session Monday, four members, Bill Shiveley, Sue Brattin, Bob Mizer and Gary Fields, adopted compensation time for employees that will be standing duty on a rotating basis for weekends. Mayor Roland Meador briefly mentioned initial budget figures that will be under full review in public hearings June 23. Council also fully adopted new water rate schedules, representing slight decreases in over-minimum uses. Under the new schedules, minimum residential rates will be \$3 for inside and \$7 for outside users. Commercial will be \$4.50 in the city and \$12 for outside. Over-minimum rates, per 100 gallons over the initial 1,200, will be .0931 for inside the city limits and .186 outside. The rates will be effective June 23. In executive session, the council discussed personnel and raised compensation for two police officers. Ron Harris and Perry Smallwood will be paid \$6.10 per hour. Debby Skelton, police court clerk, will be paid \$4.75 per hour. Bills payable reported by clerk Jo Ledgerwood amounted to \$19,576.77. Council accepted the resignation of Carl Fanning as a member of the zoning and planning commission. In his place, Scott Spencer was appointed. A Monett radio station was given tentative approval, fee to be set, for installing a translator atop one of the city's water towers. George Ulmer, engineer, reviewed proposals for replacing East 13th Street bridge over Flat Creek. Proposals from \$186,000 to \$216,000 were reviewed. Council instructed engineers to proceed with minimum-cost design to include pedestrian crossing. Airport maintenance was reviewed with the possibility of Delmar Berry or James Ford doing mowing. The curb and gutter program was set to let bids for the year.



**30 YEARS AGO:** Annette Pry's class exercised with Scott Johnson, RPT in the physical therapy department. Democrat file photo

Property owners will pay for their own driveway at a set price; owners' entire frontage permitted, but council approval required for over 150 feet. The city will pay \$4 per foot, with the program available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**— CANCER CRUSADE OVER \$10,000**

The Barry County Unit of the American Cancer Society has gone over its Crusade quota for the year. Coordinators Harold and Ruby Reese reported the group's efforts had gone above the \$10,000 quota set at the start of the year. Mr. and Mrs. Reese said current totals were \$10,080.51. They also said some packets from area communities had not been completed. They said bike-a-thon, memorials and crusade contributions put the drive over the goal. They said volunteers made the crusade success possible. In turn, the unit, with Mrs. Virginia Taylor as pro tem president, expressed thanks to the Reeses for their efforts in once again guiding the fundraiser. Business of the group at the Barry County Senior Citizen Center included information that persons interested in the Cancer Crusade should deal only with local people amid reports of unauthorized solicitations in other areas. Lela Jane Wilson reported memorials to the fund amounted to \$1,065 to date. Delores Hutchens, service and rehabilitation chairperson, said aid was continuing for patients who had contacted the society. Current members of the board whose terms expired were renamed to two-year extensions. Dr. Carolyn Hunter, Cassville dentist, reported on professional education, and Jo Baldwin and Mrs. Reese provided Reach to Recovery information. Dr. Rex Witherspoon, DDS, of Springfield, will provide the next program. Board officers and directors include Martha Hayward, president; Brenda Fletcher, vice president; Virginia Taylor, secretary; Eleanor Stewart, treasurer; and directors B.F. Babb, Crump Taylor, Bill Ward, Lloyd Richards, Sue Richards, Anna Pueppke, Jo Baldwin, Peggy Hankins, Dr. Carolyn Hunter, Lela Jane Wilson, Helen Munday, Ruby Reese, Harold Reese, Wilma Hall,

Dorothy Gibbons, Deloris Hutchens and Gerald B. Rowan. In addition to those involved in society business, attending were B.F. Babb, Crump Taylor, Lloyd and Sue Richards, Bob and Peggy Hankins, Ellie Stewart, Wilma Hall and Elaine Fry, field representative.

**30 years ago**

**June 5, 1996**  
**— SBC HOSPITAL PREPARES TO OPEN DOORS ON NEW ADDITION**

Employees at South Barry County Hospital in Cassville are playing a huge game of musical chairs as they prepare for the opening of the hospital's newly completed addition on Thursday. Chief Executive Officer Debbie Stubbs said departments were being moved into the new wing in phases. The hospital's main lobby, emergency room and medical clinic will open their doors to the public on Thursday. The new facility will provide both the ER and outpatient clinic with enhanced seating and additional examination rooms. It will also house the hospital's X-ray department. The front desk will be staffed 24 hours a day. Two clerks will man the desk during the day to handle ER admissions and outpatient scheduling. After regular business hours, one clerk will cover the front desk and handle emergency room patients only. "By having both our outpatient and ER clerks at one station, we hope to achieve a smoother flow of patients," Stubbs said. The new emergency room includes two exam rooms and two bay rooms separated by cubical curtains. The old ER will be remodeled to add a third bay room, a two-bed trauma room and a two-bed cardiac room. The additional space will triple the capacity of existing ER facilities and cut down on public traffic by separating emergency and outpatient services. The new ER area also includes separate work stations for nurses, ambulance personnel and physicians. The new clinic area contains a waiting room, reception area and three exam rooms. Two of the three rooms contain a second door that connects to the ER so that the rooms can be used for emergency overflow if needed. The southeast portion of the new addi-

tion is unfinished. Stubbs said this area, which will house the new physical therapy and cardiac rehab departments, will be finished as funds become available. She anticipates it will be completed by early fall. The basement portion of the building will also remain unfinished. The hospital board is considering finishing out a section of the basement as a community room, Stubbs said. Construction of the 22,775-square-foot addition took about 11 months to complete. The hospital held a groundbreaking ceremony for the project on July 26, 1995. Final cost for the project has been estimated at \$2,484,930. To finance the project, the hospital sold \$3 million in revenue bonds. The bond total included \$2,184,000 for construction and equipment and \$690,445 redemption of existing bonds that were issued in June 1983.

**— SOUTH BARRY COUNTY HOSPITAL HOSTS STUDENTS DURING FIRST ANNUAL "PLAY HOSPITAL DAY"**

First grade students at Eunice Thomas Elementary School in Cassville participated in South Barry County Hospital's first annual Play Hospital Day April 30. Jim Enyart, RLP, hospital pharmacist, discussed drug awareness with the youngsters. In the laboratory, Cathy Henderson, MT (ASP), showed the students how germs grew from fingerprints. Technician Bill DeWeese, RTR, explained the operation of X-ray machines in his department, and Patti Eskildsen, dietary manager, discussed healthy eating with the group. Emergency room nurse Kristi Scott talked to the classes about emergencies and explained how hospitals were created to help people in times of medical emergencies. The first graders also viewed a fire truck courtesy of the Cassville Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighter Charlie Jackson was on hand to discuss safety tips and explain some of the devices on the truck. Jackson showed students how the fire hoses work and where everything was kept on the truck. Emergency Medical Technician Donna Lung familiarized students with some of the equipment found in an ambulance.

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

Meet sweet young Muggsy. Muggsy is a mixed breed with an estimated date of birth Nov. 18, 2025. She is just beginning her journey of discovering what life as a loved puppy should be. After spending the first part of her life chained up, she's now getting the chance to experience the world with freedom, kindness, and care. Adopters can complete an application at [www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt](http://www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt). No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email [havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com), or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





## BARBARA JEAN "HONEY" DAVIS

Barbara Jean "Honey" Davis, 84, of Shell Knob, Mo. passed away Monday, May 25, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield, Mo.

She was born January 11, 1942, in Licking, Mo., the daughter of Elmer and Dorine (Beasley) Poore, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her son, Rodney Wayne Davis; brother, Elmer, Jr. and sisters, JoAnn, Velma, Charlene, Linda, and Cynthia.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Davis; her daughters, Sherrie Bowyer and husband Travis of Cassville, Mo. and Teresa Hormel of Shell Knob, Mo.; sister, Lilly Berry-Arnold of Kansas City, Kan.; six grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

She attended Rosedale High School in Kansas City, Kan. She and her husband, Eddie, worked together installing carpet for more than 20 years. In 1970, they made their home in Shell Knob after moving from Kansas City, Kan.

She was a member of Fairview Pentecostal Church.

Services were held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at Lohmer Full Gospel Church in Shell Knob, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Karty Burbridge conducted the services. Burial was at Fields Cemetery in Shell Knob, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Fields Cemetery in memory of Barbara.

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## CATHERINE SUE (HOLLINGSWORTH) WOLFF

Catherine Sue (Hollingsworth) Wolff, 67, of Galena, MO, passed away April 24, 2026. A private service was held for her at Yocum Pond Cemetery, Reeds Spring, MO.

Born in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, KS, Cathy spent most of her youth in Cassville, MO. She received her Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education from SMSU, Springfield, MO. She spent the majority of her career as an elementary educator and later in Administration for the Blue Eye, MO, school system. Her passion for teaching was the drive for her career. She touched the lives of many young children.

She was preceded in death by her par-

ents, Cecil and Carol (Sleezer) Hollingsworth of Cassville. She is survived by her husband Dennis of Galena, MO, son Travis and wife Yvette of Ozark, MO, son Isaac of Galena, grandchildren Austin and Adeline, sister Cindy and husband Greg Chadd of Cassville, brother Cecil Hollingsworth of Cassville, and nephews along with grand nieces, nephews and many cousins.

Online condolences and memories will be appreciated and may be left for the family at: rememberingCathyWolff@gmail.com. Monetary contributions in the honor of Cathy made to the National Scleroderma Foundation Heartland Chapter can aid in further research of this disease.

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## MORGAN DIANE HUFF

Morgan Diane Huff, 41, of Grain Valley, Mo. passed away Monday,

May 18, 2026.

She was born September 17, 1984 in Landstuhl, Germany, the daughter of Michael S. Poe and Wendy (Barrett) Poe.

Survivors include her husband, Charles Huff, III; her parents, Wendy Barrett Leslie and husband Randall; son, Dylan Huff of the home; daughters, Lily Huff and Kaylyn Huff of the home; brothers, Kevin Marler and wife Jacinda of Independence, Mo. and Nick Leslie and wife Maddie of Independence, Mo.; sister, Lauren Warkentien and husband Scott of Independence, Mo.; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Chuck and Cindy Huff of Raymore, Mo. and her beloved dogs, Tobie and Pete.

Preceding her in death were her grandparents, Maureen Claxton, Norma Poe and Waif and Betty Robinson.

She attended school in Independence, Mo., and graduated from Truman High School. She later attended Western Governors University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She proudly served her country in the United States Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom, spending much of her service stationed at Fort Irwin Army Base in Calif.

She worked as a Registered Nurse for the North Kansas City School District.

She was of the Christian faith.

A memorial service will be held Thursday,

June 4, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. with a celebration of life to follow until 8:00 P.M. at the Abundant Life Administration Building, 414 SW Persels Road in Lee's Summit, Mo. 64081.

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

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## CARL DANIEL LEWIS

Carl Daniel Lewis, 92, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Mo. Veterans Home in Mt. Vernon, Mo.

He was born May 6, 1934, in Oak Ridge, Mo., the son of Robert and Jewell (Painter) Lewis, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death were his brothers, Ward Lewis and Ezra Lewis, and sisters, Martha Sinclair and Roberta Driver.

Survivors include his wife, Dimple M. Williams of Exeter, Mo.;

several nieces and nephews, including Kathy, Linda, and Deb, as well as others whose care, support, and assistance meant so much to him and Dimple.

He attended school in Cassville, Mo., graduating from Cassville High School in 1952. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1957 during the Korean War. Following his military service, he worked as an over-the-road truck driver for 40 years until retiring from Phillips Industries in Clarksville, Texas. After retirement, he moved to Texarkana before returning to Cassville.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Clarksville, Texas, the Scottish Rite in Dallas, Texas, and the Hella Shriners in Dallas Texas.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Mo. Veterans Home in Mt. Vernon, Mo. for their outstanding care, kindness, and attention shown to him.

Services with Military Honors will be held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Garret Akin will conduct the services. A private burial will be held at Antioch Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

Contribution may be made to Antioch Cemetery in Cassville in memory of Carl.

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## Purdy: Early Learning Center expanding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

its Comprehensive School Improvement Program in the coming school year, as the district's strategy ran from 2022 to 2027.

"This is a good time to pause and think of how we frame next year and future years, knowing the budget will be a big source of contention in future years," Graham said.

The state budget anticipated a \$362 million shortfall in the coming year. Graham calculated the district's budget for the coming year on a State Adequacy Target of the state paying \$6,700 per pupil, though optimistically he thought the rate could go as high as \$6,950. He preferred to lean on a conservative estimate.

### Financial strategy

The board opted to delay its discussion with financial advisor Stifel until its June budget workshop, coming at the end of the school year.

Graham noted that two years ago he opened a discussion with Missouri Capital Assist Advantage Treasury (MOCAAT), which car-

ries the district's bond fund. An additional source of income could provide a buffer to curtail state budget cuts.

If the district had \$10 million in an endowment fund, projections suggested that could generate an additional \$522,000 a year, available to pay certified teachers. He noted eventually the district will be required to give annual raises of 1-3% a year, plus steps for years of service. At the present time, Purdy still pays a base salary of \$2,000 below the state-mandated \$40,000.

Board President Ken Terry observed the \$3 million to \$4 million range is where the district needs to reach in an endowment fund.

"This strategy preserves your community, and you're not asking for a tax increase to fund the teachers you have," Graham said. "In the 2026-27 school year, we'll ask what the community wants from its school. What do you want to see Purdy become? If doomsday comes and we have zero plan, then we have to ask what do we cut, what opportunities do we stop offering? Kids will be missing out. This is open for you to think about. This will be one of my major areas of concentration in the coming year."

Another financial concern arose over the recent severe hailstorm. Graham said the district's van and Suburban had damage. Buses nudged up to an awning suffered no broken windows.

Roofing consultants had differing views on

damage to the building. The district's insurance provided contacted a firm to make an initial analysis. Graham felt there was a good chance insurance would cover a major part of the damage.

### Early Learning expansion

On a positive note, the board approved expanding the district's Early Learning Center to 44 students from the present 30. Principal Julie Dalton said the program has had a waiting list every year.

Those who start are ready for kindergarten, and very often those not served need help to catch up. The expansion, covered by Title 1 and another program with no additional cost to the district, will cover the waiting list. Dalton wants to add a teacher and a paraprofessional to the staff as well.

### Personnel action

In personnel action, the board accepted resignations from librarian Michelle Hilburn and Drew Williams, high school social studies and Root Ed instructor. Two paraprofessionals, a teacher's aide, and a bus driver also resigned. Bill Utter submitted his retirement from custodial duties.

Hired were Brad Stewart as a high school social studies and physical education teacher, Kayla Roderman as an Early Learning teacher, and Adam Williams to teach high school social studies.

A variety of extra-duty positions were filled. New stipends were added

for intervention in math and English language learners. Co-sponsors for FBLA and FCCLA were dropped, as was the Root Ed sponsor. Several positions remain unfilled, such as a registered nurse to oversee some high needs students.

### Reports

Graham and Dalton reviewed STAR test data on students, comparing beginning of the year numbers and year's end. Graham noted the gain in English language arts was not large and could be better. In math, data showed significant growth, largely credited to intervention by Nicole Crouthamel. Growth among seventh and eighth graders was not as good as hoped.

The area supervisor for DESE encouraged Graham to hire a third-party specialist for \$20,000 to improve the numbers. The supervisor said growth of 1-2% annually added up over five years.

Graham felt the district's staff could find ways to make greater gains, and he planned to dive into what was being taught and how to find avenues for better success. Dalton said she planned to meet monthly with elementary teachers at planning time next year to review standards and ways to improve students reaching the proficiency levels.

Summer school, starting at the end of May, had 90 enrollees to date, considered a good count, up from last year.

The Purdy FFA Livestock Show was planned for July 18 in the FFA show barn.

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# Alumni unite!



Cassville Alumni Association members gather to enjoy food catered by BBQ Station before the scholarship ceremony began at the annual Alumni Banquet, held at the Cassville High School commons area. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



From left, Phil Hutchens, of Cassville, Class of 74; Dennis Ledgerwood, of Cassville, Class of 1974; Charlie Jo Ledgerwood, of Cassville, Class of 1974; Valeri Hutchens, of Cassville, Class of 1982; and Mary Ann Farewell, of Eagle Rock, Class of 1976, reunite to share stories, laughter and memories from their school days. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Payton Ray, of Cassville, Class of 2026 Alumni Scholarship recipient, poses alongside her parents, Jenna Ray, of Cassville, Class of 2005 and Dennis Ray, of Cassville Class of 2002. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Ron and Linda Meador, of Bolivar; Becky and Gary Chaneu, of Arkansas; Yvonne Stumpff, of Cassville; Sharon and Phil Ledgerwood, of Carthage; and Linda and Sydney Ash, of Strafford, all members of the Cassville High School Class of 1963, gathered together during the annual Alumni Banquet at Cassville High School recently. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Shari Ray, of Cassville, Class of 1986, gives a heart-felt speech congratulating scholarship recipients and reflecting on the history and traditions of the Cassville school community. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat



One of the three Cassville students to receive the Alumni Scholarship, Kailey Atnip, of Cassville, class of 2026, gives a thank-you speech to fellow Cassville alumni during the scholarship ceremony during the annual Alumni Banquet at Cassville High School recently. Gwendylan Harmon/Special to the Cassville Democrat

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## CASSVILLE R-IV BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY NOTICE



The Cassville R-IV School District Board of Education is accepting applications from qualified district residents to fill a current vacancy on the Board of Education. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. The individual appointed to the position will serve until the next school board election. Applications may be obtained online or picked up at the Cassville R-IV Central Office located at:  
Cassville R-IV School District  
1501 Main Street  
Cassville, MO 65625

# Painting up the pocket park



Cassville art student Ezra Sage paints a portion of the new mural being painted at the incoming pocket park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Teall Williams, Cassville High School art teacher, works on a mural with her summer school class at the incoming pocket park where the former Hall Theatre stood. Williams said the class aims to have the mural completed by the week of June 20. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville art students Brooklynn Homewood, front, and Rose Love, back, paint a portion of the new mural being painted at the incoming pocket park in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



The Cassville High School summer school art class has begun work on a mural located on the south side of the old city hall building, which will face the incoming pocket park where the old Hall Theatre once stood. Teall Williams, art teacher, said the group hopes to finish the project the week of June 20. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Soroptimist Club awards 2 scholarships



The Soroptimist Club of Barry County has selected Jenevieve Adams as one of two 2026 Violet Richardson Scholarship recipients. Adams is a Purdy High School graduate and is pictured with Soroptimist member, Angela Artherton. Durossette recently graduated from Southwest High School and is pictured with Soroptimist member, Traci Mitchell. The Violet Richardson Scholarship is awarded annually to a senior woman in Barry County that serves as community volunteer. The mission of the Soroptimist Club of Barry County is to improve the lives of women and girls in the community. Contributed photo



The Soroptimist Club of Barry County has selected Kindred Durossette as one of two 2026 Violet Richardson Scholarship recipients. Durossette recently graduated from Southwest High School and is pictured with Soroptimist member, Traci Mitchell. The Violet Richardson Scholarship is awarded annually to a senior woman in Barry County that serves as community volunteer. The mission of the Soroptimist Club of Barry County is to improve the lives of women and girls in the community. Contributed photo

## Arson: Suspect allegedly knew a person was asleep inside the home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

the fire was set and was unaware the inside of the residence had been set

on fire until the west side of the trailer was fully engulfed and Burkett told

her it was on fire.

The victim later claimed if she had not gotten out of the residence when she did, she would have been serious injured or killed due to Burkett's alleged actions. Burkett allegedly later admitted to the victim, two witnesses and Bray

that she had knowingly set the fire to the residence with the intent to burn it down because she did not like living there.

Burkett also was allegedly aware the victim was asleep inside the home at the time she set the fire.

Bray said in the statement as a result of Burkett's actions, she placed the victim in immediate risk of serious physical harm or death, and she had destroyed the residence beyond repair.

Bray also said in the statement Burkett

showed no remorse for another person's safety or property, as she was a renter and not an owner.

Burkett is being held in the Barry County jail on a cash-only bond of \$100,000. A bond hearing is set for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.



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# Private eye

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# KIDS' COLUMNS

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## JUST kidding

**Q:** What do you call a sheep with no head and no legs?

**A:** A cloud.

## JUST kidding

**Q:** Why did the barber win the race?

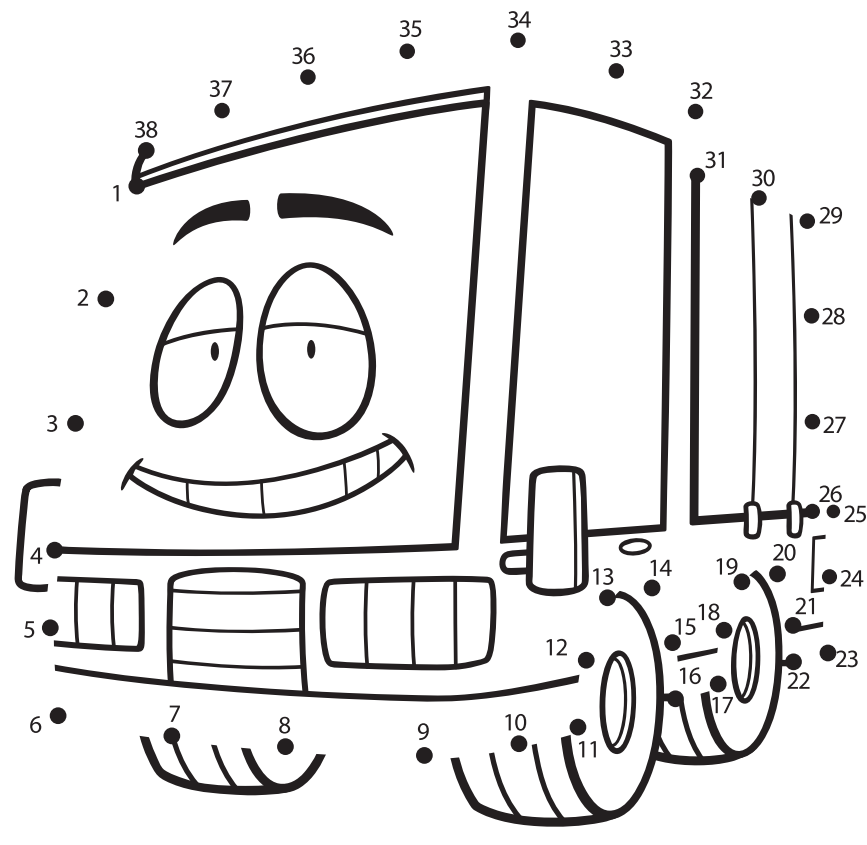
**A:** Because he took a short cut.

## JUST kidding

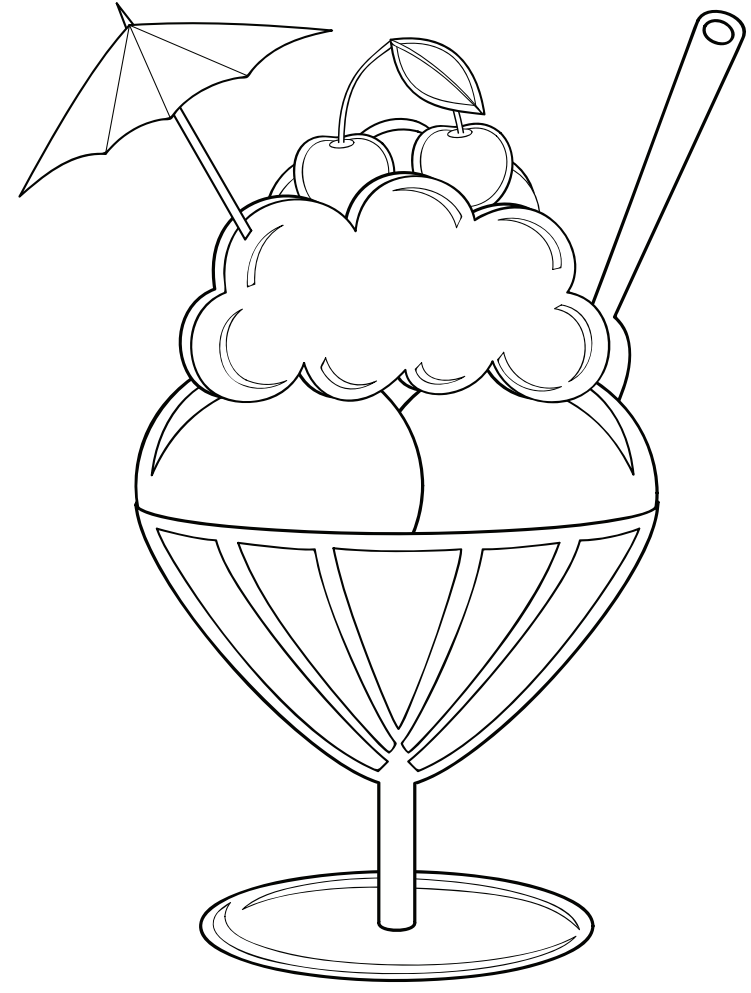
**Q:** What do you get when you plant kisses?

**A:** Tu-lips.

# DOT TO DOT



# For the up-and-coming artist



# Sudoku 6x6

1					
	6	4			
		5		3	
	3		1		
			3	6	
					4

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

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

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## 'CATS LAY FOUNDATION ON DIAMOND



Cassville's Masin Bryan checks back to first base during a home contest against Seneca. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

# Cassville baseball wraps up season at 8-20

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wrapping up the season at 8-20, Cassville Baseball Coach Simon Beeson said his squad showed great flashes this season as they laid a foundation for campaigns to come.

The Wildcats' season ended in the first round of the Class 4, District 12 Tournament with a 6-5 loss to East Newton.

Beeson said throughout the year, he saw many strides forward, but also recognized areas still needing attention.

"I think we saw a lot of positives that laid a solid foundation for us to continue building on, but we definitely saw a lot of things that we need to continue to improve upon as well," he said. "I think overall, it just goes to show how much harder we have to work throughout the off-season to get where we want to be moving forward."

Beeson said improvement on the mound was noticeable, as Wildcats pitchers were throwing more strikes and forcing batters to put the ball in play.

"Granted, we started the year with several injuries to guys who we thought would eat up a lot of innings for us on the mound, and unfortunately, it didn't happen," he said. "But, we're not losing many players as we move forward, and we'll be able to get those guys healthy during the offseason and hopefully be able to lean on them more next season."

When that time comes, how the Wildcats perform at the plate will be a key focus.

"[Areas we hope to improve include] approaches at the plate, particularly two-strike approaches, and cutting down on strikeouts," he said.

One game where it came together was the rivalry contest against Barry County foe Monett, with the Wildcats turning out a 4-2 result at home.

"The Monett game was a big game for us," Beeson said. "It's always fun beating your rivals and seeing the guys be excited and pumped up that way. Coach Michael Calhoun's a great guy and great coach, and Monett's a solid team, so that was definitely a big win for us."

Cassville graduates four seniors in Colton Roark, Tucker McCorkle, Logan Williams and Jadon Castleberry. Roark, Beeson said, played a significant role for the team as catcher.

"[Colton's] unmatched energy and excitement in the dugout all year long, and his incredible athleticism and presence behind the plate, will be missed," Beeson said.

Returning nearly all its starters, Beeson said commitment to improvement is what's next.

"[Our underclassmen will bring back] a lot of athleticism and desire to work hard and get better every day," he said. "They learned a lot this year from our upperclassmen, and I believe all of our players will come in to next year with a fire in their bellies to make everything a competition during everyday routines."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Spencer Drollinger throws a ball back to the infield during a contest against Seneca this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Southwest middle school track shines

The Southwest Middle School track team wrapped up a highly successful season with 28 student-athletes competing throughout the spring.

The team saw major success at the Blue Eye regular season meet and the SWCL Conference Meet, where Southwest swept all four divisions by earning team championships in 7th grade girls, 7th grade boys, 8th grade girls, and 8th grade boys. In total, Southwest athletes brought home 76 medals during the SWCL meet at Blue Eye.

The 7th grade boys team had an especially dominant year, earning first place finishes at both Blue Eye meets. Individually, 7th grader Zaylon Corwin captured four conference championships in the 400 meter dash, 800 meter dash, 1600 meter run, and long jump.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The Southwest Middle School track and field team is pictured with awards after competition this season. Front row, from left: David Lian, Julieta Tellez-Monzon, Tripp Pippin, Robert Stidam, Jaelyn Wright, Demi Roe, Chandler Phillips, Audrey Starr and Gideon Henderson. Middle row: Brodie Hall, Kricia Jimenez, Kenzie Hayden, Olivia Tedford, Audrey Cole, Alana Smith, Georgia King and Garrett England. Back row: Braxton Butterfield, Michael Henry, Bali Cung, Zaylon Corwin, Silas Turner, Layton Cole, Ares Cotton, Joe Henry, Easton Wilson and Coach Jordy Long. Contributed photo

# CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

## Good, bad, and ugly

Have you ever wondered if the God often depicted in the Old Testament is the same God that Jesus taught and modeled in the New?

At times they seem so different. The God in the Old Testament, for instance, requires raped virgins to marry their rapists, dishonorable sons to be stoned to death and conquering Israelites to annihilate the residents of the lands they have been promised by God to inhabit. It has led me to believe that Jesus might have been sent to earth to improve God's public image.

I suspect, however, that God hasn't changed as much as humankind's understanding of God has changed since Jesus and beyond. The Bible of course is a reflection of what humankind thought at the time and under the conditions when it was conceived and written.

Is it true? Yes, at least it was when it was recorded. We must remember, we serve a living God, and nothing is necessarily known as it was yesterday. The only thing that doesn't change is change itself.

Old Testament folks had a different way of seeing the world than many of us today. They believed that God was the

direct cause of everything that ever happened, the good, bad, and the ugly. Most of us have given up that notion, crediting God with only goodness and love, while the bad and ugly are caused by sin or our lack of knowledge or our inability to control the outcome of such things as war or destructive weather.

There are many things that can happen where the cause is simply unknown; which is better than crediting God with the bad and ugly.

Many of us believe that God resides inside of us and knows everything, the good, bad, and ugly that can happen to

us. Because God loves us, He shares all our joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, gains and losses, etc. God even has the will and power, when we let Him, to turn some of the bad and ugly experiences in our lives into something good and worthwhile.

The one thing God won't do is cause something bad or ugly to deliberately fall upon us as punishment for something we might have done wrong. God has no need to punish us. We punish ourselves when we suffer the consequences of our misdeeds.

Even then, God forgives us. While God isn't the cause of

the bad and ugly, God allows such things to happen to us because God has given us free will to harm ourselves or others, either willfully or out of ignorance. There is simply a big difference between what God causes and what God allows. Cause and allow are not the same.

One day we shall know as we are known. (1 Cor. 13: 12) Therein lies the basis for our hope.

Rev. Raymond Ticknor is a retired Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) pastor living in Monett. He may be reached at [tudith.ticknor@yahoo.com](mailto:tudith.ticknor@yahoo.com).

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

### BIBLE VERSE:

"In God, whose word I praise — in God I trust, and I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"

— PSALM 56:4

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# CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

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

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**BID NOTICE**  
 The City of Exeter is now accepting bids to chip and seal the residential streets. Bids will be accepted until June 8th. Please submit bids to cityofexeter@outlook.com or mail to City of Exeter Po Box 113 Exeter, MO 65647 1st insertion 05/20/26 19-21

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CASSVILLE**  
 IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF ANTHONY LAVON GRIFFITH Petitioner, Case No. 26BR-DR00060

**NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME**  
 Public notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of May 2026, by an Order of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, Case No. 26BR-DR00060, the name of ANTHONY LAVON GRIFFITH was changed to ANTHONY LAVON WILD. Filed May 4, 2026 Craig Williams Circuit Clerk Jonnie E. Cox 1st insertion 5/20/26 19-21

**NOTICE**  
 WW Quarry LLC, 23565 Lawrence 1180, Verona, Missouri 65769, has applied for a Surface Mining Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Land Reclamation Program, to mine Limestone on 8 acres of land (Site #3023) located in Barry County, Section 26/ Township 25 North/ Range 26 West. This operation will be conducted during the approximate dates of May 17, 2026 to May 1, 2046. Written comments or a request for an informal public meeting may be made by any person with a direct, personal interest in one or more of the factors that the Staff Director may consider in issuing a permit, as required by The Land Reclamation Act, sections 444.760 to 444.790 RSMo. Mail written comments, or a request for an informal public meeting to: Director, Land Reclamation Program, Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176. All comments and requests for a public meeting must be submitted in writing to the director's office no later than fifteen days following the final public notice publication date. For more information about this process, please contact the Land Reclamation Program by telephone at 573-751-4041. 1st insertion 05/20/26 19-22

**WHEATON R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

Request for Proposals for Roofing Services: Library Roof  
 Due: June 12, 2026  
 Introduction  
 The Wheaton R-III School District (the "District") is seeking proposals from qualified entities interested in performing roofing repair services for the District's library area roof. Background of the District The District, a public school district created, organized, and operating under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri, is an independent body politic and corporate, and a political subdivision of the State of Missouri. The governing body of the District is a seven-member Board of Education. The Administration of the District is headed by the Superintendent. Timeline Request for Proposals Issued May 27, 2026 Question/Inspection Period June 1, 2026 - June 5, 2026 Proposals Due June 12, 2026 Recommendation to Board June 16, 2026 Notice to Proceed June 17, 2026 Contractor Requirements A. All workers must undergo a background check prior to working on site. It shall be the duty of the contractor to conduct the appropriate background checks on its employees and the vendor must agree to share this information with the District upon request. B. Contractors must adhere to any minimum wage/prevaling wage requirements associated with the project C. Contractor must be properly licensed, bonded, and insured Scope of Work A. Inspection of existing structural elements and material B. Replacement of existing structural elements and/or materials if necessary C. Installation of sealing product or replacement of existing roof product as determined necessary by the contractor and agreed by the District D. Installation and/or replacement of flashing, vents, caps, sealants, and accessories per manufacturer's specifications E. Work to be completed during normal business hours and all work areas properly secured F. Project must be completed prior to August 7, 2026 Proposal Requirements A. Provide a description of the company, as well as applicable licenses, bonds, and insurance coverage. B. Detailed description of the services your entity will provide for the completion of this project along with proposed and/or guaranteed prices and warranty information. C. Detailed pricing breakdown of services to be provided. This should include, but should not be limited to: a. Total cost for material repair, removal, and/or replacement b. Unit cost per item of material to be purchased c. Any additional costs for materials, permitting, or disposal fees d. Projected labor costs e. Total project cost to be incurred by the District f. All pricing should be firm for the duration of the project pending change orders from the District. D. Provide the name(s) and resume(s) of the primary supervisor(s) responsible for overseeing the project in its entirety. E. Provide a brief overview of the company's experience with Missouri public schools, along with

prior project descriptions and reference information from at least three recent school or business clients. F. Briefly indicate any additional relevant information regarding the benefits to the District of selecting your firm as a contractor for this project. G. Please disclose any conflicts of interest that could present a real or perceived conflict of interest. Additionally, the company should disclose if there are any pending legal or insurance proceedings involving the firm that could affect their ability to complete the project. Evaluation & Selection Responses will be evaluated based on the overall best plan for the Wheaton R-III School District. The District reserves the right to choose any company, more than one company, or to reject all responses from those submitting proposals. Decisions will be based on: • The qualifications and experience of the company • The proposed scope, warranty, and timeline of the project • Evaluation of past performances and references • Community/local presence of the company • Total cost of services After reviewing all proposals submitted, the District staff responsible for the evaluation will make a recommendation for selection to the District's Board of Education. The Board of Education shall make the final selection of the Company that will provide the services. However, no contract shall be formed and the District shall not be bound to any selection until such time as a final, written contract with the selected Company is approved by the Board of Education. The District reserves the right to negotiate the contract terms with the Company that will be recommended to, or that is selected by, the Board of Education. The District further reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals and to waive any "informalities" in the Proposals received whenever such selection, rejection, or waiver is in its best interest. All Proposal documents become public record once a negotiated contract has been executed. Proposal Submittal Proposals must be submitted by 3 p.m. on June 12, 2026. The District and Board reserve the right to request interviews on Monday, June 15, 2026, prior to the regular June 2026 School Board meeting. Please send an electronic copy to: Mr. Chris Paullus Mr. Jeff Pettengill Superintendent Maintenance Director Wheaton R-III School District Wheaton R-III School District 116 McCall St, PO Box 249 116 McCall St, PO Box 249 Wheaton, MO 64874 Wheaton, MO 64874 cpaullus@wheatonschools.org jpettengill@wheatonschools.org 417-652-3914 417-652-3914 Please direct all questions to Mr. Chris Paullus and Mr. Jeff Pettengill at the email addresses listed above. 1st insertion 05/27/26 20-21

**BID NOTICE**  
 The City of Washburn, Missouri is now accepting sealed bids for upcoming street repair and improvement work within the city limits. Contractors are invited to submit proposals covering asphalt repair, resurfacing, patching, and related roadway maintenance. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Street Repair Bid - City of Washburn," and each submission must include the bidder's full name, address, and contact information.

**AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2026 – 10 AM**  
**Location:** Cassville, Mo from the 911 center on FR 1107 go 1.6 miles, turn left on FR 2142 go 4/10 mile stay straight on FR 1105, go 9/10 mile, Turn Right on FR 2130 go 1.2 miles straight into driveway for GPS this is a Purdy, Mo address. (11743 FR 2130 Purdy, Mo)  
**REAL ESTATE, 40 ACRES M/L, SHOP HOUSE, NICE SHOP, PLUS CARPORT SHOP – KUBOTA UTV – ATV'S – TRACK LOADER – TRAILER'S – AUTOMOBILE'S – IMPLEMENTS – TRACTOR'S – LOTS OF TOOL'S – FURNITURE – HOUSEHOLD – COLLECTIBLE'S – MISC.**



**Real Estate:** 40 acres m/l. fenced pasture & timber, private drive & secluded paved road to drive to drive, shop house, shop & another nice carport building, 30'x50' shop house with large lean-to used as a covered sitting area, enter into a nice living room with wood tongue and groove ceiling open to the dining area and kitchen utility room/ bathroom with double vanity and shower, storage room/furnace room house's hot water heater and pressure tank. From the kitchen is stairs that lead upstairs to a open loft, with a door leading outside to a large 2nd floor deck, sitting area overlooking the pasture. Also, a 3rd lever deck for stargazing and views of the farm. Downstairs ground level from the dining area is a patio door leading out to a covered area for grilling etc. From the kitchen there is a door leading to a large garage with lots of storage and a large overhead door. Central Heat & air, & a Generac whole house generator, well & septic. Other Outbuildings: a 30'x50' shop with concrete and elect. Walk door and overhead door's & wood stove – plus a 27'x 36' Carport building, enclosed with 2 overhead doors and a walk door with electric. All on 42 acres m/l. **Note:** This is a very nice property. Gated driveway that leads to 42 acres m/l fences with pasture and timber very private and secluded paved road to driveway. Call 417-847-2507 to view the Real Estate before Auction Day or to pre-register. Don't miss your opportunity. Property like this don't come up for sale very often. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agents of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.  
**Owner: Ron Darnell**  
**P.O.A.: Brad Harris**




**STUMPF'S**  
 REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.  
 www.stumpffauction.com  
**417-847-2507**  
 Auctioneer: Donnie Stumpff MO Et AR State Champion Auctioneer #1409 | PB00051442  
 Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
**Friday June 5th 1:00 PM**  
**Location:** 26551 State Hwy YY, Shell Knob MO



Table Rock Lake View Home, 4 bedroom 2.5 bath home nice home with lake view. Walking distance to Table Rock Lake & Shell Knob recreation area. 2 miles to boat ramp and only 4 miles to Campbell Point Marina. Go towww.stumpffauction.com for more info and photos and to reregister for auction day.  
**Owner: SOS Enterprises**




**STUMPF'S**  
 REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.  
 www.stumpffauction.com  
**417-847-2507**  
 Auctioneer: Donnie Stumpff MO Et AR State Champion Auctioneer #1409 | PB00051442  
 Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

Bids may be handdelivered to 321 Main Street, Washburn, MO 65772, or mailed to P.O. Box 110, Washburn, MO 65772. All bids must be received by 06/12/2026 to be considered. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. The City of Washburn reserves the right to reject any or all bids. 1st insertion 05/27/26 20-21

**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

**PROBATE**

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

**MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION**  
 At Cassville In the Estate of: Dorothy Joe Karrick, Deceased Estate No. 25BR-PR00153  
**NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY JOE KARRICK, 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 June 18, 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 DUSTIN EDWARDS Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative P. O. Box 276

Cassville, MO 65625 (417)847-2734 Dates of Publication – 5/13/2026, 5/20/2026, 5/27/2026, 6/3/2026  
**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 05/13/26 18-21

**IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUDGE OR DIVISION: PROBATE**  
 In the Estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, Deceased. Case Number: 26BR-PR00063

**NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)**  
 To All Persons Interested in the Estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, Decedent: On May 11, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of JILL H LECOMPTE, decedent by the Probate

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

**Monday, June 8, 2026 — 10 AM**

**Location:** Cassville, MO. From the Jct's of Hwy's 37/76/86 at the old Les Jacobs Ford Dealership, go South on hwy 37 for 1.9 miles. Turn right on FR 2195 and go ½ mile to auction.

**REAL ESTATE, SMALL ACREAGE, NICE HOME & SHOP – TRACOTR – KAWASAKI MULE – RIDING MOWERS – GUNS – RELOAD ITEMS – TOOLS – GMC PICKUP – FURNITURE – HOUSEHOLD – MISC**



**Tractor:** Case DX29 tractor with Case L130 front loader, hydrostat, Industrial tires, 4x4, only 736 hrs. (nice) – 5' 3 pt Woods brush hog – 5' 3 pt digger. **Mule:** 2012 Kawasaki Mule 4010, fuel injection, power steering, dump bed, windshield, top, 4x4, only 243 hrs. **Riding Mowers:** John Deere S100, 42" hydrostat, riding mower, like new only 26 hrs. – Craftsman YS, 4500, 42", 20 hp hydrostat, riding mower. **GMC Pickup:** 2007 GMC, SLE, Red, Regular cab, automatic, 5.3 motor with bed cover, only 81,600 miles. (Super nice). **ATV:** 2004 Yamaha Bruin, 350, Ultramatic. (needs work). **Trailer:** 4'x8' steel floor utility trailer. **Guns – Ammo – Reload Items:** Winchester mdl 69A .22 cal – Winchester mdl 24 16 ga – Sears mdl 45, 30-30 w/Simmons scope – Hopkins Allen 12 ga – Winchester mdl 290, .22 auto with Bushnell 3x9 scope – Ruger 17 HMR – New England Handi rifle SB2, .243 with Cabela's 3x12 scope – New England Handi rifle SB2.22 cal – **Ammo:** 30-30, 30-06- 243-45 auto- metal ammo boxes. **Reload Items:** Reload Dies – shot gun wads – 40 S&W primer cases – oils & cleaners – many tumblers – reload brass of all kinds – more reload items for pistols, shotguns & rifles – knife collection. **Tools:** Craftsman 12" band saw/sander – Craftsman 10" radial arm saw – Troy Bilt 2700 psi pressure washer – Power Kraft 9" table saw – Protech chop saw w/stand – Remington elect pole saw – Craftsman 16" scroll saw – grinder on stand – jointer/planer/molder – Craftsman router – receiver hitches – misc chain – Skil Sawzall – weed eaters – chain saws – wood step ladders – 12 v sprayer – gas cans – garden hose & reel – organizers – axes, slit mauls, hammers, bolt cutters, pipe clamps – misc sm hand tools – misc sm power tools – misc rope – Vector jump/start box – Campbell Hausfeld 5 hp air compressor – Schroder back pack leaf blower – wheel barrow – Poulan leaf blower – Campbell Hausfeld 135 psi air compressor – Echo straight shaft weed eater – sm shop vac – 14 gal gas caddy – Xtreme contractor series 6500 watt generator – old wheel barrow – Craftsman yard wagon – sm yard wagon – boat anchor – misc shelving. **Furniture:** Lazy Boy sofa & chair – sm chest of drawers – queen size bed – (3) bar chairs – roll around microwave cart – office chair – quilt rack – flat screen TV – dropleaf table – misc sm tables – more furniture not listed. **Appliances:** Mini refrigerators – sm kitchen appliances – Whirlpool chest freezer. **Oldies & Collectibles:** Cross cut saw – old bicycles – vintage floor lamp – old jars – old trunk – old coke bottles – old milk can – Tonka trucks – old school desk – anniversary docks – board games such as The Wizard of Oz, Star Wars – Video computer system, Atari, etc – old wood box – standard time clock – oil lamp – wood toy box – world globe – baby doll bed – misc glassware, clear glass, cut glass, some Carnival – vintage Mallard TV duck lamp – wood gun rack – galvanized bucket – metal crates. **Misc:** Rods & Reels – misc fishing gear – lawn chairs – elect grill – fans – misc kitchenware such as utensils, pans, glasses, cups, misc – fireplace set – misc pictures – afghans – books – luggage – CD player – bedding & misc linens – portable radios – stereo receivers – dehumidifiers – baseboard heaters – alum handicap wheelchair ramp approx. 20" – exercise glider – cardio glide – treadmill – ping pong table – weight bench – Weslo exercise bike – Hot Shooter basketball game – old smoker – ¾ roll barb wire – patio table – live traps – (5) bags of R-11 insulation – several sheets of 4'x8' chipboard – many more items not listed. **Real Estate:** Country living, paved road, only couple miles to town. 11 acres m/l with a 3 bedroom 2 bath home, nice shop, white vinyl fence, beautiful property. Enter this home from a composition front deck into a nice living room with large front window, ceiling fan & wood burning fireplace. Then on into the dining room with patio door leading out to a nice, raised back deck over looking the pasture, dining room is open to the kitchen with bar area, Corian countertop with built in sink. GE smooth top elect range, built in Kenmore microwave/exhaust hood, corian cabinets, & like new Samsung refrigerator/freezer. Also a door leading out to the attached 2 car garage with automatic door openers. Now on down the hall where there is a door leading to a full unfinished basement, a full bath. Bedroom #1 with ceiling fan, window & closet. Bedroom #2 (2) windows & closet and the master bedroom with ceiling fan, (2) windows, his & hers closets & a ½ bath. Full unfinished basement with walkout door. **Outside Amenities:** Nice yard, white vinyl fence, front and back decks, nice shop with walk doors & overhead door, concrete floor & elect plus a lean to, well and septic. **Note:** If your looking for a country home, however close to town, paved road, sm acreage, great for horses or cattle, this is it !!! Call 417-847-2507 to preview the real estate before auction day or to pre register before auction day. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidders number. All terms on bidder card apply. If paying by check on large items, items will be held until check clears auction company bank unless PRIOR arrangements have been made with the auction company. If paying by credit card a 5% convenience fee will apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty 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 dosing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Mike & Carol Whisman



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



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



**Auctioneer:**  
Parker Stumpff  
AR State Champion  
Auctioneer  
#2352

Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The name and business address of the personal representative is:

VICTORIA ZANE HENBEST,  
15488 BUSINESS HWY 37,  
CASSVILLE, MO 65625  
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:  
HARRY DANIEL SCHWARTZ,  
702 WEST ST,  
PO BOX 276,  
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,  
417-847-2734.

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

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

Date of the decedent's death: 05-APR-2026  
Date of first publication: May 20, 2026  
Date of second publication: May 27, 2026  
Date of third publication: June 3, 2026  
Date of fourth publication: June 10, 2026  
Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk  
Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.  
1st insertion 05/20/26  
19-22

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**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

**ESTATE AUCTION**

**Saturday, June 6, 2026 — 10 AM**

**Location:** Berryville, Ar. From the Berryville square go West on Church St 1/10 mile. Turn left on McKennon go 9/10 mile. Turn left on County Rd 501 and go 2.5 miles. Turn left. Follow road to auction. (229 CR 5013, Berryville Ar)

**REAL ESTATE, HOME, INGROUND POOL & 30 ACRES M/L – KUBOTA TRACTOR – ATV – ZERO TURN MOWER – MINI COOPER CAR- HONDA SCOOTER – TOOLS – LARGE GUN & AMMO COLLECTION – TACK – GUITARS – FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – HOUSEHOLD – MISC.**



**Kubota Tractor:** Kubota L 4310 with LA 681 front loader, HST, 4x4, Industrial Tires, only 1000 hrs. ATV: Yamaha, 4x4, ATV, 642 hrs. **Zero Turn Mower:** Ariens Zoom Max, 48" with Kawasaki motor, zero turn mower. Honda Scooter: Honda Reflex scooter with 10,795 miles. **Mini Cooper Car:** 2014 Mini Cooper, John Works Edition, convertible, only 42xxx miles. **Tools:** Bosch 10" table saw – Bosch 10" chop saw with stand – Dewalt planer with stand – wood roll around work bench – misc sm power tools – Grizzly G0452 – bench top tool cabinet – Workbox – nuts, bolts, screws, etc – DeWalt cordless drill – Ridgid spindle sander – Grizzly 14" band saw – Craftsman 8" bench grinder – Honda 6.0 pressure washer – battery charger – 8' step ladder – Delta floor mdl drill press – Stihl elect weed eater – roll around Snap On mech stool – Stihl Farm boss chain saw – air hose – tool cart – Milwaukee cordless tools – Craftsman cordless tools – Craftsman roll around tool chest – floor jacks – lawn mower jack – airless paint sprayer – Dyna 6000 generator with Honda motor – Hi Lift Jack – Makita grinder – jack stands – gas cans – wheel barrow – porter cable 150 psi air compressor – misc long handle tools – misc hand tools – alum ramps – more tools not listed. **Tack:** saddles, cinches, pads, blankets, halters, bridles, lead ropes, etc. **Log Splitter & Implements:** Ariens 27 ton wood splitter – 3 pt box blade – 6' 3 pt bush hog – antq. Gleener. **Guns – Ammo – Gun Safes & More:** Marlin 30-30 lever action with 2x7 Redfield scope – Remington mdl 783 bolt action 30-06 with Nikon 3x9 Pro Staff scope – Ruger mdl 10-22 carbine – Henty Arms, lever action, olt barrel, .44 Rem Magnum/.44 SPL – Winchester mdl 9422. 22 cal S-L-LR – Colt MK IV Series 70, .45 auto, government, government mdl – Ruger Super Black Hawk .44 Magnum revolver – S & W 9 mm semi auto – Walther P22 revolver with mag cylinder – CZ Shadow 9x19 semi auto – Z Shadow 75 B 9mm Luger – Ruger Mark IV .22 LR – CZ P10 C 9x19 semi auto – Girsan Regard Gen 4, 9mm – CZ 97B .45 cal auto – Sig Sauer 1911, .45 auto – Taurus PT 1911, .45 ACP semi auto – CZ P-10C, 9x19 semi auto – CM9, 9x19 semi auto – Ruger Security six.357 mag revolver – CZ 75B, 9mm luger semi auto – M&P 377 cal air pistol – S&W .357 Lady Smith with Crempson Trace – SAR 9x19 semi auto – Heritage Rough Ryder .22 cal revolver w/mag cylinder – CZ P-07, 9x19 semi auto – Sig Sauer P938, 9mm semi auto – Ruger single – Six .22 cal revolver – CZ 75 sp-01, 9x19 semi auto – Sig Sauer P938, 9mm, semi auto – Springfield Armory XP 45 ACP, semi auto – Canik TP9, SF Elite, 9x19 semi auto – Ruger 5.56 Nato with Leupold VX – Freedom scope – Mossberg 20 ga pump 2 ¾" & 3" – Ruger PC carbine 9mm Luger – CZ 455 .22 cal bolt action, LR with 2x7 Vortex scope – Ruger SR 556 w/scope & collapsible stock – Mouser mdl O Argentino 1909. 30-06 cal bolt action – WASR -10 cal 7.62x39mm w/scope – Mossberg JM Pro Series Tactical Class, 22", 12 ga, 2 ¾" & 3" semi auto with Tasco 3x9 scope – Remington 870 Express mag, 12 ga pump, 2 ¾" & 3" – Henry survival .22 cal – Wolf .50 cal black powder – Military Rifle – Crossman Nitro air rifle – Mossberg synthetic, mdl .590, 12 ga with stream light – Stevens synthetic 12 ga, 2 ¾" & 3" – Savage synthetic mdl 10, .308 w/Millett 4x16 scope – Ruger mdl 10-22 carbine 22 LR semi auto w/BSA scope – M 91/30, 7.62x54R Military – Ruger .308 bolt action w/Nikon Pro Staff 3x9 scope – Marlin mdl 60 microgroove barrel .22 LR semi auto – Ruger American 7.62x39 fluted barrel, bolt action – P. Beretta, made in Italy, 390-12 ga – Girsan MC 312, 12 ga, 2 ¾" & 3" – Colt .223/5.56 AR Defense M4, A1, carbine w/tactical scope, collapsible stock – Remington game master mdl 760, 30-06 pump w/Bushnell 3x9 scope – Mossberg 930, 12 ga, 18 ½" barrel, 2 ¾" & 3" semi auto – Ruger 10-22, 50 yr Anniversary semi auto – MAK-90, 7.62x39. **Ammo:** 30-06, lots of 12 ga, 20 ga, slugs, turkey load, bird shot, etc – 32 auto – 7.62-CCI .22 and other .22 cal – 380 auto – 35 Rem – 308 – 30-30, -7.62x39 – 9mm – 44 mag – 45 auto – Crossman Co2 – 7.62x54. **Safes:** Cannon gun safe – Stack on metal gun safe. Accessories: Misc rifle scopes – ammo belts – holsters – ammo boxes – misc magazines – cleaning kits – ear muffs – medical supplies – Caldwell shooting rest – Leupold Marksman 1000 range finder. **Bows:** Youth, Diamond, Bow tech, Compound bow – Infern Fury crossbow – Archery target – reload bench – reload equipment, brass, primers, etc. **Guitars:** Squire electric guitar w/case – Squire Bass guitar w/case. **Coins:** American Eagle silver dollars – misc proof sets. **Furniture & Appliances:** Lawyer bookcase – glass TV stand – office lamps – dining table & 6 chairs – (5) bar stools – Sony flat screen TV – office chair – oak executive office desk – wing back chair – 4 drawer metal file cabinet – table lamps – leather chair & ottoman – love seat – bakers rack – sm secretary – king size sleigh bed frame – night stands – chest of drawers – large flat screen TV – several book cases – 3 drawer cabinet – corner curio cabinet – queen size 4 post bed – wood armoire – marble top nightstands – dresser – long length mirror – (2) matching leather recliners – leather sectional sofa & ottoman – LG OLED flat screen TV – TV stand – misc area rugs – wicker patio furniture, chairs, loveseat, tables & wicker porch swing – misc patio furniture – misc end tables – electric fireplace – Maytag dryer – Electrolux washer – more furniture not listed. **Household & Misc:** Harley Davidson 50's style Juke Box – Pioneer stereo receiver – Hamm radio set – walkie talkies – (2) swords – vacuum cleaner – misc Christmas – Bow flex treadmill – Emergency radio – linens, towels, etc – elect oil heater – Blackstone grill – wood bear statue – Camp Chef oven (propane) motorcycle helmets – ping pong table – tent – misc oils, cleaners, etc – Yamaha water tube – garden cart – (2) rolls barb wire – plastic water tank – old hay ring – Buddy heater – pool balls – misc shop items – misc household items. **Oldies:** Old military box – misc old trunks – Lodge Dutch oven – galvanized wash tub – Beanie Baby collection – Barbie Doll collection – old picture 34/2502 of Hitler & Mussolini – many more items not listed. **Real Estate:** 30 acres M/a Fenced, Mostly Pasture, With a nice home, In Ground pool, pool house, carport & nice shop. Enter this rustic home under a Wrap around porch, into the living room, With Vaulted Ceiling, hardwood Flooring Windows, open To The Kitchen + Dining area + Stairs going up to a open loft. The dining area has a large bay Window, The Kitchen Features & large bar area with Granite Counter Top, built in gas cook Top, built in oven, Microwave, nice big Country Sink refrigerator/ freezer and Country Cabinets + French door leading out To A Covered patio leading To The beautiful in ground pool and a breeze Way leading To The two Car Carport + 3 bedrooms + 3 Bath, This home was custom built in 2005, Country living at it's best, Very private and only 3 ½ miles To Town. This one is a must see everything any body Would Want. 30 Acres m/L. With Pond T Fenced, Great for horses or Cattle, sit by your own pool on those Hot Summer days and relax. A nice Shop With Concrete Floor + Electric, Storage Shed + Carport's. **Note:** This is What everyone is looking for. Private Country living + Still Close To Town. Places like This don't Come up For Sale very often. Call 417-847-2507 to preview The Real Estate before auction day or To learn how To pre-register To bid at The auction. Saturday June 6th Real Estate will sell promptly at 10:00 AM **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidder number. All terms on bidder card apply. If paying by check on large items, items will be held until check clears the auction company's bank unless prior arrangements have been made PRIOR to auction day with auction company 417-847-2507. If paying with credit card a %5 convenience fee will apply. If buying guns, pay with cash or credit card only. 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 dosing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Estate of: John Hutchcroft  
Owner: Larita Hutchcroft



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Donnie Stumpff  
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**417-847-2507**



**Auctioneer:**  
Parker Stumpff  
AR State Champion  
Auctioneer  
#2352

or if a copy of this notice was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444, RSMo, or any

other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's liability insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo. Date of the decedent's death: 11-MAR-2026  
Date of first publication: May 27, 2026  
Date of second publication: June 3, 2026  
Date of third publication: June 10, 2026  
Date of fourth publication:

June 17, 2026  
Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk  
Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit

# LEGALS

Court.  
1st insertion 05/27/26  
20-23  
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**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,  
P U B L I C  
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  
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**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  
BAIRY COUNTY  
Craig Williams  
Clerk

By: S. Parker  
Deputy Clerk  
1st insertion 5/27/26  
20-23  
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**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  
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**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  
Ellis, Cupps, 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

**TRUSTEE'S SALES**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

IN RE:  
Donald Adamson Jr and Rhonda Adamson, husband and wife  
Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Donald Adamson Jr and Rhonda Adamson, husband and wife dated April 25, 2019 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 19, Page 2143 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, June 9, 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:

LOT EIGHTEEN (18) AND 18 FEET OFF THE EAST SIDE OF LOT SEVENTEEN (17) IN BLOCK ONE (1), WOOLSEY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI. SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY, RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS AND COVENANTS OF RECORD OR FACT.

to satisfy said debt and cost.  
MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,  
Successor Trustee  
612 Spirit Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63005  
(636) 537-0110

File No: 233957.060926.469584 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 13, 2026  
05/20/2026,  
05/27/2026,  
06/03/2026  
1st insertion 05/13/26  
18-21  
-----

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

IN RE:  
Marvin A Fleming,  
and Cheryl L Ryan,  
husband and wife  
Trustee's Sale:

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Marvin A Fleming, and Cheryl L Ryan, husband and wife dated October 29, 2019 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 19, Page 6010 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, June 9, 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:

A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: C O M M E N C I N G AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD AND THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST

QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 26, THENCE SOUTH 204 FEET, THENCE EAST 554 FEET, THENCE NORTH 204 FEET, THENCE, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE PUBLIC ROAD 554 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING SITUATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 26, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

to satisfy said debt and cost.

MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,  
Successor Trustee  
612 Spirit Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63005  
(636) 537-0110  
File No: 226221.060926.470537 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 13, 2026  
05/20/2026,  
05/27/2026,  
06/03/2026  
1st insertion 05/13/26  
18-21  
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**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

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

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

TRACT 1:  
ALL LOTS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) OF WHISKEY FLATS SUBDIVISION, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDNG TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

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

ALSO  
A PART OF SUNDOWN ACRES, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS BEGGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 7: SUNDOWN ACRES:

A SUBDIVISION PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF; THENCE WEST 50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 150 FEET; THENCE EAST 50 FEET TO NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE SOUTH FOLLOWING THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 7. 150 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, IN STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDNG TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

TRACT IV:  
OF LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28), SECONG ADDITION; SUNDOWN ACRES IN STONE COUNTY MISSOURI ACCORDNO TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF,

ALSO  
AN UNDIVIDED 1/10TH INTEREST IN THE WELL AND PUMP LOCATED ON LOT 30, SUNDOWN ACRES,

SECOND ADDITION, FOR USE BENEFIT OF LOT 28, INCLUDING EASEMENT ACROSS LOT 30 FOR THE INSTALATION AND MANTENANCE OF A WATER LINE.

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

At the request of the legal holder of said note and in accordance with the provisions of the deed of trust, the undersigned trustee will on June 12, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.,

namely at 1 p.m., sell said property at public vendue to the highest bidder, for cash, at the North door of the Stone County Courthouse, 108 E. 4th Street, Galena, Missouri, to satisfy said note and costs.

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

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

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

For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by William P Blair III and Amy Blair, husband and wife dated September 8, 2020 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  
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**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](http://www.southlaw.com)

NOTICE  
Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 258072-1087558).  
1st insertion 6/3/26  
21-24  
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**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](http://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

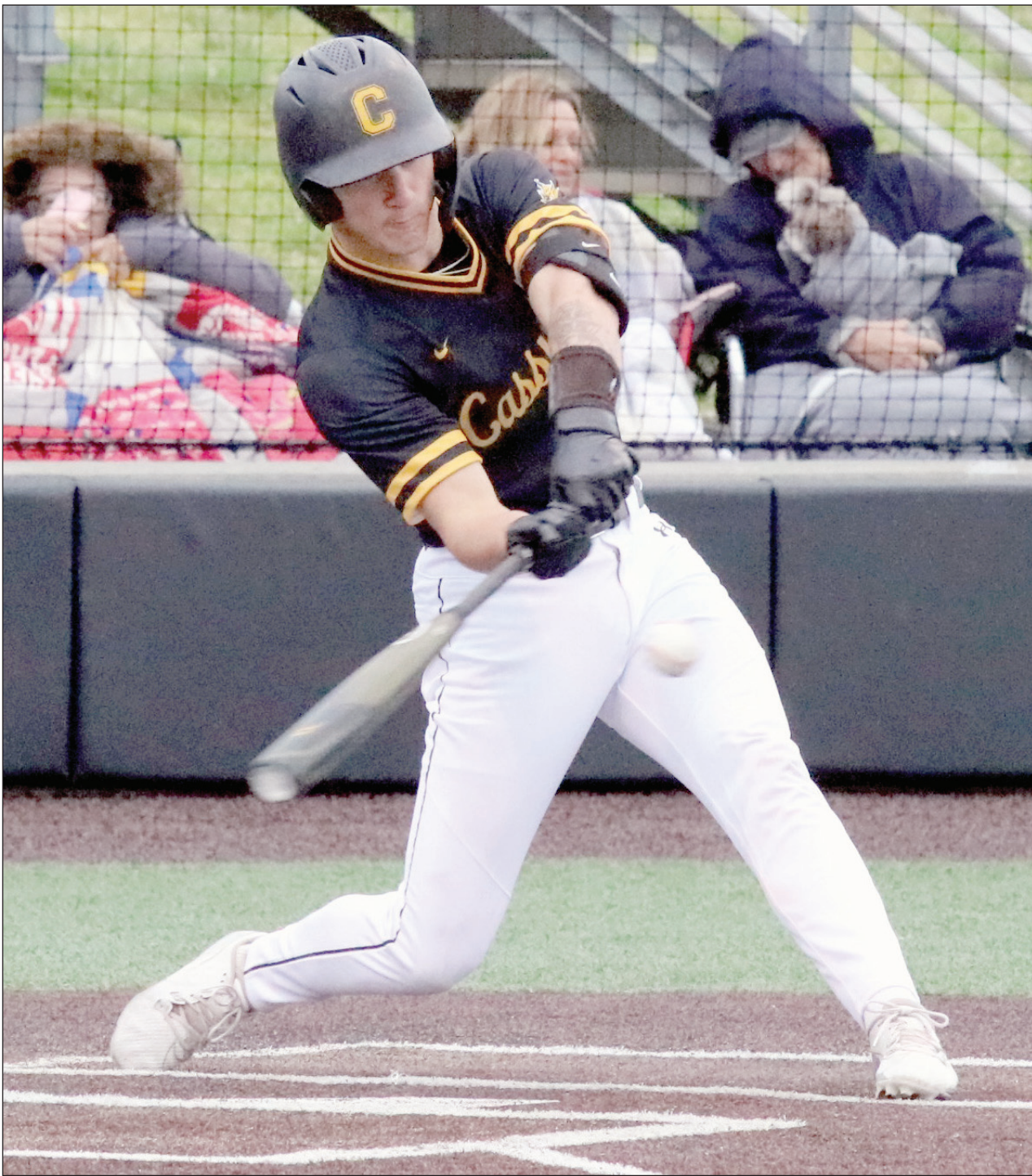
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Cassville's Colton Roark cracks an RBI in a home game against Seneca this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Easton Hughes checks a Seneca runner by throwing to first baseman Lawton England during a contest against the Indians this season. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Baseball: Focus on character development

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"We just have to continue to focus and improve on our character development skills, which will, in turn, help us develop and improve on our daily processes to help us find the success

we desire."

Beeson said ultimately, it's good to have goals and that desire to win more games, but the game is about more than the results.

"I prefer to focus on

developing the right character skills and the proper process it takes to achieve and obtain any goals we might decide to lay out for ourselves," he said.

Three Wildcats

earned All-Big 8 awards this season. They included: Masin Bryan, Second Team infield; Easton Hughes; Honorable Mention infield; and Roark, Honorable Mention DP/DH.

## Track: Relay team a strength

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Demi Roe also had an outstanding conference performance, earning gold medals in the 400, 800, and 1600 meter runs, along with a silver medal in the long jump.

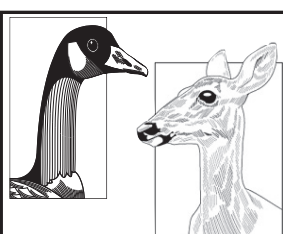
Southwest's relay teams proved to be a major strength. The 8th grade boys won conference titles in both the 4x100 relay (Bawi Cung, Joe Henry, Layton Cole, and Easton Wilson) and 4x400 relay (Layton Cole, Joe Henry, Michael Henry, and Easton Wilson). The 8th grade girls also earned gold medals in the 4x100 relay (Jaelyn Wright, Alana Smith, Georgia King, and Olivia Tedford)

and 4x400 relay (Kasey Stailey, Jaelyn Wright, Alana Smith, and Olivia Tedford).

Several school records were also broken this season. The 7th grade boys 4x100 relay team of Brodie Hall, Silas Turner, Tripp Pippin, and Zaylon Corwin broke a record that had stood since 1989. Jaelyn Wright set a new 8th grade girls shot put record, while Olivia Tedford broke the 8th grade girls triple jump record. Joe Henry also broke the 8th grade boys triple jump record.

Head Coach Jordy Long praised the athletes for their hard work, ded-

ication, and team success throughout the season.



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## Cassville man bests 31-year-old bass record



Danny Naugle, of Cassville, set a new bass fishing record on May 13, catching a 2-pound, 7-ounce yellow bass at Table Rock Lake. The catch, which is the first state record to be caught this year, tops a 1995 record in Missouri, and it is 2 ounces shy of the world record for yellow bass. Missouri Department of Conservation photo



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## WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

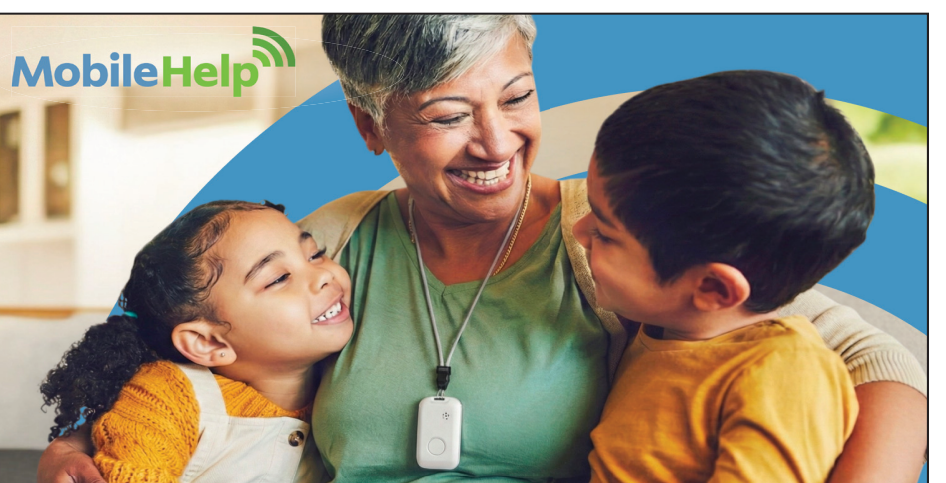
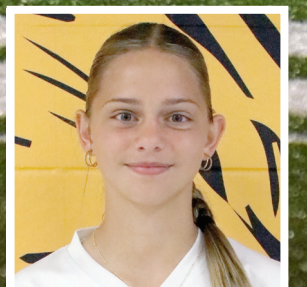
Jacob Hudson

Ellis Hobbs



Kyle Brown

Reagan Doucet



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