



CASSVILLE

Democrat

JULY 22, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

Legacy lost

Barry County

Advertiser ceases

operations after 60

years

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A 60-year-old publication

started by the late State Sen.

Emory Melton ceased opera-

tions on Thursday.

Operating since 1966, the

Advertiser in recent years

NEWSPAPER CLOSURE

Who: Barry County Advertiser

What: Has ceased operations as

of Thursday

More: Last editor to work under

late Publisher Emory Melton

reflects on values of 60-year-old

publication

mailed to more than 13,000

mailboxes for free in Barry

County, providing a robust

news product alongside

advertising and other infor-

mational and special sections.

According to the Barry

County Museum, In December

of 1966, the Advertiser was

started up as a hybrid weekly

publication which combined

the qualities of a newspaper

and a “shopper” by Willard

Burton and Jean Melton. After

more than two decades of the

publication, Burton retired

and Jean Melton continued

as its publisher. Following

Jean Melton’s death in March

2010, Emory Melton assumed

the publisher role.

Its last editor to work

under late publisher Emory

Melton says the newspaper’s

end marks more than the loss

of a weekly publication — it

represents the closing of a

chapter in Barry County’s

recorded history.

Charlea Estes-Jones, who

met Melton when she inter-

viewed for the editor’s posi-

tion in 2013, said she quickly

realized journalism was one

of his life’s true passions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

FEDERAL SENTENCING

Who: Dennis E. McMullen, 69,

of Purdy

What: Sentenced to 8 years in

federal prison

For: Possessing fentanyl, cocaine

and heroin with the intent to

distribute, and for possessing

a firearm in furtherance of a

drug-trafficking crime

Purdy

man gets

8 years

McMullen to serve

time for drug

trafficking, illegally

possessing firearm

A Purdy man was sentenced

in federal court for trafficking

fentanyl, cocaine and heroin,

as well as illegally possessing a

firearm in furtherance of a drug

trafficking crime.

Dennis E. McMullen, 69,

was sentenced by Chief United

States District Judge Brian

C. Wimes to eight years (96

months) in federal prison for

possessing fentanyl, cocaine

and heroin with the intent to

distribute, and for possessing

a firearm in furtherance of a

drug-trafficking crime, followed

by five years of supervised

release. McMullen pleaded

guilty to the offenses on Sept.

29, 2025.

On July 30, 2024, inves-

tigators with the United

States Drug Enforcement

Administration (DEA), Ozarks

Drug Enforcement Team

(ODET), and Barry County,

Mo., Sheriff’s Office (BCSO)

executed a search warrant on

McMullen’s residence following

a controlled purchase of fentan-

yl from McMullen. Investigators

searched the residence and dis-

covered various controlled sub-

stances, paraphernalia, and a

firearm. In the kitchen, inves-

tigators seized plastic baggies

containing suspected controlled

substances, including a baggie

located inside a plastic tub of

candy, an additional white rock-

like substance and scales.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

WATER SUPPLY

Who: Cassville City Administrator

Richard Asbill

What: Emailed list of questions

relevant to the sludge-tank’s

planned proximity to City’s

source-water

Response: Permits for storage

and permits for land application

are separate and distinct deci-

sions, based on the applications

Cassville

public water

concerns

arise

City administrator

questions scenarios

that may lead to

contamination

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Richard Asbill, city adminis-

trator of Cassville, is concerned

about the future quality of the

city’s public drinking water if the

Missouri Department of Natural

Resources (DNR) approves a

pending operating permit for a

sludge-storage tank.

The 900,000-gallon tank

will be constructed on private

property two miles north of, and

uphill from, Cassville, alongside

Farm Road 1095.

Asbill believes the planned

site for the sludge tank could be

too close to the city’s five public

wells, located at various loca-

tions and elevations throughout

the city of some 3,000 residents,

situated at the juncture of seven

valleys alongside Flat Creek. The

wells — which serve residents,

businesses, schools, healthcare

providers, public-safety opera-

tions and other essential com-

munity services — draw from

groundwater, as do those of most

municipalities in the southern

Missouri Ozarks, according to

the DNR.

“A major source of ground-

water concern [in Ozarks

karst regions], according to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6A

Bouncing, climbing, splashing at Purdy Festival



Everligh Palmer, 4, of Monett, goes down the water slide at the Purdy Festival on Saturday,

held at the city park. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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Vol. 155, No. 28

July 22, 2026

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NEWS BRIEFS

Cassville Health Care and Rehab hosting Back to School event

Cassville Health Care and Rehabilitation, located at 1300 County Farm Road in Cassville, will sponsor a Back to School Backpack Night on Aug. 7 from 5-7 p.m. Attendees can pick out a backpack, which will be filled with grade-level school supplies. Residents will help at the tables, along with staff. The event is geared toward families in the community that cannot afford school supplies for their children.

Eagle Rock Community Association hosting political event

The Eagle Rock Community Association is inviting the community to a Meet and Greet with Amy Boxx on July 23 at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Community Center, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. The Community Association invites voters to attend to help make an informed decision on their vote for Barry County Prosecuting Attorney.

Take a walk down memory lane

Take a walk down memory lane in downtown Monett from 1887 to now. Come share what once was and appreciate the diverse places of business that Monett Broadway has welcomed over the years. The event is for ages 18-and-older, and it is from 5-6 p.m. on Thursday, starting at the Monett Historical Society and Museum, located at 422 Broadway in Monett.

In-person absentee voting through Aug. 3

Two week in-person, no excuse absentee voting for the Aug. 4 Primary Election runs through Aug. 3. Voters must present photo identification to vote. Acceptable IDs include: Missouri Driver License, Missouri Non-Driver License, Military ID or Passport. Barry County Clerk’s Office will be open Saturday, August 1, 2026, for absentee voting from 9 a.m. to noon. Anyone who has moved or had an address change should need to contact the Clerk’s office or come into the office and have their information updated, before Election Day. If unable to vote in-person, a voter may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625 or fax to: 417-847-5311. The office will need: Name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, phone number, party, reason for voting absentee and signature. Those who live in the Monett area can go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk’s office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. The last day to request an absentee ballot is today (Wednesday). Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Election Day. For more information, call the Barry County Clerk’s Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

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.; Friday, Tin Paint at Zone 4, 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Story Time, 10 a.m.

Old Church Gallery Farmers Market open

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

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

Cassville Farmers’ Market open on Saturdays

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

Lessons offered before Seligman’s Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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

Mark Chapman Band delights at First on Front



Solomon Lunsford, 3, of Cassville, got his air guitar tuned to perfection at the March Chapman Band set during the First on Front concert in Cassville on July 10. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Mark Chapman Band was one of multiple to perform in the annual concert series sponsored by First State Bank of the Ozarks. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Mark Chapman sings during the First on Front concert in Cassville on July 10 at the Aquatic Center Park. Mark Chapman Band was one of multiple to perform in the annual concert series sponsored by First State Bank of the Ozarks. The first two concerts were held in Monett. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Mark Chapman Band was one of multiple to perform in the annual concert series sponsored by First State Bank of the Ozarks. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT

July 22, 2026
Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five
Number 28
(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

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 ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com.

CASSVILLE Democrat

COVERING BARRY COUNTY LIKE THE MORNING DEW

Troutman Media LLC
Troutman Media LLC is family owned and operated.
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JORDAN TROUTMAN, OWNER/GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. Box 486 • 600 Main Street • Cassville, MO 65625
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Water: Asbill questions whether DNR evaluating consequences of a leak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

the DNR's Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NSMP), 'is the potentially rapid and unfiltered transmission of contaminated surface runoff or leachate through fractures or sinkholes and directly into potable aquifers.'

Agricultural activities, such as the planned land-application of processing waste after the storage tanks are constructed, are considered a nonpoint source of pollution, or a no-discharge operation, because the pollution originates from a non-specific source. By comparison, point sources of pollution have an identifiable discharge point.

Asbill is familiar with the DNR's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. "[The plan is] primarily Missouri's policy and planning document under Clean Water Act §319," Asbill said. "It focuses on watershed planning, voluntary practices, monitoring, grants and reduction of diffuse pollution, [but] it is not itself a facility-permitting regulation."

However, the plan contains language directly relevant to the DNR's proposal to place a sludge-storage tank in close proximity to Cassville, showing that the Department should be aware of the hazards involved, including the threat of surface and groundwater contamination from animal production and processing waste in karst landscapes, Asbill says.

Caves are a known conduit for groundwater in the karst regions of the Ozarks. Other karst features include sinkholes, springs and losing streams, all of which facilitate the infiltration of groundwater and its rapid movement. Barry County — part of the 47,000-square-mile interior highlands of the Ozark and Springfield Plateaus — features around 200 caves, states the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

Crystal Caverns is one of Barry County's best-known cave systems. Once operated commercially, the cave's entrance lies at the northern edge of Cassville. The extent of its underground footprint has never been fully determined.

If their operating permit is approved by the DNR, HydroAg Environmental, LLC, (based in Russellville, Ark.) will use the sludge storage tank, two miles north of the known groundwater-conduit of Crystal Caverns, for inclement-weather storage of food-processing and

meat and poultry-processing wastewater residuals.

Residuals consist of the slurry which remains after coagulant chemicals facilitate their separation from liquids during the wastewater pre-treatment process. The liquids are treated to meet federal guidelines before being released into the environment. The slurry, or "sludge," is loaded into semi-tankers for transportation and land-application to farmland.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), meat and poultry processing effluent is one of the largest sources of industrial nutrient pollution in the country.

Land-applied materials can contain, but are not limited to, animal blood, bodily fluids, pathogens, and excreta, and could have a variety of impacts on the immediate and surrounding environment, states an EPA Environmental Impact Report.

"Effects are not limited to the property on which waste is disposed, because contaminants can percolate into groundwater, accumulate in waterways, and cause air, soil, and water pollution elsewhere," the EPA document states.

Because of planned land-application in Barry County, at sites as of yet unspecified, Asbill believes that rural water districts and wells could also be endangered.

Groundwater in karst regions can travel as much as one mile per day, said hydrologist, Tom Aley, in an MDC publication, titled "Conserving Missouri's Caves and Karst." By way of comparison, groundwater travel rates in non-karst areas are typically only a few feet per year, Aley said.

On Friday, Asbill submitted an email to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with a list of questions relevant to the sludge-tank's planned proximity to City's source-water.

"The location of the proposed storage facility near Cassville, together with the karst characteristics of the surrounding area, raises questions regarding groundwater movement and the protection of the City's public water-supply wells," he said.

Asbill's request for clarification follows a 30-day public-comment period and two public meetings hosted by the DNR for the purpose of receiving public input about draft permits for the Cassville storage

"If groundwater monitoring is not required, please explain how the DNR determined that such monitoring is unnecessary at this location."

RICHARD ASBILL, CASSVILLE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
On How the DNR evaluates how it will monitor a 900,000-gallon sludge tank

tank and two similar tanks to be constructed by Denali Water Solutions, LLC, at sites near Wentworth and Humansville.

The City of Cassville participated in the public-comment process, which ended July 15, Asbill says, but after further review, more questions arose.

Asbill questions whether the DNR's permit will require baseline and ongoing groundwater monitoring.

"If groundwater monitoring is not required, please explain how the DNR determined that such monitoring is unnecessary at this location," he said.

Asbill expressed additional concerns about the source and testing of materials in the tank; their secure containment; how leaks would be detected; and how emergency notification to the City would take place if there was a leak that threatened Cassville's drinking water.

Asbill further asked how the department would handle odor complaints, and what a disposal plan would look like, if disposal of the tank's contents became necessary in response to environmental contamination or the operator's inability to fulfill a contract.

"Are resources available if such a disposal is necessary?" he said. "We recognize that DNR must evaluate the application under applicable Missouri law and regulatory standards. The City's request is that the final administrative record clearly demonstrate how Cassville's public water supply, the area's karst geology, and the potential consequences of an unauthorized release were considered in the Department's decision."

Asbill recommends that the DNR consult with the Department's Drinking Water Division and the city of Cassville's public water personnel before a decision is made.

He also asks that the DNR provide the city with a written response to his questions or identify the documents in the permit record that address them, before final agency action regarding the approval of a permit for the Cassville storage tank.

"[We need to understand] how those concerns will be addressed before a final permit decision [by the DNR] is made," Asbill said. "DNR's own statewide management plan recognizes the precise regional conditions and pollutant pathways raised by the City. DNR should explain how its permit review and proposed conditions are consistent with those findings."

Asbill questions whether the DNR is evaluating only whether the sludge tank can physically hold the material, or if the Department is also evaluating the environmental consequences of a leak, overflow, transportation spill or ultimate land application in a karst region.

Heather Peters, water pollution section chief with the DNR, responded that permits for storage and permits for land application are separate and distinct decisions, based on the applications.

"These storage tank draft permits expressly prohibit land application under the permit conditions," she said. "Material must be managed under an appropriate permit or hauled out of state. In short, I cannot deny a permit application for storage based on concerns raised with other permits. They are two separate decisions (and issuance of one permit decision does not affect the other permit decision)."

Peters explained that state and federal laws and regulations establish permit application, permit issuance and permit denial requirements.

"Our decisions must be based on, and are limited by, the applicable laws and regulations under which we are operating," Peters said. "We cannot render decisions under the Missouri Clean Water Law based on concerns about air/odor, nuisance law, traffic or other issues that are beyond the scope of our law and implementing regulations."

Regarding setback distances from public wells, Peters explained that the department has regulations that establish setback distances to those wells. Any permit decision would be based on those setback

distances established in regulation.

"If interested parties would like to discuss those setback distances, our rulemaking process offers many extensive opportunities for feedback and input," Peters said. "A permit establishes enforceable requirements, limitations and conditions. A permit decision should be based on a) whether the application meets all of the necessary requirements to obtain a permit and b) whether the permit is sufficiently protective and is in compliance with all applicable permitting regulations."

According to Peters, inspections, compliance assistance, and enforcement are all used to verify compliance or noncompliance with the established permit conditions, laws and regulations.

"For example, the draft permit expressly prohibits spills or overflows and requires immediate reporting of any releases," she said. "The draft permit also requires two methods of leak detection to monitor for leaks and releases. We cannot deny a permit application based on a concern that the responsible authority could violate the permit, any more than a police officer could

prohibit someone from buying a fast car because it could speed. We must address violations as they arise."

Peters emphasized that the permit also includes language that specifies that the permit may be revoked if the facility/tank cannot meet the no-discharge requirements.

According to Peters, some additional permit requirements were added to the draft permit after the first public notice in response to constructive public feedback.

"The department is currently reviewing comments received during the most recent public notice to determine a) the appropriate permit decision and/or b) changes that are warranted to the draft permit," she said.

Peters says that she does not have final responses to any of the comments, as the department is still reviewing the comments prior to rendering a final permit decision.

A full copy of Asbill's letter to the DNR can be viewed in this story online at www.cassville-democrat.com.

A copy of Asbill's letter was sent to State Sen. Mike Moon, R-Ash Grove, and State Rep. Scott Cupps, R-Shell Knob.

Barry County Health Corner

Back-to-school immunizations available

Did you know that immunization programs are considered one of the most important public health achievements in the world? Together with clean water and improved access to health care, immunizations have contributed to most countries' life expectancy.

According to data from the World Health Organization, vaccination campaigns prevent 4 to 5 million deaths annually worldwide. The Barry County Health Department offers all required vaccinations for school on a walk-in basis from Monday through Thursday until 5 p.m.

Most eighth-grade students will require Tdap and meningitis vaccines, seniors will need meningitis vaccines, and kindergartners will need Dtap, Polio, MMR and Varicella vaccines. We offer combination vaccines for students who are previously up to date on their vaccinations.

We also now have a combination vaccination for teens 16 years and older that protects against 5 different bacterial strains of meningitis (A,C,W,Y, and B). These are the most common strains that can be fatal, according to CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

Back to School will be here before you know it, so beat the rush and come in for your vaccinations today. You can do your part in keeping our community healthy by vaccinating yourself and your children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

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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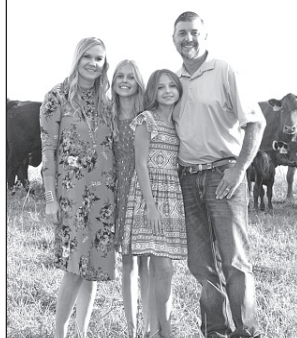
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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Looming in optimism

It was 8:10 p.m. on Thursday in Cardiff, Wales, when I got the news.

Three local newspapers and our press ceased operations — effective immediately.

I was at the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors annual conference, preparing to speak on a panel about the future of journalism in the digital age, and to ultimately accept my fourth column-writing award from the organization in the last five years.

As excited as I was for what was in store for the Friday panel and Saturday award gala, the news gave me pause.

The fact the Branson Tri-Lakes and Crane Chronicle newspapers both shuttered is sad enough for the state of local journalism, and adding in the loss of the press we've relied on for the last three years since my wife, Jordan, and I bought the Democrat, well, that amplified the feeling.

Yet, what hit me hardest was the loss of a publication dear to all of our hearts — the Barry County Advertiser.

I started at the Cassville Democrat in January 2014, and the very first thing I learned about my new position is I had a more than worthy competitor. Just over three years removed from the death of his wife, Jean, Emory Melton sat at the helm of the free weekly mailed to 13,000-plus mailboxes each week.

I met Emory in his office just a few weeks after my arrival. If I could describe the man at that time in one word — sharp. His editor at the time, Charlea Estes-Jones, was equally as such. I knew from the start I would have two people who would challenge me as a journalist in the best of ways, and Charlea, full disclosure and with her as the main interviewee in this week's ode to the Advertiser in our top story, has become one of my best friends over the dozen years we've known each other.

There's no counting the number of people over the years who have hinted to me, or said outright, that print is a dying industry. The fact that the Advertiser and the Democrat coincided for as long as we did can still be thrown in the face of every one of those people who hold that belief.

The loss of any local newspaper is sad, but the loss of the Advertiser should hit all of us exponentially. I, like all of you, will greatly miss having that publication in my mailbox weekly.

Having two publications printing weekly in Barry County made us better. At times we covered the same stories, as weeklies should, but more often, we covered different stories. That breadth of coverage, the chronicling of our history in real time, is something few communities have had for many years.

Less than a week out, we've yet to see the total impact, but having been in this business for nearly half my life, I can assure you it's bigger than any of us can see at this point in time.

Since the news broke beyond my inbox, the reaction has met the moment. Multiple TV and print publications across the region have reported on the hows and whys of the Advertiser's conclusion.

Those details are of interest to many, but not to me. In this newfound absence is a newfound duty. The Monett Times, Crane County Chronicle, Branson Tri-Lakes, Barry County Advertiser — gone.

The term "news desert" sits in the back of my mind. Day by day, month by month, there are new news deserts.

Barry County will not become one.

In the past week, many have called to subscribe to our publication, and while we are grateful for any new readers, we recognize it has come at a great cost.

Also in the past week, we have had an equal number of calls asking if we still send a print edition — hopeful folks who want to hold a newspaper in their hands and who will read it from front to back.

We shall not, and never will, take those folks for granted.

The closing of the Branson Tri-Lakes print shop has put us in a minuscule bind. I'm very proud to say that through our connections with other weekly publications across the Ozarks, the Cassville Democrat is not going anywhere.

Last week, we printed in Eldon, a three-hour drive we are more than willing to take, and we are thankful we have like-minded folks willing to help us not miss a single issue. That said, it's not easy, nor will it be any time soon. We are exploring the best options to continue to deliver a product in which you, and we, can take pride. There are many behind-the-scenes processes we are working diligently to sort out, and while the future may not be easy, it is a future on which we are encouraged to deliver.

If there's one takeaway from the last week, it's resilience. I can't say for certain, but I surmise Emory Melton would push any local news source to carry on, not only to record history, but to make good on community journalism's promise to keep printing the faces, names and happenings of a county that deserves the best any one-handed newspaper hanger, flooded in work as I may be, can give.

We won't let you — or Emory — down in that regard. Cheers to the success of a 60-year publication that met its end far too soon.

The future looms, but not in fear, in optimism.

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.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Superintendent: Amendment 5 presents important questions about Missouri's future

On Aug. 4, Missouri voters will decide the fate of Amendment 5, one of the most significant tax proposals to appear on a statewide ballot in many years.

Supporters believe it will strengthen Missouri's economy by creating a pathway to eventually eliminate the state's individual income tax. Opponents argue that doing so could make it more difficult for future legislatures to provide stable funding for public education and other essential state services. Like many statewide issues, there are thoughtful arguments on both sides.

As superintendent of the Cassville R-IV School District, my purpose is not to encourage anyone to vote for or against Amendment 5. My responsibility is to help our community understand why this proposal has generated so much discussion among educators across Missouri and why its outcome could matter to students here in Barry County.

Public education in Missouri is funded through a partnership of local, state, and federal dollars. While local taxpayers provide an important portion of a school district's revenue, the State of Missouri also plays a critical role in ensuring that students, regardless of where they live, have access to quality educational opportunities.

One important piece of context is often overlooked. Compared to the rest of the nation, Missouri relies much less on state funding for its public schools. Nationally, approximately 47% of public school funding comes from state sources, while local funding accounts for about 45% and federal funding about 8%. In Missouri, however, only about 33% of school funding comes from the state, with 49% coming from local sources and 18% from federal funding.

Missouri also ranks near the bottom nationally in its share of state funding for public education. Adding to those concerns, the General Assembly underfunded Missouri's Foundation Formula by approximately \$190 million this year. Many school leaders believe the state is already struggling to adequately fund public education before any future changes to the state's tax structure are considered.

Amendment 5 would establish a constitutional framework for eventually eliminating Missouri's individual income tax under certain economic conditions, with the details of implementation left to future legislation.

Supporters point to provisions they believe would protect education funding during that transition and argue that economic growth generated by lower taxes could offset lost revenue. Opponents question whether those protections would be sufficient if economic conditions change or state revenues fail to keep pace with increasing costs.

Those differing viewpoints



MERLYN JOHNSON

are at the heart of the statewide debate.

For school districts like Cassville, the issue is not simply whether state funding goes up or down next year. The larger concern is long-term financial predictability. School districts build budgets months in advance and often make commitments that extend years into the future. Hiring teachers, maintaining competitive salaries, replacing buses, updating technology, improving school safety, and caring for aging facilities all require thoughtful long-range planning.

Even when funding ultimately remains stable, uncertainty alone can make those decisions more difficult.

A recent analysis by the Missouri Budget Project estimated that Cassville R-IV could lose approximately \$2.3 million in annual revenue if Amendment 5 were fully implemented. We agree that Amendment 5 could result in a significant reduction in state funding for public education over time.

However, the revenue assumptions used in that analysis do not match the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) official 2025 data. According to the DESE Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS) Portal, Cassville R-IV's revenue is 50.57% local, 39.10% state, and 10.33% federal, rather than the 45% local, 34% state, and 21% federal figures used in the analysis.

As a result, while we believe the district could experience a substantial financial impact if state revenues decline, we cannot conclude that the loss would necessarily reach \$2.3 million. The actual impact will depend on future legislative decisions, economic conditions, and how any constitutional changes are implemented.

Cassville R-IV is fortunate to be in a solid financial position today because of responsible planning by our Board of Education, careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and the continued support of our community. That financial stability allows us to invest in our students while preparing for future needs.

However, we also recognize that our district does not operate in isolation. Decisions made in Jefferson City can affect every public school district in Missouri, including those here in Barry County.

The same challenges facing Cassville are also facing neighboring school districts. Rising costs continue to affect nearly every aspect of school operations. Salaries and employee benefits remain the largest investment any district makes, and competition for qualified educators continues to increase.

Transportation expenses rise with fuel prices and the reality of serving students across large rural areas. Utility costs, insurance premiums, technology needs, building maintenance, and school safety improvements all continue to demand greater financial resources each year.

At the same time, many rural communities are experiencing declining or stagnant student enrollment, placing additional pressure on school finances.

These challenges are being experienced across much of rural Missouri. Amendment 5 did not create these issues, but many educators are asking whether changes to the state's long-term revenue structure could make managing them more difficult in the years ahead. That question deserves thoughtful consideration regardless of where one stands on the amendment itself.

Our public schools represent far more than classrooms and school buildings. They are among the largest employers in many communities, support local businesses, prepare tomorrow's workforce, host community events, and often serve as the heart of small towns. Strong schools contribute to strong communities, and conversations about tax policy naturally become conversations about the future of public education.

Regardless of how Missourians vote on Aug. 4, one thing should remain constant: our commitment to providing every child with a quality education. At Cassville R-IV, we will continue making responsible financial decisions, planning carefully for the future, and placing students at the center of every decision we make. We have successfully navigated financial challenges before, and we will continue doing everything within our control to provide outstanding opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Amendment 5 presents important questions about Missouri's future. As voters consider those questions, I simply encourage everyone to become informed, review information from multiple credible sources, understand the potential implications for public education, and recognize that the decisions made today may shape the educational opportunities available to Missouri's children for many years to come.

Merlyn Johnson is the superintendent of the Cassville school district. He may be reached at mjohnson@cassville.k12.mo.us.

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50 years ago
July 21, 1976
— GOLDEN DISTRICT SPLIT IS
CASSVILLE AND SHELL KNOB

The Golden C-9 School District of Barry County, ordered to cease operations on June 30, 1977, by the Missouri Department of Education, will probably be divided between the Shell Knob and Cassville districts. A meeting Monday night at the school indicated patron sentiment was running in that direction, according to board president Al Couthron. Couthron explained the meeting was called to obtain the preferences of district residents. The school is being closed because it does not meet state standards for pupil enrollment. The Golden board said a small part of the district in the Kings River area would probably be transferred to Shell Knob, with the major portion going to Cassville. Board members will soon outline maps of the proposed division and submit them to the respective districts. Action will also be taken to present the proposal to the Barry County Board of Education for reorganization elections, probably to be conducted next spring. Both the Shell Knob and Cassville districts will need to accept the additional territory before the process is complete. Couthron and the remaining board members — Bob Johnson, Raymond Vader, Madge Finch, Faye Allen and Don Torbett — said the reorganization process would begin immediately. Thirty persons, most of whom were not parents of school-age students, attended Monday night's meeting. Concerns about the present building and facilities were eased by Charles Foster, representing 10 counties of southwest Missouri with the State Department of Education. He told the group that all assets and liabilities of the C-9 district would belong to the district with which it reorganized. The Golden board plans to maintain the district until next June while continuing to make the building available for community groups. Members also believe the facility will remain available to the Golden community following reorganization. This school year, Golden will transport all pupils to the Cassville campus. Included will be approximately 35 high school students who have previously attended classes there, along with 15 junior high and elementary students. Golden has maintained the first eight grades for a number of years while Cassville provided high school education on a transportation and tuition basis. This year, all C-9 district students will attend Cassville, with the district paying the associated costs. Couthron said the present Golden tax levy is \$2.95 per \$100 valuation. Reorganization with Cassville would result in the Cassville levy of \$3.75 applying to Golden property. Closing the Golden school will leave only two rural school facilities in Barry County. Jenkins and Shell Knob will remain open in a county once served by more than 100 districts and schools. Cassville serves the Shell Knob area for high school students, while Jenkins is divided between the Cassville and Aurora districts.

—1975 RECORDS PRESENT NEW
PICTURE OF DAIRY FARMING

The Mail-In-Record summary of dairymen in the extreme southwest corner of Missouri provides reliable guides to how dairymen performed in 1975, according to Ken Morris, area farm management specialist. Morris said, "It might be interesting to compare some of these to the 1974 figures." It appears the average herd is growing in size and capital requirements. The average herd in 1975 increased to 81 cows and 111 other cattle, an increase of 14 cows

and 28 additional cattle. Usually one replacement is on hand for each cow in the milking herd. Perhaps low beef prices and the need for greater dollar volume have influenced dairymen. In 1974, the average farm sold 754,932 pounds of milk and 32,674 pounds of beef. In 1975, that increased to 950,000 pounds of milk and 32,500 pounds of beef. Milk sold for \$8.34 per hundredweight in 1974 and \$8.23 in 1975, but dairymen reduced their loss from \$1.88 per hundredweight to 58 cents. The total cost of producing a hundredweight of milk dropped from \$10.10 in 1974 to \$8.81 in 1975, while feed costs declined from \$6.50 to \$5.96. There is a sizable amount of capital required to establish and maintain a dairy herd. Producers in this group have slightly under \$300,000 invested, with a significant portion being borrowed operating capital. Approximately \$2,700 to \$2,800 per cow is invested in land, buildings and equipment, with another \$500 to \$600 invested in the cow and her operating needs. Most dairymen are able to produce most of the roughage needed for their cattle, allowing some earnings from the land above production costs. It is interesting to note that fixed costs — depreciation, taxes and interest on herd and land — were lower per hundredweight of milk. The total dollar figure changed little from 1974 but was spread over approximately 200,000 additional pounds of milk, demonstrating the economics of scale. Milk production per cow increased about 400 pounds from 1974 to 1975, and the addition of 14 cows producing an average of 11,659 pounds each significantly increased production. The outlook for 1976 appeared somewhat better as milk prices increased and were expected to continue rising. Demand for manufactured dairy products had remained stable to increasing. Feed prices had generally declined slightly but could increase into harvest, depending largely upon weather conditions in the Corn Belt. It still did not appear to be the time for widespread new dairy operations, as the high cost of getting started and the need for substantial production volume continued to warrant caution for those requiring heavy debt.

40 years ago
July 30, 1986
— GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR
GEORGE'S CO. POULTRY PLANT

Plans of George's Co. of Springdale, Arkansas, to construct a poultry processing plant near Butterfield got a shot in the arm Tuesday when the Department of Housing and Urban Development approved a \$750,000 Urban Development Action Grant. The funds, through the City of Cassville, were part of the financing process for the multi-million-dollar project announced in early May. Senator Thomas Eagleton and Congressman Gene Taylor announced the awarding of the grant. Each office had been involved in the application process. Both said they were "sincerely happy for Cassville and surrounding community and hoped the project would contribute to further development of the area." Otto Jech, vice president of George's, told the Democrat the company had been informed and was extremely happy the grant had been approved. Funds in the grant will be repaid to the City of Cassville at a low rate of interest. Mayor Rolland Meador, with Gary George, company president, and others, negotiated in Washington, D.C., for the grant application. Jech said this week the company next would proceed to drill a water well at the location on Highway 37 and Route W near Butterfield. "Water



40 YEARS AGO: THEY WOULDN'T FRY — Thinking about cooking an egg on the sidewalk in current hot temperatures, you would naturally turn to an expert. But, even the efforts of Mickey Belosi, right, extension home economist, couldn't make a couple of eggs fry on a black parking lot Monday. Helping was Kelly Horner, secretary at the Barry County Extension Office. With temperatures bouncing between 101° and 104° at the time, the hen fruit still wouldn't cook. So, we can tell you for certain, even though it's hot, record hot, the sidewalks won't cook an egg. Temperatures the last few days, ranging from 101° to 104°, have been setting record highs for this period of the year. They have also been drying out pastures which haven't been blessed with general showers in several weeks. Democrat file photo

will be an important factor of the project, so we will take this step next," he said. The company official also said the plant site on the Odis Holder property had been determined by architects. The 87,000-square-foot initial structure, requiring 13 months to build, will be at the southeast corner of the 244 acres being purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Holder. An adjoining 120-acre tract farther north is under option from Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Yarnal. Jech said Tuesday anticipated construction would begin during the second quarter of 1987, placing the start next April, May or June. Overall funding of the project is through a commitment by the Barry County Industrial Development Authority to issue revenue bonds estimated at up to \$15 million. Estimated plant cost is \$10 million. Payroll at the plant, in a two-shift operation, would be 400 persons, early announcements said. George's, operating in Springdale since 1920, plans for the Butterfield plant to process 6,000 chickens per hour. In its first venture outside Springdale, the 66-year-old company said more than 200 grower families would be needed to keep the processing plant operating. An unspecified number of contracts have been issued by the company, and poultry houses are under construction throughout the area. A letter from Senator Eagleton's office last week said the UDAG application had previously been approved by field offices in Kansas City. Headquarters staff in Washington performed an in-depth review of the project. The senator explained the grants were "determined to be the most competitive in terms of both the economic distress of the City and the merits of the project being selected for preliminary approval, subject to the availability of funds." Agreements between George's and the City of Cassville will further outline details of the grant. Under HUD guidance, the \$750,000 will be repaid to Cassville for future industrial development. "A start-up schedule and interest rate will be determined in closing agreements," said city attorney Don Cupps. Cherry Warren, chairman of the county IDA, said George's currently has a letter of inducement from the industrial authority for issuing "up to \$15 million in revenue bonds." "When the actual issuance of the bonds will take place is entirely up to George's," he said. City,

IDA and local officials said they felt the George's project was completely assured with completion of the grant process. The grant is the second UDAG project completed for Cassville. Alvey Inc. of St. Louis acquired \$350,000 in grant funds through the city when it built here three years ago. Those grant funds are scheduled to begin repayment in 1987.

30 years ago
July 24, 1996
— CAMP BARNABUS OFFERS HOPE
TO CRITICALLY ILL KIDS

Eight-year-old Elizabeth has just finished a typical morning at camp. She and three other young girls are sitting in their cabin combing out wet hair and talking about the morning spent shooting at the rifle range, swimming and riding horses. These activities may seem mundane to the average camper, but for Elizabeth, a hemophiliac, firing a rifle and saddling up a horse are two things she never dreamed she would be doing. The youngster from Oklahoma is only one of the many critically ill children who have found a refuge from their sickness at a summer getaway called Camp Barnabus. Named after Barnabus the encourager, the camp, located west of Purdy near Pioneer, opens the doors of Christian camping to children with special medical needs. It has the distinction of being the only Christian camp in existence solely devoted to critically and terminally ill children. For the first time since its inception

two summers ago, Camp Barnabus has a home of its own. Founders and camp directors Paul and Cyndy Teas purchased the existing Camp Soaring Hawk facility in January and worked through the winter and early spring to prepare the facility for campers this summer. Prior to purchasing their own facility, the Teases held a one-week camp for two summers at Kanakuk Kamp's Kids Across America facility near Golden. Cyndy said the process of converting the 60-year-old camp to make it handicap accessible has been fairly simple and inexpensive. "It was as if somewhere in God's plan He knew this is where Camp Barnabus would be someday." Since the camp opened in June, four nine-day sessions have been held for children age 7 through 17. The first was for children with developmental disorders, the second for children with hemophilia, the third for children with blood diseases and cancer and the fourth for children with any medical disability. The fifth and final session of camp begins Thursday and runs through Aug. 2. It is open to children with any physical disability, including blind children and those who are confined to wheelchairs. Each session, campers are encouraged to focus on what they can do, not what they can't do. They are taught to concentrate on abilities rather than disabilities. Challenges include swimming, mountain biking, volleyball, fishing, ropes courses, basketball, soccer, water slide, tent camping, archery, canoeing, horseback riding, arts and crafts and rappelling. The camp offers all of these regular camp activities at a slower pace. Sessions are adapted according to the individual needs of each camper. These children are pushed to stretch their capabilities but never beyond what their medical condition can safely bear. One unique feature of the camp is its clinic and medical staff. Cyndy said a physician is on camp premises during all sessions and is assisted by at least three pediatric nurses. The clinic is larger than most camp clinics and is equipped to handle any medical emergency. "We are able to serve kids that other camps turn away," Cyndy said. As a registered nurse who has worked with chronically and terminally ill children, Cyndy knows what kind of pain families go through when dealing with a sick child. The illness not only affects the child but their parents and siblings as well. "The divorce rate is incredible among parents with sick children, about 80 to 85 percent," Cyndy said. "Camp Barnabus gives parents a break from their day-to-day life in crisis. If we can allow parents time to refocus on their own relationship, we can benefit the whole

family." The camp is also open to the siblings of sick children who experience camp right alongside their brother or sister. "When one child is sick, they get all the attention," Cyndy said. "The siblings either recede into the background, act out or become a mother. By including the siblings in camp, it makes them feel important too. It helps readjust family dynamics towards normalcy. Siblings begin to see each other as brother and sister again, not as sick brother and well sister." Comments from parents have been supportive of the Teases' efforts. One such parent is Page Stansbury of Cassville. Page's daughter, Erin, who is developmentally disabled, and son, Travis, attended Camp Barnabus' inaugural camp session. Page said both her children benefited from the camp experience. "It was a positive experience for both kids," Page said. "It is just such a beautiful setting. All the counselors are continually cheerful." "The opportunity to get out among teenage, positive role models was wonderful for Travis. In that setting, he got to see good teenagers doing good things." The counselor-to-camper ratio at Barnabus is two-to-one. Counselors are screened carefully and are selected for their strong commitment to children and their Christian values. At the beginning of every session, counselors receive orientation for each camper so that personal needs can be met. Cyndy said counselors can "make or break" a camper's experience. She adds that it's inspiring to see the love and interaction develop between counselors and campers. Daily activities are bookended by a devotional time in the morning and in the evening. Throughout their term at camp, children are encouraged to talk about their feelings, especially during art and creative writing sessions. The natural beauty of the camp's 83-acre site, which sits on a wooded bluff overlooking Shoal Creek, enhances the therapeutic effects of Camp Barnabus. When campers leave, they often head home with a drastically improved outlook on life. Counselors are also changed by their summer experience. "These kids are awesome. They love unconditionally," said Crystal Wood, a 20-year-old from Northeastern Oklahoma. "These kids love and don't expect anything. They love you from their heart." "They have such courage. They take a leap of faith every time they get out of bed." When asked about Camp Barnabus' ultimate mission, Cyndy quickly states that it is to help children see God's face in the midst of their plight. When this occurs, the Teases have fulfilled their goal of enlarging the spirit and encouraging the heart.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Hunny! I'm a 3-month-old Shepherd mix with a beautiful tan and white coat, and I'm full of energy and curiosity about the world around me. I'm smart and love to play, which means I'm ready for an adventure with the right family who can keep up with me. Just so you know, I'd do best in a home without cats — it's just how I'm wired! My adoption fee is \$150, and I'm waiting to meet you and start our journey together. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





JULIUS “BILL” GARCIA JR.

Julius “Bill” Garcia Jr., 81, of Shell Knob, Mo., passed away on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at the Mo. Veterans Home in Mount Vernon, Mo.

He was born on December 15, 1938, in St. Louis, Mo., to Julius and Juanita (Fernandez)

Garcia, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife, Kathy Gotsh.

Survivors include one son, Julius Garcia III of Greenville, Tenn.; one daughter, Kathy Bernsen of Shell Knob, Mo.; five grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one brother Jim Garcia of St. Louis.

He honorably served his country in the United States Navy. Following his military service, he continued his commitment to serving others as a police officer for St. Louis County, where he dedicated many years to protecting his community.

He was a member of Lakeside Christian Church in Shell Knob,

Mo.

He was also a devoted member of Central Crossing Masonic Lodge #674 and the Shell Knob Shrine Club.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Children’s Hospital in St. Louis and entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

A Masonic Service will be held July 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm at White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, Mo.

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

White Funeral Home and Crematory

Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org

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JAMES EDWARD “JIM” SMITH

James Edward “Jim” Smith, 73, of Shell Knob, Mo. passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at his son’s home in Okla.

He was born August 31, 1952 in St. Louis, Mo. the son of Jack and Leona (Petot) Smith, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his wife Janet G. “Jan” Reid.

Survivors include his sons, Steven Smith and wife Katrina of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Brian Smith and wife Christina of St. Louis, Mo.; daughter, Jennifer Stephens and husband John of St. Louis, Mo.; 11 grandchildren and a great grandchild on the way.

He grew up in St. Louis, where he attended school and graduated from Hillsboro High School. He was employed by Maritz as a shipping coordinator, where he worked for 20 years until his retirement. Jim moved to Shell Knob and served for several years as a jailer with the Barry County Sheriff’s Department. He had made his home in

Shell Knob for the past 30 years.

Graveside services were held Monday, July 20, 2026, at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Rick Cooper and Mick Epperly conducted the services.

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Legacy: Former editor believes Melton would be disappointed by outcome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

“When I met Emory, it seemed really clear that if he had not been an attorney, he would have been a newspaper man,” Estes-Jones said. “He loved journalism. He loved history and he loved news.”

Although Melton often credited his wife, Jean, for the success of the Barry County Advertiser and the fam-

ily’s printing business, Litho, Estes-Jones said his dedication to the newspaper never faded.

“He looked at that thing cover to cover every single week,” Estes-Jones said. “I couldn’t get away with any kind of mistake because he would catch it.”

She said Melton believed a community newspaper’s greatest

responsibility was documenting the people and events that shaped the county.

“He looked at the news more as something that was so important to the record and history of this county and this community, which he just loved,” Estes-Jones said.

Even when they disagreed, Estes-Jones said Melton maintained respect while standing firmly by his principles.

“Emory and I had many differences of opinion personally, politically, socially, all kinds of things,” Estes-Jones said. “But, what he really embodied for me was integrity. Even if he disagreed with someone, I never felt disrespected. I never felt talked down to.”

Melton also remained closely connected to what was happening throughout Barry County and frequently suggested stories he believed belonged in the newspaper.

“He was just really involved in the pulse of the community and he always knew what was going on,” Estes-Jones said. “Everybody talked to him all the time.”

While he often point-

ed editors toward stories he considered important, Estes-Jones said his broader philosophy centered on comprehensive community coverage.

“For the most part, he just wanted to see good news,” Estes-Jones said. “Good news is not necessarily positive news. It was all of it. It wasn’t special treatment. It was just cover all of it.”

Away from deadlines, some of Estes-Jones’ favorite memories came during quiet Saturday mornings when only she and Melton were working in the office.

“I would run by the farmer’s market before I went to work and get a big cinnamon roll,” Estes-Jones said. “I’d go in Emory’s office. He would have already made coffee, and I’d split my cinnamon roll with him. We would sit there and sometimes chat, sometimes not, and just share a cinnamon roll and drink some coffee and enjoy the quiet of the office.”

Those conversations often became impromptu history lessons.

“He had so much history and so much knowledge that if I asked him about something, he

would remember these crazy details,” Estes-Jones said. “He had this absolute gift for memory and to remember specific details of exactly what happened. He would remember what color a senator’s bow tie was, I would sit there like, ‘How do you remember that?’”

As the Advertiser has ceased publication, Estes-Jones believes Melton would have been saddened by the outcome.

“I think he would be really disappointed,” she said. “He was proud of that paper. He was proud of Litho and what they had done because of how much he loved Jean.”

Estes-Jones said the publication had become a fixture in mailboxes across Barry County, regardless of who served as editor over the years.

“It’s been a nice free staple to get in your mailbox for years,” she said. “It’s the end of an era, and it’s hard.”

For Estes-Jones, the newspaper’s closure is also deeply personal.

“It does break my heart because I did care so much about what that paper did for the com-

munity,” Estes-Jones said.

She said community newspapers preserve moments that may seem ordinary today but become invaluable pieces of local history with time.

“People seeing their grandkids’ picture in the paper or seeing the student award they got — people may laugh, but these things are important,” Estes-Jones said. “It’s the history of our community.”

Without local newspapers, Estes-Jones worries communities risk losing both their stories and a trusted record of events.

“I don’t think we want to rely on social media to tell us what happened in history,” she said.

Estes-Jones added the loss extends beyond Barry County, reflecting a challenge facing rural communities across the country.

“We will lose a lot of the stories and the voices of people who live here,” Estes-Jones said. “Everyone’s voice matters. Even if your voice is saying something that I disagree with, it’s still important that people have that voice.”

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Federal: Case part of Project Safe Neighborhoods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

In the residence’s upstairs bedroom, investigators located a Jennings model J-22 .22 caliber pistol, several boxes of ammunition, and two additional baggies of a white powder-like substance. Investigators also located a bag of a white powder-like substance from the console area of a vehicle parked outside.

he suspected controlled substances were sent to a DEA laboratory for analysis, which resulted in the following substances being identified: 8.1 grams of fentanyl and lidocaine; 2.007 grams of

fentanyl (found in the tub of candy); 2.169 grams of fentanyl; 2.501 grams of fentanyl and lidocaine; 5.2 grams of fentanyl, lidocaine, and acetaminophen; 31.874 grams of cocaine; .087 grams of fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, lidocaine, and xylazine; and .754 grams of fentanyl, lidocaine, and acetaminophen.

According to court documents, McMullen has a criminal history that extends back decades, including prior felony convictions for forgery, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, money laundering, and solicitation to kill a federal witness.

This case was prose-

cuted by Assistant United States Attorney Wyatt A. Cross and Supervisory Assistant United States Attorney Jessica R. Eatmon. It was investigated by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Ozarks Drug Enforcement Team, and the Barry County, Mo. Sheriff’s Office.

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is the Department of Justice’s nationwide initiative that brings federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, prosecutors, and other public safety partners togeth-

er to coordinate efforts to combat violent crime and make communities safe. Coordinated by U.S. Attorneys’ offices in each of the 94 federal districts, PSN is tailored to particular communities to strategically address specific violent crime and public safety challenges. As a key component of Operation Take Back America, PSN serves a central role in the Department’s commitment to make our country safe. PSN emphasizes three core principles: rapid federal response to violent crime and criminal offenders; strong, strategic partnerships among law enforcement at all levels; and accountability and deterrence through the prosecution of the most serious, readily provable offenses and other strategies. These efforts complement and strengthen President Trump’s Homeland Security Task Forces, ensuring a comprehensive federal response to the most pressing public safety issues facing communities

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Local Death Notices

Bill Garcia Jr. • Shell Knob • Dec. 15, 1938–July 2, 2026

Gerald Blankenship • Shell Knob • Sept. 3, 1935–July 2, 2026

Janet Neukirch • Shell Knob • Sept. 12, 1960–July 7, 2026

Kenneth Griffiths • Shell Knob • Nov. 3, 1964–July 16, 2026

David Brown • Joplin • Dec. 8, 1944–July 20, 2026

Jim Brasel • Cassville • July 5, 1931–June 4, 2025

Carol Tippen • Howell, Mich. • May 26, 1949–May 26, 2026

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ELECTION 2026



BARRY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Editor's note: The following Q&As represent the candidates' views verbatim, as submitted via email in response to our questions, and have not been edited. The Republican Primary will be held Aug. 4, with voters allowed to select one candidate. The top vote-getter will be unopposed in the Nov. 3 General Election. - KT



1. How should crime victims be kept informed through the court process?

Crime victims or their family receives a packet of information when a case is filed. They are then signed up for notifications through the court system regarding all hearing dates. Questions are answered as they arise and meetings are conducted to ensure they are kept aware of the stage of the case. The criminal justice system can be a lengthy process, and frustrating to victims, so it's vital that victims understand the various stages of the proceedings.

2. What is your philosophy on transparency, and how transparent should the prosecutor's office be regarding charges filed or cases that are dropped?

The prosecutor's office has rules that must be followed regarding cases. Information regarding cases that are dropped can only be shared with law enforcement or the victim. This is to ensure that the victim's privacy is protected. Cases that are filed are open to the public through Missouri's casenet system, again however, victim information in certain types of cases is protected. While I understand "transparency" is the latest catch phrase for some folks, a victim's privacy outweighs any need to fulfill the public's curiosity.

3. What steps do you hope to take to reduce crimes against children, specifically surrounding abuse and sex crimes?

I've work closely with law enforcement and the Missouri Children's Division for over 11 years in an effort to ensure sufficient evidence is collected and perpetrators of crimes against children are prosecuted. Unfortunately, these types of crimes are often perpetrated by family or friends of the child, making it at times more difficult to get cooperation from the family. We all have to be vigilant and report suspicious behavior to the proper authorities.

4. What can be done to improve communication and cooperation between the prosecutor's office and local law enforcement agencies?

For over 11 years, I've had wonderful relationships

5. How do you plan to recruit and retain qualified staff for the prosecutor's office?

I will continue to use the various resources available through the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, along with word of mouth from the good citizens of Barry County to staff the office. We currently have a great team that takes their jobs very seriously and strive to ensure criminals are appropriately punished.

6. What steps do you hope to take to reduce crimes against children, specifically surrounding abuse and sex crimes?

with various law enforcement agencies that work in Barry County. I'm currently on my third sheriff and second police chiefs in Monett and Cassville. While we don't always see eye to eye, I believe we have a good working relationship- all of us hoping to make Barry County safer for its citizens.

Amy Boxx

1. How should crime victims be kept informed through the court process?

A victim of a crime is likely going through one of the worst periods in their life. It is the role of the Prosecutor's Office to communicate with victims from the beginning of the case through its final resolution. Victims should receive understandable information about charges, court dates, plea offers, sentencing and any significant developments. They should have a reliable point of contact within the office and be given an opportunity to express their concerns before major decisions are made. Crime victims deserve to be heard, treated with dignity, kept informed and not revictimized. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will ensure the Victim Advocate has every resource needed to do the job well but will also take the time to speak with victims myself.

2. What is your philosophy on transparency, and how transparent should the prosecutor's office be regarding charges filed or cases that are dropped?

The Prosecutor's Office is a public office, and the public deserves meaningful information about its work. However, transparency does not mean releasing every detail of an investigation. The office must protect victims, children, confidential informants, witnesses and information that could jeopardize an active case. Prosecuting Attorneys must also avoid making public statements that could prejudice a defendant's right to a fair trial. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will maintain open communication with the community and professional working relationships with local media.

3. What steps do you hope to take to reduce crimes against children, specifically surrounding abuse and sex crimes?

As heartbreaking as it is, the Prosecutor's Office will never be able to eliminate

4. What can be done to improve communication and cooperation between the prosecutor's office and local law enforcement agencies?

The Prosecuting Attorney and law enforcement should be partners and work together to protect the public. That requires regular communication, mutual respect and accessibility. Law enforcement officers should know what the prosecutor needs to successfully prosecute a case, and prosecutors must understand the practical challenges officers face in the field. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will be

5. How do you plan to recruit and retain qualified staff for the prosecutor's office?

A Prosecutor's Office is only as effective as the people working in it. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will work with the County Commission to ensure the office has the resources necessary to recruit and, most importantly, retain qualified assistant prosecutors, victim advocates and support staff. Compensation matters, but retention also depends upon good leadership, proper training, manageable workloads and a professional working environment. Employees should receive continuing education and be given the tools necessary to perform their jobs effectively. I will establish clear expectations, support employees in their professional development and create a culture where capable people want to remain and serve Barry County..

Andrew Cole

Kyle appointed CS Bank assistant branch manager

Mark Davis, Cassville market president for CS Bank, has announced the appointment of Ana Kyle to Assistant Branch Manager of CS Bank's Cassville location.

Kyle will be responsible for assisting in the oversight of the deposit services staff and daily operations of the Cassville facility. As the bank continues to grow its client base, she will assist with overseeing the continued enhancement of the local bank's deposit-based products and services.

"Ana Kyle is one of the hardest working people I know," Davis said. "Her professional growth since joining CS Bank has been remarkable, and this promotion is well earned. I'm proud of what she's accomplished and excited to see where she goes from here."

Kyle was most recently a deposit services representative at the Cassville location and has worked at CS Bank for two years. She and her husband Jonathan, reside in Purdy.

Kyle is a graduate of Purdy High School and later went on to obtain her associate's degree from Crowder College.

CS Bank is a \$630 million-dollar bank with eight locations throughout the area and plans for continued expansion in Southwest Missouri.



ANA KYLE

Dinolymphics brings youth to Cassville library



Jayden, 4, of Cassville, carefully balances an egg through the dinosaur egg obstacle course at Cassville Branch Library during the Dinolymphics on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Lydia Cross, 9, of Cassville, completes a dinosaur-themed puzzle provided by the Cassville Branch Library during the Dinolymphics on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

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Bouncing, climbing, splashing at Purdy Festival



Praxton Tall, 8, of Republic, jumps in one of several inflatable bounce houses at the Purdy Festival on Saturday, held at the city park. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Peighton Fields, 6, of Purdy, pets animals in the petting zoo at the Purdy Festival on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Malakia, 10, of Republic, climbs the rock wall on his birthday during the Purdy Festival on Saturday, held at the city park. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



RE-ELECT
STEVE BLANKENSHIP
FOR
BARRY COUNTY
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

- Current Barry County Presiding Commissioner
- Life long Barry County Resident
- Marine Corp Reserve Veteran
- Family man with Conservative Christian Values
 - 20 years fire dept volunteer
 - 9 year reserve Barry County Deputy
- Served on MAC Community & Economic Development Steering Committee
 - Chairman on District N Solid Waste Management Board
- Working with Cassville, Monett, Mt. Vernon, Aurora and Lawrence County on a Community & Economic Development plan

Paid for by Steve Blankenship for presiding commissioner Deanna Blankenship treasurer



Vote on Aug. 4!

- Barry County native
- Current Assistant Prosecutor, Lawrence County

ANDREW COLE
FOR
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Paid for by The Committee to elect Andrew Cole, Janice Varner, Treasurer

Year in Photos — Barry County cross country



Southwest's Tobias Smith crosses the finish line in the Cassville cross country meet last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Shannon Trammell crosses the finish line in the Cassville cross country meet last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Purdy's Courtney Patterson runs in the Cassville cross country meet last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Southwest's Jacee Durossette runs in the first lap of the Cassville cross country meet last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Publisher's note: Throughout the summer, the Cassville Democrat will feature the best unprinted photos from each team photographed during the 2025-2026 athletics seasons. — KT

Young Lady Trojans learn to compete

Southwest softball team excited for growth, future seasons

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com
A season filled with growing pains also resulted in steady progress for the Southwest softball team, as the Lady Trojans developed a young roster to lay a foundation for the future.
Coach Melissa Mitchell said the team's 5-16 record did not fully reflect the strides made throughout the season, pointing instead to the growth she witnessed from a group replacing several experienced players.
"Overall, I think we learned a lot this season," Mitchell said. "I saw a lot of growth from the players this season. We really focused on

controlling the controllables and learning every chance we could, even though our record was not the best."
Mitchell said the team's greatest improvement came in its ability to respond to adversity instead of allowing mistakes to snowball.
"The biggest improvement I saw this season was trying to compete and not letting one mistake take control of the game," Mitchell said. "It wasn't always perfect, but the girls worked hard to pick themselves up when things were hard."
"We were a very young team and lost a lot of varsity starters from the year before, so some girls had some big shoes to fill and worked hard to improve themselves throughout the season."
While pleased with the team's development, Mitchell believes confidence remains the next step.
"I would have loved to see

SOUTHWEST SOFTBALL
Record: 5-16
Last result: 15-0 loss to Mt. Vernon in Class 2, District 6 Tournament
More: Young team sees growth across board

more confidence in certain players, but that comes with experience and I truly believe the girls are so close to gaining that confidence and trust in themselves to really take off," Mitchell said.
One contest early in the year helped define the team's progress despite ending in defeat.
"We played Mt. Vernon at Mt. Vernon during the first few weeks of the season, and even though we lost the game, I felt like that was the first time at that point that each and every girl competed and really understood what it felt like to compete during a game and not let one mistake set the

tone of the game," Mitchell said. "They worked hard in that game."
Mitchell said the team's improvement also showed in its ability to meet the expectations established before the season.
"We set a goal during the early season to try to compete in every game," Mitchell said. "Some games we did better than other games, but I do believe the girls improved throughout the season. Even though it was a season of tremendous growth, I believe that each player on our team learned quite a bit and improved their skills in some way."
The Lady Trojans will graduate four seniors whose impact extended beyond statistics.
"We had four seniors this past season and they each played an important part on our team," Mitchell said. "We will miss their encouragement

and leadership."
Mitchell expects the returning roster and an incoming freshman class to accelerate the program's development next season.
"I am truly looking forward to the incoming freshman," Mitchell said. "We are gaining a good amount of players and I think they will bring some speed to our team. I am also really excited for all the returning players. They are a hard working group with good attitudes and are eager to learn. I think this next season will be very hopeful for our program."
As preparations begin for another campaign, Mitchell's focus remains on continued daily improvement.
"I hope to continue to improve, for the girls to get better throughout the entire season, to really focus on doing the little things right, and execute plays when needed," Mitchell said.

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

Reflections on a great day as a pastor

In Ephesians 3:7, Paul wrote, “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.” While this column is intended to be an inspirational piece, this time I want to make it a little more personal. Jamie and I recently celebrated the completion of our seventh year in Cassville. I consider my role as pastor to be much more than a job. Like Paul, I consider it a gift from God that I have the privilege of working in ministry.

As I was reflecting on that a few days ago, I jotted down some highlights of my day. The list captures some of the remarkable joys that we in ministry get to be a part of. I enjoy the varied activities that fill up my days.

The day began with a mentorship meeting with a young

man who I had the privilege of baptizing on Easter Sunday. It is exciting to be a part of his discipleship process. Shortly after that meeting, I was serving communion to one of our older folks who is mostly restricted to her home due to physical limitations. This was an especially holy time for me given that we recently walked through the death of her husband together.

The next thing on the agenda was visiting with a woman who had a recent medical situation that resulted in missed work. Thanks to the generosity of folks who have contributed to an assistance fund, I was able to give her a check to help with rent and relieve the burden for her as she gets back on her feet.

After that I had the special privilege of baptizing a friend who recently professed his



JEFF FUGITT

faith in Christ. He is older than I am and has had some health issues. The most practical way to get him under water was to use his swimming pool, so that was fun and a little unusual.

That was followed by Vacation Bible School at our church. Since I didn’t have a lot of responsibilities, I was able to roam around and enjoy what was going on. One of the sweetest moments of the day was when two very young girls quoted their memory verse to me: Psalm 23:1-3.

I was struck by the adaptation that one of them made when she altered verse 3 to say, “He restores my heart.” How beautiful to see these little ones developing an understanding of God as a trustworthy and loving presence to be with them and guide them through all the ups and downs of life.

After VBS, I got in on the last half of a Jobs For Life class that is currently happening at Life Change. Here again, as a mentor, I get a front row seat to witness people moving forward in life in positive ways as they cooperate with God’s ongoing work in them.

This was a full day – in more ways than one. You may not be an ordained minister where you get to do this sort of stuff for your job, but all of us can experience the joy that comes with being a part of people’s lives. If you feel like you

could use more fulfillment and meaning in your life, consider jumping into some new opportunity to serve. Help with a kids’ program, volunteer at the pantry, or find whatever niche it is that brings joy to you and others. Those opportunities are gifts and they can truly add richness to your life.

Finally, let me say thank you to all of you folks in this community who have made our first seven years here such a blessing. I thank God for you and for the privilege of pastoring here!

Jeff Fugitt is the pastor of Cassville United Methodist Church, located at 601 Gravel Street in Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-2328 or cassvilleumcpastor@gmail.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

— 1 JOHN 1:7

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

MADALENA C. RACANELLI, Plaintiff,
Vs.
ROCKY ELSEY
If they be living or their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them.
Case No: 26BR-CC 00091
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION

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

which affects the following described Property:
All of Lots 5 and 6, Block 4, Oklahoma Addition to the City of Wheaton, Barry County, Missouri.
The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Blake B. Fields, 605 Main Street, Cassville, Missouri, 65625.
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 1st day of July 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you.
IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
A true copy for the record.
Witness by hand and the seal of the circuit court this 25th day of June 2026.
Craig Williams
BY H.C.
Barry County Circuit Clerk
FIRST PUBLICATION: 07/01/2026
SECOND PUBLICATION: 07/08/2026
THIRD PUBLICATION: 07/15/2026
FOURTH PUBLICATION: 07/22/2026
1st insertion 07/01/26 25-28

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

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The City of Butterfield is currently seeking applicants for a full-time position and a part-time position in the Public Works Department. Duties will involve assisting the public works employees with landscaping and general city and street maintenance. Salary is dependent on qualifications. A pre-employment background check is required. Must have a High School Diploma or GED.

Applications and resumes may be submitted at Butterfield City Hall, 10604 E. 1st Street, Butterfield, MO, or emailed to butterfield@totalhighspeed.com. For additional information, call (417) 442-7975.

HELP WANTED

Part-Time Technology Support City of Cassville

The City of Cassville is seeking a dependable, Part-Time Technology Support Specialist to provide technical assistance and support for the City's technology systems. Responsibilities include troubleshooting technical issues, assisting staff with technology needs, and helping maintain equipment and systems. Qualifications:

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- Strong problem-solving and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and maintain confidentiality
- Previous technology support experience preferred

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The City of Cassville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CITY OF CASSVILLE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (MODIFIED CASH BASIS) FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30TH, 2026								
	Program Revenues				Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position			Total
	Expenses	Charge for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Primary Government Business-type Activities		
Governmental activities:								
General Government	\$ 408,958	\$ 156,941	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (252,017)	\$ -	\$ -	(252,017)
Police and Court	602,059	16,727	30,521	-	(554,810)	-	-	(554,810)
Streets	139,733	600	-	-	(139,133)	-	-	(139,133)
Parks and Storm Water	270,470	-	-	-	(270,470)	-	-	(270,470)
Building Inspection	27,686	12,919	-	-	(14,767)	-	-	(14,767)
Airport	653,833	23,450	-	-	(630,384)	-	-	(630,384)
Economic Development	26,604	-	-	-	(26,604)	-	-	(26,604)
Capital	203,247	-	-	-	(203,247)	-	-	(203,247)
American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total governmental activities	2,332,590	210,637	30,521	-	(2,091,432)	-	-	(2,091,432)
Business-type activities								
Water Utilities	432,801	416,013	-	-	-	(16,788)	-	(16,788)
Sewer Utilities	355,139	466,518	-	-	-	111,378	-	111,378
Total business-type activities	787,941	882,531	-	-	-	94,590	-	94,590
Total Primary Government	\$ 3,120,531	\$ 1,093,168	\$ 30,521	\$ -	(2,091,432)	94,590	-	(1,996,842)
General Revenues								
Sales taxes					1,758,214	-	-	1,758,214
Use Tax					191,683	-	-	191,683
Franchise taxes					20,888	-	-	20,888
Surtax					4,151	-	-	4,151
Missouri motor fuel taxes					94,955	-	-	94,955
Miscellaneous					690	-	-	690
Interest on investments					122,353	20,823	-	143,176
Other sources revenue					133,278	7,500	-	140,778
Transfers (Out) In					34,580	-	-	34,580
Sale of assets					-	-	-	-
Bond proceeds					-	-	-	-
Special assessments					14,610	18,783	-	33,393
Fee in Lieu of taxes					41,958	40,903	-	82,861
Reduction in Fund Balance					-	-	-	-
					2,417,361	88,009	-	2,505,369
					325,929	182,599	-	508,528
					15,977,030	9,353,291	-	25,330,321
					\$ 16,302,959	\$ 9,535,890	\$ -	25,838,849
*** UNAUDITED ***								

IN THE MATTER OF L.A.C. JUAN CERVANTES and LETICIA CERVANTES, Petitioners.
Case No. 26BR-JU00049

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to Itzel Cervantes natural mother and the unknown natural father:
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of the County of Barry, State of Missouri, the object and general nature of which is Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption.
The names of all parties to the said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for petitioner is James J. Randall, 405 Broadway, P.O. Box 151, Monett, MO 65708.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within forty-five (45) days after the 8th day of July, 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you.
It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in The *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
Witness my hand and seal of the Circuit Court, State of Missouri, the 25th day of June, 2026.
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
By: H. C.
First Publication: 07/08/2026
Second Publication: 07/22/2026
Third Publication: 07/15/2026
Fourth Publication: 07/29/2026
1st insertion 07/08/26 26-29

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

JARED KING PLAINTIFF,
VS.
JUSTIN KING DEFENDANT.
CASE NO. 24BR-CC00002

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE IN PARTITION

City of Seligman, Missouri
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Fiscal year January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

REVENUES:	YTD	Budget	%
GENERAL	\$ 220,782.15	\$ 332,710.00	66.36%
POLICE	\$ 83,335.56	\$ 195,000.00	42.74%
WATER	\$ 248,332.62	\$ 493,700.00	50.30%
SEWER	\$ 56,304.85	\$ 110,000.00	51.19%
PARK	\$ 19,649.58	\$ 45,000.00	43.67%
STREET	\$ 114,491.70	\$ 143,000.00	80.06%
CAPITOL IMP	\$ 47,198.85	\$ 87,000.00	54.25%
TOTAL REV:	\$ 790,095.31	\$ 1,406,410.00	
EXPENDITURES:			
GENERAL	\$ 178,792.73	\$ 309,200.00	57.82%
POLICE	\$ 100,220.10	\$ 193,660.00	51.75%
WATER	\$ 173,102.48	\$ 400,000.00	43.28%
SEWER	\$ 71,839.48	\$ 110,000.00	65.31%
PARK	\$ 15,218.03	\$ 45,000.00	33.82%
STREET	\$ 49,291.12	\$ 138,000.00	35.72%
CAPITOL IMP	\$ 30,998.11	\$ 119,500.00	25.94%
TOTAL EXP:	\$ 619,462.05	\$ 1,315,360.00	

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TOTAL EXP:	\$ 619,462.05	\$ 1,315,360.00	

By virtue of authority of a certified Copy of an Interlocutory Judgment and Order of Sale in Partition issued out of the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, on the 6th day of June, 2025, in the above-captioned cause, wherein the Court found that the real estate hereinafter described cannot be divided in kind without great prejudice to the owners thereof, and directed the undersigned Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri, to sell said real estate at public venue to the highest bidder for cash.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, the undersigned Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri, will on the 17th day of August 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, located at 700 Main Street, in the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (or certified funds), all the right, title, and interest of the parties to said suit in and to the following described real estate, situated in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, to-wit:
Tract 1: Lot Fifteen, Block Five in Chain-o-Lakes Subdivision No. 2, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded Plat thereof; and Tract 2: Lot Seventeen in Block Five in Chain-o-Lakes Subdivision No. 2, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof, situated in the County of Barry, Missouri.
Parcel ID/Tax ID Number: 29-6-0-14-0-02-0-06-0007.000/3-1254-0
Commonly known as: 27274 Hickory Drive, Eagle Rock, Missouri
Terms of Sale: Cash payable at the time of sale. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.
Given under my hand this 9th day of July 2026.
Danny Boyd
Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri
1st insertion 07/22/26 28-31

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

FREEDOM BANK OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI,

Plaintiff,
vs.
CHRISTOPHER R. ROSS, Defendant
Case No. 22BR-CC00048

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue and authority of a Writ of Execution issued from the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri at Cassville, Missouri: Take notice that on August 17, 2026 at 1:00 pm the Sheriff of Barry County, Missouri, will sell at the East Door of the Barry County Courthouse in Cassville, Missouri, to the highest bidder for cash, all right, title, interest of the above-named Christopher R. Ross and Jackie Ross and in and to the real property described as:
The West half of the Northwest Quarter AV/D the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Twenty-three (23), Range Twenty-nine (29), Barry County, Missouri. EXCEPT a tract of land described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, thence North 1448 feet, thence running West 900 feet, thence running South 1448 feet, thence East 900 feet to the point of beginning.
situate in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, to satisfy said execution and costs.
Dated: July 8, 2026
Published in the *Cassville Democrat* on:
July 15, 22, 29, August 5 and 12, 2026.
DANNY BOYD, Barry County Sheriff
1st insertion 07/15/26 27-31

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of an execution issued by the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Stone County, Missouri, arising out of a judgment entered by the Circuit Court of Stone County, Missouri, in Case No. 25SN-CC00164, and to me, as sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of the plaintiff Nationstar

LEGALS

SAMPLE BALLOT
PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026
BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

NOTICE OF ELECTION
Notice is hereby given that the Primary Election will be held in the County of Barry on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 as certified to this office by the participating entities of Barry County. The ballot for the Election shall be in substantially the following form.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

FOR STATE AUDITOR

Vote For ONE

☐ SCOTT FITZPATRICK

☐ GERALD (JERRY) WISTRAND JR.

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7

Vote For ONE

☐ JOHN CASEY

☐ GRAYSON HUNT

☐ ERIC W. BURLISON

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 158

Vote For ONE

☐ SCOTT CUPPS

FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION I

Vote For ONE

☐ JOHNNIE E. COX

FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION II

Vote For ONE

☐ ROBERT "BOB" FOULKE

FOR PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

Vote For ONE

☐ CHAD JOHNSON

☐ STEVE BLANKENSHIP

FOR COUNTY CLERK

Vote For ONE

☐ KIMI DEAL

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly, (First Regular Session) HCS HJR Nos. 23 & 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- require all charter counties, including Jackson County, to provide for the election of a county assessor; and
- require assessors in all charter counties to comply with any training requirements established by general law?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

☐ YES

☐ NO

FOR CIRCUIT CLERK

Vote For ONE

☐ CRAIG WILLIAMS

FOR RECORDER OF DEEDS

Vote For ONE

☐ DANIELLE STILL

FOR TREASURER

Vote For ONE

☐ GRETTA TRIPP

FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Vote For ONE

☐ AMY BOXX

☐ ANDREW COLE

FOR COLLECTOR OF REVENUE

Vote For ONE

☐ SKYLER BOWMAN

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FOR STATE AUDITOR

Vote For ONE

☐ QUENTIN WILSON

☐ GREGORY UPCHURCH

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7

Vote For ONE

☐ MISSI HESKETH

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 158

Vote For ONE

☐ CHRIS FOSTER

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Extraordinary Session) HCS HJR No. 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Modify current requirements that a statewide majority of voters may approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution;
- Require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution; and
- Make available to each voter the full text of initiative petitions with their ballot?

The Department of Corrections estimates increased annual costs of up to \$21,817. The Office of State Public Defender estimates an unknown fiscal impact. Other state governmental entities estimate no costs or savings. Local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

☐ YES

☐ NO

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

FOR STATE AUDITOR

Vote For ONE

☐ DUSTIN COFFELL

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7

Vote For ONE

☐ KEVIN CRAIG

NON-PARTISAN

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c) (Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1

Shall Missouri continue for 10 years the one-tenth of one percent sales/use tax that is used for soil and water conservation and for state parks and historic sites, and resubmit this tax to the voters for approval in 10 years?

The measure allows continued collection of the existing sales and use tax, which generates revenue of approximately \$140 million annually.

☐ YES

☐ NO

CITY OF BUTTERFIELD

BOND ELECTION QUESTION

Shall Butterfield, Missouri, issue its sewerage system revenue bonds in the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of extending and improving the City's sewerage system, including acquiring land and rights of way, the cost of operation and maintenance of said sewerage system and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its sewerage system, including all future improvements and extensions thereto?

☐ YES

☐ NO

SELIGMAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

QUESTION

Shall the Seligman Fire Protection District impose a sales tax of 1 % for the purpose of providing fire protection services, including equipment, training, and operational expenses?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Polls open at 6 a.m.
on Aug. 4 and close
at 7 p.m.

Visit us online at: cassville-democrat.com

BARRY COUNTY TAX SALE

NOTICE OF TAX CERTIFICATE SALE

I, Skyler Bowman, Collector of the Revenue in and for Barry County, Missouri, hereby give notice as provided by law that I shall offer for sale, the hereafter described lots and lands or so much, thereof, as may be necessary to discharge the taxes, penalty, interest and costs due thereon at the time of sale, to the State of Missouri for delinquent taxes on real estate, in or adjacent to the courthouse in Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, on the fourth Monday of August, Being the 24th day of August, 2026, commencing at 10:00 a.m. of said day and continuing from day to day thereafter until all is offered, said lots and lands situated in Barry County, Missouri, and described in forty acre tracts or other legal subdivisions and the additions, etc., and the aggregate amount of taxes, penalty, interest and costs. Each year separately state as follows:

CODE NUMBER	PUB.#	PARCEL#	DEL. YEAR	DEL. TAX
PROPERTY OWNER				
LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
1. 01-0000322-0037		30-6.0-23-000-000-0005.051		
AGUSTER, BRODIE			2023	521.06
SECTION: 23 TOWNSHIP: 21 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 2.20			2024	460.56
PT. SENW			2025	398.71
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	1,484.33
2. 01-0000434-0000		29-2.0-04-004-002-0001.000		
GILL, EARL W. TRUSTEE			2023	54.81
SECTION: 04 TOWNSHIP: 21 RANGE: 26 ACRES: 1.00			2024	49.52
NE COR. NWSE N & E ROAD			2025	44.11
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	252.44
3. 01-0000453-0002		29-2.0-04-003-002-0003.000		
CURRY, BOB & KAY TRUST			2023	201.56
SECTION: 04 TOWNSHIP: 21 RANGE: 26 ACRES: 4.10			2024	174.00
PT. S 1/2 SW			2025	155.74
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	640.21
4. 01-0000844-0000		29-7.0-26-000-000-0016.000		
SEE, HAROLD & ELLISON ROBERT & PATRICIA & THURMAN & CRISTY			2023	4,551.60
SECTION: 26 TOWNSHIP: 21 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 1.13			2024	4,014.43
PT. SE 1/4 FRL. WEST HWY. P (250' X 350')			2025	3,628.69
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	12,238.72
5. 01-0004654-0002		16-6.0-13-000-000-0006.002		
GARRETT, KAREN L.			2023	1,109.06
SECTION: 13 TOWNSHIP: 23 RANGE: 29 ACRES: 3.50			2024	978.93
PT. E 1/2 SW			2025	915.84
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	3,107.83
6. 01-0004979-0000		11-9.0-32-000-000-0013.000		
MUSTAIN, SUSIE			2023	18.67
SECTION: 32 TOWNSHIP: 24 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.50			2024	17.35
PT. SE COR. SESW			2025	16.37
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	156.39
7. 01-0005078-0000		12-6.0-13-000-000-0009.000		
HARTKOPF, MARVIN E. & WILMA N.			2023	1,050.71
SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 24 RANGE: 26 ACRES: 5.00			2024	928.14
PT. S 1/2 SE E. HY.			2025	862.08
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	2,944.93
8. 01-0006510-0000		10-7.0-26-000-000-0009.000		
CARNEY, TERRY			2023	164.85
SECTION: 26 TOWNSHIP: 25 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 6.20			2024	146.53
PT. NWSE & PT. SWSE			2025	129.49
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	544.87
9. 01-0007160-0000		08-4.0-19-000-000-0005.000		
BAUGH, JEFFREY LEE			2023	1,788.71
SECTION: 19 TOWNSHIP: 25 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 37.85			2024	3,192.42
SENE			2025	2,923.47
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	8,006.00
10. 01-0007160-0001		08-4.0-19-000-000-0005.001		
BAUGH, JEFFREY LEE			2023	113.26
SECTION: 19 TOWNSHIP: 25 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 40.00			2024	101.12
SWNE			2025	88.58
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	406.96
11. 02-0000653-0000		18-9.0-29-001-019-0007.000		
GILLILAND, ALLEN JR.			2023	260.37
SECTION: 33 TOWNSHIP: 23 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00			2024	230.77
CASSVILLE OUT LOT: PT. NO. 52			2025	200.94
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	796.08
12. 02-0000882-0000		18-4.0-20-004-016-0006.000		
MCCRACKEN, RICHARD L.			2023	442.39
SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 23 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00			2024	391.26
SMITH HAYS CASV. 5 FT. S. SIDE 6, ALL 7 & 8, BLK.10			2025	366.00
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	1,303.65
13. 02-0001167-0005		18-9.0-32-000-000-0011.000		
HAYES, BOB & EMILY K.			2023	1,101.62
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00			2024	974.26
MEADOW VALLEY LOT 5 & 6			2025	917.99
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	3,096.16
14. 02-0001168-0006		18-8.0-33-000-000-0063.004		
JORDAN, BRITTANY			2023	1,396.05
SECTION: 33 TOWNSHIP: 23 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 1.00			2024	1,232.17
CASSVILLE LAND LOT: PT. NWSW			2025	1,160.03
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	3,892.25
15. 02-0002512-0000		03-9.0-32-003-013-0002.000		
MCCANDLESS, DONALD R. & MCCANDLESS, THOMAS R.			2023	332.70
SECTION: 32 TOWNSHIP: 26 RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00			2024	294.73
MARSHALLS 2ND. MO.: LT. 1 & 2, BLK. 1			2025	256.73
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	988.16
16. 02-0003630-0000		14-1.0-02-003-010-0004.000		
MILLER, CRYSTAL			2023	604.51
SECTION: 02 TOWNSHIP: 24 RANGE: 28 ACRES: 0.00			2024	537.06
SCOTCH TO PURDY LT.12, BLK.1			2025	495.19
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	1,740.76
17. 02-0004257-0000		15-8.0-27-003-020-0007.000		
VICK, CHRIS			2023	204.71
SECTION: 27 TOWNSHIP: 24 RANGE: 29 ACRES: 0.00			2024	181.96
WHE. ORIG.: LT. 1, BLK. 18			2025	158.50
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	649.17
18. 02-0004259-0001		15-8.0-27-003-020-0006.000		
VICK, CHRIS			2023	72.99
SECTION: 27 TOWNSHIP: 24 RANGE: 29 ACRES: 0.00			2024	65.63
WHE. ORIG.: LOT 2, BLK. 18			2025	58.03
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	300.65
19. 03-0000122-0000		30-2.0-10-001-009-0004.000		
JOHNS, JESSE M. & GRACE L.			2023	64.00
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00			2024	57.62
ARROW PT. EST. LT. 225			2025	51.11
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	276.73
20. 03-0000182-0000		30-2.0-10-001-007-0014.000		
HASTINGS, JAMES A.			2023	30.02
SECTION: 10 TOWNSHIP: 21 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	27.66
ARROWPOINT ESTATES 2ND: LOT 75			2025	25.29
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	186.97
21. 03-0000325-0003		21-1.0-02-004-009-0001.000		
MOENCH, MEL			2023	19.21
SECTION: 02 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	16.08
BIG BASS BEND; LOTS 4A - 10A, BLK.1-A			2025	16.96
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	158.25
22. 03-0000417-0000		21-1.0-11-001-002-0010.000		
LANDO, GEORGE II			2023	39.22
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	35.60
BIG BASS BEND: LOT 2, BLK.17			2025	31.97
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	210.79
23. 03-0000419-0000		21-1.0-11-001-002-0008.000		
RICHARDSON, JOHN B.			2023	33.04
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	30.19
BIG BASS BEND 5X12 FT. PT 3 & ALL 4, BLK. 17			2025	71.30
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	238.53
24. 03-0000422-0000		21-1.0-11-001-002-0004.000		
RICHARDSON, JOHN A.			2023	117.67
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	104.27
BIG BASS BEND LT.8, BLK. 17			2025	96.73
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	422.67

25. 03-0000592-0004	21-1.0-11-001-018-0003.000			
WILSON, ANTOINE			2023	56.14
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	50.41
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 203			2025	44.70
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	255.25
26. 03-0000604-0001	21-1.0-12-002-032-0022.000			
SAUER, STEVEN J & VIRGINIA L.			2023	65.32
SECTION: 12 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	58.47
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 21			2025	51.63
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	278.42
27. 03-0000657-0000	21-1.0-11-001-023-0002.000			
YOUNG, JOHN E.			2023	99.19
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	88.10
BIG CREEK 4TH. LT. 101 & 102			2025	77.06
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	368.35
28. 03-0000708-0000	21-1.0-11-001-020-0022.000			
WHITTINGTON, MATTHEW & CHRISTINA			2023	26.91
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	24.82
BIG CREEK 4TH: LT. 178			2025	22.74
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	178.47
29. 03-0000709-0000	21-1.0-11-001-020-0021.000			
WHITTINGTON, MATTHEW & CHRISTINA			2023	26.91
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	22.82
BIG CREEK 4TH: LT. 179			2025	22.74
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	178.47
30. 03-0000733-0001	21-1.0-11-001-010-0008.000			
MEDLEY, R. LYLE & ANNA BELLE			2023	56.14
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	50.41
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 224			2025	44.70
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	255.25
31. 03-0000827-0000	21-6.0-14-001-006-0022.000			
OTTO, BELI D. & SADIE E.			2023	68.43
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	61.17
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 40, BLOCK B			2025	53.94
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	287.54
32. 03-0000842-0000	21-6.0-14-001-006-0004.000			
WEST, FRANK E. & JAMES E.			2023	68.43
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00			2024	61.17
BIG CREEK NO.2, LT.61, BLK.B			2025	53.94
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	287.54
33. 03-0000878-0000	21-6.0-14-001-005-0001.000			
COOK, RONNIE J.			2023	85.38
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	75.99
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 65, BLOCK C			2025	66.66
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	332.03
34. 03-0000939-0001	21-6.0-14-001-003-0036.000			
JACKSON, RICHARD L. & JENISE L.			2023	68.43
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	61.17
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 10, BLOCK E			2025	53.94
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	287.54
35. 03-0000997-0000	21-6.0-14-001-001-0005.000			
OTTO, BELI D. & SADIE E.			2023	31.50
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00			2024	28.85
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 35, BLOCK G			2025	26.19
			PUB.FEE	50.00
			REC.FEE	54.00
			TOTAL	190.54
36. 03-0001058-0104	27-6.0-23-000-000-0010.000			
COGGIN, CITALYN			2023	386.55
SECTION: 23 TOWNSHIP: 28 RANGE: 28 ACRES: 5.48			2024	71.23
BREEZE POINT: LOT 2			2025	300.

BARRY COUNTY TAX SALE

51.	03-0004253-0001 EVANS, KANDI S. SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOT 320	21-9.0-29-000-000-0709.000	2023 65.32 2024 59.47 2025 51.63		56.	03-0004696-0000 VANOSDOL, THE TRUST SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MTN.W. LT. 204	21-4.0-20-003-010-0011.000	2023 65.32 2024 59.47 2025 51.63	
			PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 279.42					PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 279.42	
	03-0004287-0000 DAWSON, DAVID E. & DOLORES A. SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOT 363	21-9.0-29-000-000-0395.000	2023 65.32 2024 58.47 2025 51.63		57.	03-0004713-0000 ZARYCKI, ALAN T. & SUZANNE C. SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MTN.WEST: LOTS 223 INC.227	21-4.0-20-003-009-0007.000	2023 3,478.19 2024 3,325.19 2025 3,083.01	
			PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 279.42			PAID		PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 9,990.39	
	03-0004387-0000 RADCLIFFE, MALCOLM O. JR. & ROBERT J. SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOTS 48 & 49	21-9.0-29-000-000-0477.000	2023 89.97 2024 80.03 2025 70.13		58.	03-0004798-0000 COUSINS, NADINE F. SECTION: 36 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00 VIOLA ORIGINAL: PT.LOTS 2,3 & 4; BLK.3	21-7.0-36-000-000-0015.000	2023 178.06 2024 158.18 2025 137.19	
			PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 344.13					PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 577.43	
	03-0004454-0000 SELLS, DON L. & EDNA B. SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST 2ND: LOTS 130 & 131	21-9.0-29-000-000-0246.000	2023 119.22 2024 105.64 2025 92.12						
			PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 420.98						
	03-0004601-0000 HOLT, SILAS SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00 TURKEY MTN.W. LT. 95	21-4.0-20-003-007-0004.000	2023 63.81 2024 57.13 2025 50.50						
			PUB.FEE 50.00 REC.FEE 54.00 TOTAL 275.44						

I, Skyler Bowman, Collector of the Revenue in and for Barry County, Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct list of lands and lots that will be offered for sale as set forth.

THIS 8TH DAY OF JULY 2024
SKYLER BOWMAN
COLLECTOR OF REVENUE
BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

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Kailyn Speer

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ST. LOUIS

Children's

at

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WashU

Medicine



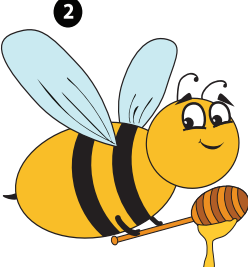
Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?

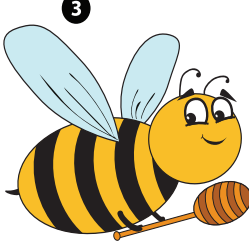
1



2



3



4



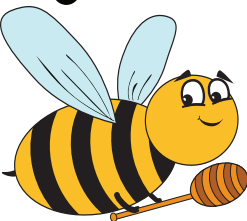
5



6



7



8



9



ANSWER: 4 AND 8



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JUST kidding

Q: Why did the computer go to the doctor?

A: Because it had a virus.



JUST kidding

Q: Why is a 2020 calendar more popular than a 2019 calendar?

A: It has more dates.



JUST kidding

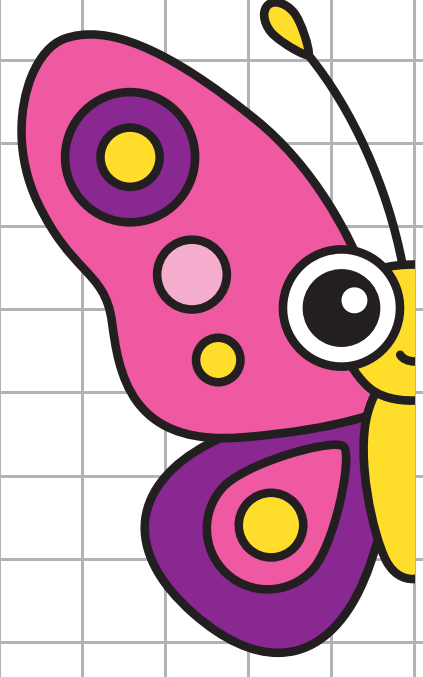
Q: What is brown and has a head and a tail but no legs?

A: A penny.



MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE





For the up-and-coming artist



Sudoku 6 x 6

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

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

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

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