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TAZ ON DUTY! BCSO ADDS K-9 TO FORCE — PAGE 2A



<<< LADY WILDCATS PLAY SUMMER BALL
Team gets experience with workouts, games against unique opponents. — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

JULY 29, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

POLLUTION, INDUSTRIAL AG DECRIED AT MEETING



A view of the room during the meeting on CAFOs, data centers, and sludge held July 19 at the Scott Technology Center in Monett. Barry County Presiding Commissioner Steve Blankenship and Lawrence County Presiding Commissioner Bob Senninger are seated at front center. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Speakers focus on CAFOs, data centers posing local threat

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

More than 50 people attended a public meeting on July 19 at the Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett to hear a variety of state leaders and experts discuss environmental threats they perceive stemming from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), data centers and sludge tanks proposed in southwest Missouri.

The meeting was organized by Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER). A large percentage of those attending were landowners. Among public officials in attendance were Presiding County Commissioners Bob Senninger from Lawrence County and Steve Blankenship from Barry County, and State

Senators Mike Moon and Jill Carter, in addition to several candidates for the state legislature.

Leah Heidlage, with POWER, opened the meeting by noting plans for poultry farms on Sarcoxie Prairie had been approved by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The proposed poultry operation supporting 1.3 million birds, according to research, would require the use of 25 million gallons of water and significantly impact landowners for many miles.

"Water is our primary interest," Heidlage said. "Extraction of our resources is why we're here. Water is what unites us. Our land is the legacy we plan to leave to our children. Existing regulations do not protect it. We should leave this land better

than we found it."

Several speakers pointed to action by the Missouri General Assembly in 2019 as the immediate cause for the current struggle. Senate Bill 391 and House Bill 1713 had the effect of both removing local control over the use of land plus replacing commissioners on the Missouri Clean Water Commission, which oversees DNR.

This meant counties and municipalities could not pass agriculture-focused ordinances that regulated issues such as setbacks between properties, control over water bodies, and the land application of waste. As Maxine Gill with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment noted, the Clean Water Commission oversees sludge and industrial agriculture operations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

COLE CASE

What: Death of Justin Hocutt, 14, in 1999

Arrested: Mark Wesley Scott, Bobby Ray Scott, David Ray Scott

More: Press Conference was held after presstime on Tuesday

3 arrests made in 1999 cold case

Two arrested in Arkansas, third in McDonald County

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Three men have been arrested in connection to the 1999 death of Seligman 14-year-old Justin Hocutt.

Danny Boyd, Barry County Sheriff, said on Tuesday, Mark Wesley Scott, Bobby Ray Scott, David Ray Scott were arrested on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

CCFPD seeking \$4.5 million in bonds

District aims to renovate stations, increase brush truck fleet

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Central Crossing Fire Protection District is seeking approval of a \$4.5 million bond issue on Aug. 4, aiming to renovate two stations, add to its fleet of brush trucks, purchase new equipment and pay off leases.

Fire Chief Rusty Rickard said the district has been planning for several years to replace two outdated fire stations and modernize portions of its fleet, but paying

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Discrepancy on Missouri Financial Report raises questions

\$1.4 trillion difference in revenue collected from Pass Through Entities

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Over \$1 trillion disappeared from Missouri's Annual Financial & Statistical Report for Fiscal Year 2024, which ended on June 30 of that year.

TAX ISSUE

What: Discrepancy found between 2024, 2025 state financial reports

Amount: \$1.4 trillion less collected from Pass Through Entities

More: No response from Department of Revenue, State Auditors office agrees discrepancy exists but not yet sure why

The 2024 total revenue collected from Pass Through Entities (out-of-state corporations who do business in

Missouri) was reported as being \$1,403,467,780,000 on the financial report for 2024. However, on the 2025 financial report, which also showed the previous year's collected amount, the total shown as collected from Pass Through Entities for 2024 dropped to \$7,421,000.

That's a difference of \$1,402,721,359,000. A difference of over \$1.4 trillion, if put another way.

The discrepancy could reflect tax credits owed to Pass Through

Entities, but that had not yet been applied, an area banker said.

A disclaimer by the DNR on the 2025 Report does state that the amounts previously reported for Fiscal Year 2024 had been revised to reflect updated information.

After the disappearance of over \$1.4 trillion in the out-of-state business category on the DOR report, individual income taxes represented the highest

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CHAD BARRY COUNTY VOTE AUGUST 4
JOHNSON
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER



PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CHAD JOHNSON, BECKA JOHNSON, TREASURER



LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Wheaton Road District to meet

The monthly Wheaton Road District Meeting will be held on Aug. 4 at 5 p.m. at the Wheaton Road District barn on Highway A across from Holmes Farm Supply.

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.

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., Library for Everyone, 1 p.m., Grease Movie Night, 5:30 p.m.; Friday, Bingo Bash, 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, handmade 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.



Barry County Sheriff's Office Deputy Camden Roller is pictured with his trusted K-9 partner, Taz, after their graduation from K-9 training. Contributed photo

Taz on duty!

Deputy Roller brings K-9 unit back to Barry County

BY GWENDYLAN HARMON
Special to the Cassville Democrat
After nearly two decades without a K-9 unit, the Barry County Sheriff's Office has welcomed a new four legged deputy to its ranks.

Taz, a nearly 2-year-old Belgian Malinois-German Shepherd mix, has already begun making an impact on law enforcement efforts across Barry County.

Deputy Camden Roller, Taz's handler, said the dog has been with the sheriff's office for about two months and has already proven to be a valuable resource in combating drug trafficking and assisting with criminal investigations.

"Taz is certified in narcotics detection, tracking and building searches," Deputy Roller said. "He's already been a useful tool for our agency."

The addition of a K-9 marks a significant milestone for the Sheriff's Office. According to Roller, the department has not had a working police dog in 20 years.

"We really needed one in this area, especially with the drug trafficking that's been going on," Roller said. "Having a K-9 gives us another tool to help get illegal drugs off the streets and locate suspects when they flee."

Taz is trained to detect methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl. However, Roller noted that the dog is intentionally not trained to detect marijuana because recreational marijuana is legal in Missouri.

"That's one of the biggest questions people ask," Deputy Roller said. "He's not a marijuana dog."

Before joining the Barry County Sheriff's Office, Taz underwent an extensive selection and training process.

The dog was imported from Poland through Patriot Canine, a Joplin-based training organization. A master trainer personally selects dogs based on the type of work they will perform, whether that's narcotics detection, tracking, patrol work or apprehension.

Once selected, each dog begins several weeks of foundational training that includes obedience, socialization and early narcotics imprinting before being paired with a handler.

Roller then completed an intensive six-week handler course alongside Taz.

"We trained Monday through Friday, about eight hours a day," Roller said. "You learn everything together."

While the formal training lasted six weeks, the learning continues every day on patrol.

Taz lives full time with Roller, allowing the pair to develop the trust necessary to work effectively together.

"He comes home with me," Deputy Roller said. "Out here on the road, he's a working dog. At home, he's more of a pet."

That close relationship is essential when working in unpredictable situations.

"The bond is extremely important," Roller said. "He's got to be able to trust me, and I've got to trust him."

Roller said much of his job involves reading Taz's body language during narcotics searches. Small behavioral changes can indicate the presence of illegal drugs, making communication between handler and dog critical.

"I have to watch how he reacts during every vehicle search," Roller said. "If I don't, I could miss something."

The partnership also provides an added level of protection for deputies working alone.

"If I'm on a traffic stop and my nearest backup is 30 minutes away, I have to trust him to have my back," Roller said.

The sheriff's office patrol vehicles are equipped with specialized K-9 equipment that allows Taz to assist quickly if an emergency occurs.

"Our cars are designed where, with the push of a button, the passenger-side door opens and he can come out to help if needed," Roller said.

Although Taz is trained as a patrol and apprehension dog, Roller emphasized that he only bites when given a command.

"He is a bite dog, so we ask people not to come up and pet him while we're working," Roller said.

However, community interaction remains an important part of the K-9

program. The sheriff's office plans to participate in school visits and public events, allowing residents to learn more about Taz and the role police dogs play in public safety.

"When we attend events, he'll be muzzled, on a leash and under my control the entire time," Roller said. "Safety is always our priority."

Since beginning patrol, Taz has already assisted in several investigations across Barry County. Among the most notable was a drug trafficking case in Monett that resulted in an arrest. The suspect remains in custody as the case proceeds through the court system.

The K-9 has also been involved in several narcotics cases in Cassville and Eagle Rock.

"We've kind of been hitting everywhere in Barry County," Roller said.

Because Taz is currently the county's only law enforcement K-9, he also assists neighboring agencies when requested.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol has called on the team during traffic stops, and local police departments regularly request assistance when a K-9 is needed.

Roller hopes the success of the program may eventually lead to additional K-9 teams within the sheriff's office.

"Right now, we're still pretty new to having a K-9 again," Deputy Roller said. "We're seeing how everything goes, and hopefully in the future we can expand."

At just under 2 years old, Taz is expected to have a long career ahead of him. Working police dogs typically serve until around 9 years of age, depending on their health and physical condition.

As Taz gains experience, Roller expects him to become even more effective.

"They get better over time," he said. "It's all about repetition and continuing to train."

Despite his specialized training, Taz's mission remains straightforward.

"Our biggest goal is to keep getting drugs off the streets," Roller said. "A lot of people in this county are tired of the drugs, and so are we. This is where we live. We're going to keep working every day to make our communities safer."

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P.O. Box 486 • 600 Main Street • Cassville, MO 65625
Phone: 417-847-2610
Email address: cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com
Website: www.cassville-democrat.com

STAFF
Jordan Troutman. Office Manager/Reporter
Kyle Troutman. Editor/Sports Editor/Graphic Designer
Sheila Harris. Sales Executive/Reporter

LOCAL

Man charged with rape, dissemination of images

33-year-old from golden being held on no bond

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com
A Golden man has been arrested and charged with three felonies relating to alleged sex crimes.
Daniel Kazakevicius, 33, of Golden, is charged with first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree rape and nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images.
According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Billy Forester, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on Feb. 4, Forester interviewed the victim regarding an alleged sexual assault. The victim disclosed

Kazakevicius had allegedly assaulted them multiple times while they were incapacitated and without the victim's consent. The victim could not recall the exact dates, but later confirmed the alleged incidents occurred in December 2025 at Kazakevicius' residence in Golden.
The victim stated during one incident, Kazakevicius allegedly ejaculated on them while they were asleep and recorded it on his cell phone. The victim said the ejaculate was still present when they awoke, and the incident happened without the victim's consent.
The victim stated they were unsure what all Kazakevicius did while they were asleep, but noted they awoke numerous times to Kazakevicius recording or taking pictures while they ere

FELONY ARREST
Who: Daniel Kazakevicius, 33, of Golden
What: Is charged with first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree rape and nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images
Bond: Kazakevicius is being held on no bond

asleep.
During a separate incident, the victim said they were intoxicated to the point of feeling sick when Kazakevicius said he wanted to engage in intercourse. The victim said they declined, but Kazakevicius engaged in intercourse with them anyway, without the victim's consent. The victim said they pushed Kazakevicius away and escaped to the bathroom, telling him his actions were not OK and were

without consent.
The victim said Kazakevicius replied saying he liked doing stuff like that, and the victim loved him, which made it consensual.
Due to Kazakevicius actions, the victim ended the relationship and filed for an order of protection, which was granted. Following that effort, Kazakevicius allegedly sent the victim multiple threatening emails, which the victim provided to Forester.
The victim also revealed Kazakevicius had posted explicit photographs of the victim online, stating the photos were ones shared only with Kazakevicius during their relationship.
Through a subpoena, Forester requested the subscriber information from the online service

for the username that posted the explicit images online. The agency returned a verified email address used by the subscriber to create the account.
The email address is the same allegedly used by Kazakevicius to send the threatening emails, one of which stated, "Bet you wish you didn't burn this bridge. Bet you wish you had talked to me like a big girl and maybe I would have deleted these... More? Oh yea, I have plenty...."
Kazakevicius is being held in the Barry County jail on no bond. His warrant was issued on July 15, and he was booked into the jail the following day.
A disposition hearing has been held, and a bond hearing is set for Thursday at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

Bond: Central Crossing runs 1,200 calls for service a year over 140 square miles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

for projects of that scale through annual property tax revenue would significantly delay progress.
"We've been looking for ways to replace a couple of our fire stations and make some apparatus purchases," Rickard said. "Doing that on a current property tax levy is not a great option. The bond just seemed like the best option for us, especially with the way prices are increasing each year. It allows the money to come up front, similar to a loan, and then be paid back over time."
The proposal includes replacing Stations 3 and 4, which Rickard said no longer meet the district's operational needs.
"These stations are both very small," Rickard said. "They're basically two-car garages."
Station 3 is located south of Shell Knob at the intersection of Highway 39 and Highway H in Stone County, while Station 4 sits east of town on Highway YY near the Barry-Stone county line. Both stations were built years ago on U.S. Forest Service property and lack basic amenities.
"They have no running water, no septic, no bathroom," Rickard said. "At the time they were adequate, but they're not building fire trucks smaller."
As apparatus have grown over the years, the stations have become increasingly difficult to

use.
"We struggle to be able to fit fire trucks in them, let alone have the rest of the things that we need in those stations," Rickard said. "We've been challenged with them for the last several years as far as the size of the stations and have been looking for ways to get those two stations replaced."
The replacement buildings would be significantly larger and designed to serve the district for decades.
"We want to expand on the size and build them to carry us well into the future," Rickard said. "They'll be built with running water and septic and room for decontamination of our gear and equipment."
The new stations would also include room for future living quarters if the district's staffing needs continue to grow.
"They'll have adequate space to put small living quarters in them," Rickard said. "If and when we get to a point of needing those things, we'll already have them."
In addition to station improvements, the proposal includes replacing several aging brush trucks.
"The brush trucks that we have currently are trucks that we've acquired over the years from the military," Rickard said. "The trucks we're looking to replace are from the

1980s."
Rickard said maintaining those vehicles has become increasingly difficult.
"They're having maintenance problems, they don't have a lot of the newer safety aspects, and two or three of them we're struggling now to get parts for," Rickard said.
One truck required a major modification simply to remain in service.
"A few years back we actually had to take the diesel engine out and put a gas engine in it because we couldn't get parts for the military diesel engine," Rickard said.
The district also hopes to purchase a dedicated rescue truck to consolidate specialized equipment used on increasingly complex emergency calls.
"With the growing amount of calls and the more need that we're starting to see for advanced rescue-type calls and technical rescues, it's not just vehicle wrecks anymore," Rickard said.
Rickard said fire departments routinely respond to emergencies many people don't associate with firefighters.
"People hear of fire departments, but they don't quite realize the extent of rescue," he said. "Getting into high-angle rescues, farming accidents, equipment accidents, people who've fallen off bluffs or incidents related to the

lake — each one of those requires a lot of different type equipment."
The proposal would also retire the district's remaining apparatus leases.
"With the exception of our current lease, the district is debt free," Rickard said. "Paying those final leases off will free up some money in the annual budget to allow us to do a few other things as well."
Rickard said the district currently covers approximately 140 square miles with six stations, 25 emergency vehicles, 10 full-time firefighters, 28 active volunteers and seven part-time firefighters.
"We're running about 1,200 calls for service a year," Rickard said.
The district's \$1.4 million operating budget is supported almost entirely by property tax revenue, which Rickard said limits how quickly large capital projects can be completed.
"Property tax comes a little at a time," Rickard said. "It's kind of a challenging way of doing projects like this."
Rickard said some residents have asked why the district does not pursue a sales tax instead of relying on property taxes.
"We don't have the retail market here to support a sales tax," Rickard said. "We don't have the Walmart or the Silver Dollar City or the big sales-generating businesses here to pull that off."

He said district leaders previously examined the possibility and found the tax rate required would have been impractical.
"When we passed our tax levy to bring on our full-time help, we were looking at having to raise the sales tax rate here like 5% or something crazy like that," Rickard said. "It put us in very high rates similar to what you see at Branson Landing. It just was not remotely appropriate."
Rickard said the district's existing tax levy funds staffing, with about half of the annual revenue supporting personnel costs.
"We have a full-time staff of 10 people with minimum staffing of two firefighters 24/7," Rickard said. "The funds that we generate from that part of our tax levy have to be used for staffing."
Although state law would allow the district to seek a much larger bond issue, Rickard said the board intentionally kept its request well below that threshold.
"We could be asking for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$21 million on this bond," Rickard said. "Our board is very conservative. They took a strong look at our long-range plan, what we feel like our needs are and what we can realistically ask the people to support and be able to afford to pay back."
Instead, the district

is requesting less than one-quarter of its legal borrowing capacity.
"We're not asking for \$21 million," Rickard said. "We're asking for less than 25% of what we, by law, could be asking for."
Rickard also emphasized that district officials have worked to be transparent about the financial impact if voters approve the measure. Approval would come with a property tax increase of 23 cents on every \$100 of assessed valuation.
"Our goal has been to be 100% upfront with the voters and the taxpayers of the district," Rickard said. "We've intentionally distributed information explaining that the bond issue would be a tax increase."
To help residents understand the proposal, the district has provided tools to estimate individual tax impacts.
"There's a link on our website that allows you to put in your assessed valuation from your tax bill in order to calculate how much your taxes will increase," Rickard said.
Ultimately, Rickard said the proposal is rooted in the district's responsibility to maintain reliable emergency services for a growing community.
"We wouldn't be asking for the bond if we didn't feel it was needed," Rickard said. "It's not just a want. It's a need, we feel."

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

See you at the polls!

In less than a week, Barry County voters will have their say on numerous local races and issues, as well as a few prominent constitutional amendments — all of which have the potential of maintaining or altering the future paths of our county and state.

County-wise, the prosecuting attorney and presiding commissioner races will no doubt be on the forefront of the voters' minds. I hope that through our 24 prosecutor questions and 21 presiding commissioner questions over the last five weeks in print and the Barry County Candidates Forum that the Democrat has provided the kind of information voters can use to make their decisions on Tuesday.

Other local issues include a \$4.5 million bond question for the Central Crossing Fire Protection District, a \$5 million bond question for the city of Butterfield's sewer system (a second attempt after an identical proposal failed by 21 votes to 18 in April), and a 1% sales tax proposal for the Seligman Fire Protection District for equipment, training and operations.

While there is a story in this week's issue on Central Crossing's question, I regret to have not gotten to the Butterfield or Seligman fire questions in print. Individual follow-up stories on those should be in order.

In recent weeks, multiple requests have been made to analyze the four state amendments, so I hope the following breakdown might be of guidance.

Amendment 2 deals with the Jackson County assessor position, with a yes vote requiring an election instead of appointment. Jackson County passed a measure in 2024 amending its county charter to require an assessor election, so a yes vote would simply alter the state Constitution to remove that county's exemption in the Constitution to cement an assessor election. It has zero effect on Barry County.

Amendments 1, 4 and 5, however, have far further-reaching implications for the state. I only have so much space here, so I hope to give as much insight as succinctly as possible.

Amendment 1 would renew the 0.1% sales and use tax for parks, soil and water. The tax, already in place and up for renewal every 10 years, funds the state parks and historic sites, as well as soil and water conservation programs.

Voting yes on the tax would keep that funding as-is, and a no vote would allow the tax to expire, forcing parks, soil and water to compete for funding within the framework of the regular state budget.

Given the state of the budget in recent years, it seems risky to throw parks, soil and water at the mercy of the legislative budget process versus having a dedicated funding mechanism.

Cassville Democrat reporter Sheila Harris wrote a more in-depth opinion piece on this amendment in the May 26 edition laying out the local implications (<https://tinyurl.com/mu4sy4hr>). In short, a yes vote would continue funding as-is for Roaring River State Park, but it will also may benefit farmers who land-apply industrial sludge that could have an effect on said park. "Swallowing a horse pill" is an apt metaphor.

Sheila also addressed Amendments 4 and 5 on July 14 (<https://tinyurl.com/bdt6bpy5>), which is worth a read.

Amendment 4 would require future citizen-initiated Constitutional amendments to receive a statewide majority and majority approval in each of the eight Congressional districts to pass, among other provisions. Citizen-initiated amendments have been under attack in recent years, especially following the legalization of medical and recreational marijuana, Medicaid expansion and abortion rights. It's an attempt to tighten Missouri citizens' ability to pass amendments, and seems more about party politics than the rights of the people to craft their own future for the state.

If you think there is a problem with initiative petitions, vote yes; and if you like the process as-is, vote no.

Finally, Amendment 5 would overhaul the state's tax system by phasing out the individual income tax and replace funding with expanded sales tax. As with any change, there are pros and cons.

States without income tax, like Texas, Florida and Tennessee, have experienced strong population growth and economic growth in recent years. However, heavier sales taxes will likely hit low- and middle-income earners the hardest, and Barry County ranks in the lower-middle among counties when it comes to average income.

In short, it's a long road to haul that could have dramatic effects on state funding of programs — like education, healthcare and public safety. If it passes and Missouri does not see substantial economic growth, the future would look dire. Sure seems like a lot of eggs to put in a fragile basket, and only time will tell if that basket holds.

Wherever you fall on any of the candidates or issues in this election, the main advice I have is go vote. If you don't cast a ballot, you don't get to rejoice or complain in the future of our county and state.

See you at the polls!

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 kt Troutman@cassville-democrat.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



COMMUNITY VOICES

The fight for reading; Literacy on the ropes

There are battles that announce themselves with headlines and protests, and there are also quiet battles.

They unfold slowly, almost invisible to our understanding. Then one day they emerge with a frightening surprise like a hydra, causing us to ask ourselves how did this happen?

Reading may be one of those battles.

Recently, The Atlantic magazine published an article, provocatively entitled, "The End of Reading is Here." It has sparked no small amount of furor across the expanse of our country. Educators, parents, political pundits, librarians and writers have all weighed in. The title may be intentionally hyperbolic, but the questions it raises and the statistical evidence it reveals are truly concerning. This is something that deserves our attention.

Illiteracy, once thought to be a societal malaise about to be vanquished, has reared its ugly head again, in all places — the American backyard.

Why here now? Understand please, this is an American problem, not confined to Missouri or even our beloved Cassville. No, no. Across America, reading scores continue to decline. The bandwidth it impacts is all sectors of our demography.

More troubling still, students are reading less for pleasure, less for intellectual curiosity, less for the search for truth. All grade levels are struggling in comprehension. As in, what did I just read?

And, many exhibit this very real difficulty in being able to sustain attention, cue in the squirrel looking for the buried nut metaphor, because it is spot on. Initially, it was pooh poohed just a COVID-19 issue. No more, the evidence is clear.

The problem reaches far deeper. It is changing the educational landscape and will with a quick two step impact our communities in the future.

Missouri has not escaped these challenges. Reading proficiency remains below pre-pandemic levels, even as schools work to improve instruction through evidence-based initiatives and expanded early literacy programs. Those stats matter. Stats alone do not solve the problem. The problem is a multi-headed monster. Let the finger pointing begin: the internet, social media,



TERRY HELD

educational systems, home life, economics, pandemic circumstances, etc, etc.

As an English instructor at Crowder College in Cassville, literacy is top of mind every day, every class, every student. What I have seen reinforces all the stats. A great many students, when they come into my Composition class have not read a book, save one that may have been assigned in high school. There are exceptions, yes. But, the vast majority read not for pleasure, not at all.

Sarah Smith, the Director at Crowder Cassville, is a fierce advocate for reading for humanistic development. She has started a reading initiative by establishing a free library, and this summer offering up novels gratis with no requirements to turn in homework, just read.

Why does she do this? I am glad you asked. Sarah Smith knows from her years in higher education that students thrive when they value different perspectives, learn from challenges and remain curious about the world. Reading plays a vital role in developing their minds and their desire to make the world a better place. Reading does this. NB: Sarah is an Avid reader, capital "A."

Fact: There are two known ways in which critical thinking is developed. This is the holy grail of education (little "h"). Critical thinking is also known as problem solving aptitude, a higher-level cognitive efficacy. The first way is through the steady practice of reading, primarily long form narrative reading, not social media and whatever the blue glow from a screen reveals.

Novels, short stories, novellas, dramas, and poetry, that is what long form reading is. The second avenue is to learn a second language. This is a physiological fact, science-based evidence on how our brains develop most efficiently.

I have spoken of the classroom, education as a part of growing up to be responsible citizens. Yet this concern about the decline of reading reaches into the community, our community. Because the collective nature of the citizenry is to develop habits that benefit the greater good of all. The steady practice of reading is a habit that has benefits for every breathing soul. Now we are no longer talking English or education.

We are talking about reading as a critical thinking exercise that allows us to grow outside of ourselves, outside of the screen's influence.

The issue of declining reading scores is a symptom. Not a cause of our lack of empathy for one another. As a nation, as a people gathered around our constitution, our very will to overcome any obstacle before us is part of our Git-R-Done spirit. I do not profess to have a ready-made solution, no bullet points to eradicate illiteracy. But the solution is before us and collectively we will solve any problem.

I remain hopeful — nay — I firmly believe we will right the teetering ship because I have seen it happen. I have witnessed students stand before an audience during Poetry Ain't Dead, reading words they never imagined anyone else would hear. I've watched listeners nod in quiet recognition. I've watched strangers begin conversations because of a poem. Those evenings remind me that reading has never merely been about books. It has always been about people. Books simply happen to be one of the ways people learn to understand one another.

The battle for reading will not be won in classrooms alone. It will be won around kitchen tables.

In libraries. At bedtime. On front porches. Perhaps even in a small poetry gathering on a Thursday evening in Cassville. Communities become what they repeatedly practice. If we hope to remain a community that thinks deeply, imagines generously, and listens carefully, then reading is not simply another educational objective. Reading and literacy are worth fighting for.

Battle on.

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

YOUR VIEW

Memories of Melton's letter inclusion, assistance

Dear Editor:

I am sure many people have stories relating to The Advertiser and Emory Melton. It was a sad day when Emory was gone and no longer in charge.

Though born and raised here, I was in other states working from early 1070's until I retired in 2006. As I am wont to do, I occasionally wrote letters to the editor and submitted them to The Advertiser and the Democrat, which was under different management at that time.

One time I submit-

ted a letter that was in conflict with the editor's opinion and was told that it wouldn't be printed because of that fact. Finding this unacceptable censorship, I wrote directly to Emory. I received a letter in return from him saying that he would not allow a letter to be rejected for that reason and it was in the paper the next week.

Most memorably, was a time when letters were flying into the paper on a topic related to the city government. Several of mine were printed. One day I received a call from

Emory's office. I was told that he would like to speak to me if I would drop by. Which of course I did, as I couldn't imagine why he would want to talk to me.

To my absolute surprise, he told me that I was on the right track with my criticism of the city government and suggested I request a specific set of documents from the city. Unfortunately I found out it was quite expensive to obtain that information.

Next thing I knew, after informing him of the

expense, he obtained the documents and provided them to me, which I used to write a few more letters giving more information to anyone who happened to be interested in the subject.

That is something I shall never forget, and something I suspect would only happen with a small town paper with a long time resident and local owner.

A shame it couldn't make it without him.

Kathy Casey
Cassville

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We've been looking for ways to replace a couple of our fire stations and make some apparatus purchases. Doing that on a current property tax levy is not a great option. The bond just seemed like the best option for us, especially with the way prices are increasing each year. It allows the money to come up front, similar to a loan, and then be paid back over time."

— CENTRAL CROSSING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CHIEF RUSTY RICKARD ON WHY THE DISTRICT IS SEEKING A \$4.5 MILLION BOND ISSUE ON AUG. 4 INSTEAD OF LOOKING TO MAKE UPGRADES WITH PROPERTY TAX INCOME.

50 years ago

**Aug. 4, 1976
— CLOSE RACES AND SWEEPS IN
BARRY COUNTY PRIMARY VOTE
TUESDAY**

Voting went mostly as expected in Barry County's primary Tuesday, but there were upsets and tragedy in state ballot reports. Congressman Jerry Litton, leading in a focus race for the Democrat nomination for the U.S. Senate, was killed in an airplane crash near Chillicothe. Litton, his wife, two children, pilot and the aviator's son died in a fiery crash. With 93 percent of the state's precincts reported, Litton had collected 311,424 votes. Former Gov. Warren Hearnes was second with 213,440 and Congressman Jim Symington was third with 204,741. Officials of the Missouri Democrat State Committee will name a replacement for the party for campaigning in the November general election. Biggest surprise in Missouri was in Democrat balloting for governor, where Kansas City attorney Joseph Teasdale was running ahead of State Sen. William Cason for the nomination. Teasdale, dubbed "Walking Joe" in previous campaigns, had 390,696 votes compared to Cason's 314,354. About one-half of the county's registered voters turned out for the primary election process. In county races, all incumbent candidates on both sides won renomination. The complete unofficial results as they appeared on the county ballot included the following: Democrat candidates — Jerry Litton carried his state majority into Barry County, receiving 1,689 votes. Two major contenders, Jim Symington had 718 and Warren Hearnes 452. Eight other candidates received minor votes. Barry County Democrats stumbled on the governor's race, giving loser Bill Cason the majority, 1,614 to Joseph Teasdale's 568. Seven other candidates received minor votes. For lieutenant governor: Richard Rabbitt 1,285, John McAllister 828, Alberta Slavin 193 and Leonard Bade 95. For secretary of state: James Kirkpatrick led the Democrat ticket in Barry County, receiving 2,339 votes to his opponent James Askew's 332. For state treasurer: James Spainhower, 2,013, unopposed. For attorney general: James G. Baker 1,362, George E. Schaaf 1,006. For state representative, 140th District: Rufus Miller of Cassville received the nomination with a 1,033-vote majority in Barry County and a 570-vote plurality in McDonald County. Miller had 1,584 votes in Barry County to 551 for Ben Stanford of Monett. In McDonald County the voting went 1,050 for Miller to 480 for Stanford. For northern judge: The closest race in the county was between William Buchanan of Monett and Virgil Pugh of Purdy, seeking a seat on the county court. Buchanan had 645 votes to 590 for Pugh, a 55-vote majority. For southern judge: Lige Frost, incumbent judge, unopposed for a second term, received 1,184 votes. For sheriff: Bob Johnson of Golden, running unopposed for his nomination, had 1,914 votes. For prosecuting attorney: Dale Burke of Monett. The decorations will be reduced each month until nine notes at Cassville banks are retired. Plans for the annual Fall Trout Derby at Roaring River State Park were discussed. The session will be Oct. 8-9, with stocking arrangements through the Missouri Conservation Commission and trophies for prize catches furnished by the Chamber of Commerce. Ward told the directors that as of July 31 the Chamber had distributed 5,200 Cassville brochures through sport and travel shows and another 2,500 through state and travel information centers. He also noted another 750 distributed to direct inquiries this spring and summer. Plans for the upcoming airport dedication and horse-shoe pitching tournament were also discussed by the Chamber.

**— AREA AWARDS TO 4-HERS FROM
BARRY COUNTY**

Eighteen 4-H members represented Barry County at

the Area 4-H Achievement Day held on the SMSU campus in Springfield last week. These 4-H'ers qualified for competition by winning at the County Achievement Day in Cassville. Connie McDougle of the Lucky Four Club represented Barry County in the area senior dress revue and will represent the county at State 4-H Day in Columbia on Sept. 11. The senior dress revue and public speaking are the only events that advance to state competition. Two hundred seventy-five 4-H members from the 10 counties in Lakes Country participated in the area competition. Results of the Barry County members are: Diane Glatz, gold ribbon and third in Junior Dress Revue, Busy Bee Club; Elizabeth Glatz, gold ribbon and third in Girls Senior Grooming, Busy Bee; Richard Schmidt, gold ribbon and second in Boys Senior Grooming, Kings Prairie Club; Rebecca Miekley, gold ribbon in Girls Junior Grooming, Busy Bee; Randy Schmidt, silver ribbon in Boys Junior Grooming, Kings Prairie Club; Jo Nell Vincent, silver ribbon in Crafts Demonstrations, Leann Climbers Club; Donna Riggs, silver ribbon and first in Home Management Demonstrations, North Barry County; Debbie Roles, silver ribbon in Foods Demonstrations, Busy Bee; LaDonna Longstreet, silver ribbon in Veterinary Science Demonstrations, Leann Climbers; Robert and Joe Sperandio, gold ribbon in Tractor Maintenance Demonstrations, Kings Prairie; Robbie Hughes, silver ribbon in Crafts Demonstrations, Leann Climbers; Dianna Roles, gold ribbon in Foods Judging, Busy Bee; Cathy Watley, gold ribbon in Clothing Judging, Busy Bee; Valerie Nickle, silver ribbon in Clothing Judging, Black Oak; Jill Shepherd, gold ribbon and third in Clothing Judging, North Barry County; Wendy Thompson, gold ribbon and first in Home Management Judging, Busy Bee; Ronnie Schmidt, gold ribbon and third in Horticulture Judging, Kings Prairie; and Dale Koch, silver ribbon in Horticulture Judging, North Barry County Club. The Leann Climbers Club took part in the Share the Fun Contest.

40 years ago

**Aug. 6, 1986
— PRIMARY RACES DECIDED BY 20%
COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT**

Primary election races, there were three of them in Barry County Tuesday, were decided by a 20 percent turnout of voters. Total vote in the U.S. Senate races on the Democrat and Republican ballots numbered 3,394 votes, according to Rex Stumpff, county clerk. Stumpff listed just over 16,500 registered voters in the county. That figures to 20.58 percent of eligible voters going to the polls to make primary choices. Unofficial tabulations Tuesday night had two incumbent Republicans pushing aside challenges to win nomination. Southern Commissioner Billy Chappell outran challenger Robert Scott 822 to 338. In a closely contested race for Northern Commissioner, Rodney F. Sisco, with 552 votes, outdistanced two others, Launce Bunnell, the closest at 458, and Connie Clayton at 111. Closest of all was the GOP race for treasurer where incumbent Gene Fare got 921, his closest challenger Arthur Hegi of Shell Knob had 857 and Ronnie Miller of Cassville got 565. A hotly contested race for state representative in the 131st District had incumbent Eddie Williams at 621 with principal push coming from Paul Clemons at 616. Barbara A. Lacey of Exeter got 148 and David Alumbaugh of McDonald County 312. All other votes in the county, on both sides of the ballot, Democrat and Republican, were unopposed. Individual township and total votes are available in a graphic this week in the Democrat. Featuring a race of two Barry Countians, the Seventh Congressional District vote for the Democrats apparently went

THROUGH THE YEARS



50 YEARS AGO: 50 YEARS AGO — THREE IN A BOOTH: While mom marks her ballot in the polling booth, in this case, Marilyn Peters has company in the person of her two daughters, Christine and Catherine. The young ladies seemed more interested in having their picture taken than they were in the election machinery that was going on around them. Democrat file photo

to George E. Abramovitz of Springfield and the Pioneer community. In the county, he cornered 483 votes, Joe Lee Davidson had 231, Ken Young 282 and Ruby Oxendine 71. Stumpff and incumbent Presiding Commissioner Lloyd Dilbeck led the Democrat ticket with 1,014 and 1,005 votes respectively. For several GOP candidates, Tuesday's vote was tantamount to election. Included were incumbent Associate Judge of the Circuit Court Edward Sweeney, Rodney Sisco for Northern Commissioner, Circuit Clerk Dick Sanders, Prosecuting Attorney John Lewright and Collector of Revenue Misha Hull, all of whom will be unopposed in the general election. Their only possible opposition would be a declared write-in candidate. Races set by Tuesday's vote in the county included Dilbeck and Ray for presiding commissioner, Rena Crowe Scott and Billy J. Chappell for southern commissioner, Stumpff and Dean Hall for clerk and Freida Nokes challenging Gene Fare. County voters turned down three of five Constitutional Amendments. The votes: Number Two, 1,349 yes and 1,786 no, pertaining to unsigned legislative bills; Number Three, 1,608 yes and 1,505 no, cash operating reserve; Number Four, 1,719 yes and 1,369 no, county official compensation; Number Six, 1,398 yes and 1,670 no, state treasurer custodian of funds; Number Eight, 1,464 yes and 1,686 no, pertaining to county funds. Official tabulations of the precinct returns were to begin Wednesday afternoon in Stumpff's office. He said a panel representing the two major political parties would go over returns to check accuracy. District balloting in the Democrat congressional nomination went to Ken Young, twice before the party choice to oppose Congressman Gene Taylor. He outpolled George Abramovitz of Pioneer and Springfield, Joe Lee Davidson of Rocky Comfort and Ruby Oxendine of Joplin. In the state representative race, November will see a rematch between GOP incumbent Eddie Williams and one-time legislator Nolan McNeill of Cassville. McNeill, unopposed for the Democrat nomination, served one term four years ago. Williams outdistanced three opponents with 1,049 votes. Others were Paul Clemons with 928, David Alumbaugh with 793 and Barbara Lacey of Exeter with 208. Unlike county returns, voters in the state were headed toward giving approval to all five constitutional amendments that were presented at the polls Tuesday. Statewide races followed county trends as Lieutenant Governor Harriett Woods got the Democrat nomination for U.S. Senator in a seven-way race. Former Gov. Christopher Bond was the GOP pick from four candidates. Travis Morrison will run for state auditor on the Democrat ticket, while

the Aug. 6 primary election. Voter totals are up considerably from the 1994 primary when there were 13,532 eligible voters. County Clerk Gary Youngblood is predicting that 23 percent of the voters will make it to area polling places for the primaries. Flat Creek is the largest of the county's 22 precincts with 3,209 registered voters. A breakdown of registered voters in the other precincts is as follows: Ash, 339; Butterfield, 540; Capps Creek, 279; Crane Creek, 504; Exeter, 1,045; Flat Creek, 3,209; Jenkins, 383; Kings Prairie, 430; McDonald, 105; Mineral, 345; McDowell, 151; Monett, 3,129; Ozark, 371; Pleasant Ridge, 209; Purdy, 1,291; Roaring River, 779; Sugar Creek, 649; Shell Knob, 771; White River 1, 652; White River 2, 766; Washburn, 597; and Wheaton, 914. Voters who have registered in the northern and southern commission districts are unevenly distributed. There are 8,037 voters in the northern district compared to 9,418 in the southern half. On the state level, Secretary of State Rebecca McDowell-Cook is predicting a 35 percent voter turnout. A canvass of the 116 election authorities around Missouri shows there are 3,231,986 citizens registered to vote for the primary. This total sets a record for voter registration in the state. The Secretary of State compiled her August turnout projection after conferring with county clerks and election officials throughout Missouri. Counties anticipating the highest turnout are those with active races for county offices or legislative seats. Youngblood reminds voters that the clerk's office will be open Saturday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon for absentee voting. The last day to cast an absentee ballot will be Aug. 5. Elections Deputy Donna Sanders said, as of Tuesday morning, the county clerk's office has completed 157 absentee ballot requests. Voters should be prepared to pick a party ballot next Tuesday. Choices include Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or non-partisan ballots. A non-partisan ballot does not include candidates. Questions about the primary election can be answered by contacting the county clerk's office at 417-847-2561 or 417-847-2762.

**— CASSVILLE ELEMENTARY RECEIVES
TENTATIVE TECH GRANT APPROVAL**

Cassville R-IV School District received tentative approval on an almost \$50,000 grant to upgrade the elementary school's computer program through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The grant, entitled "Let's Get Wired," was written by Steve McNaught, Martha Dunnam and Marvin Henningson. According to Superintendent Dan Bailey, the grant was a competitive one. "We were one of a number of schools competing statewide for the grant," Bailey said. "This is the next stage of our technology plan." Bailey also stated that the majority of the grant will be used for elementary school computer purchasing. "Our goal is to

have a computer in every classroom," Bailey said. "We are moving that way. It will take a tremendous expense, and we need a tremendous amount of equipment. I estimate that in five years, or so, we will be up to speed." The project's central focus is on using technology to promote student learning. Teachers will be able to provide specialized instruction for individual students as well as cooperative group learning projects. As students participate in planned instructional activities, they will learn basic skills in targeted areas. McNaught believes in-service training will be essential. "We need to get the teachers trained on the computers so they are familiar with them. That will aid in teaching the students, and the students will easily learn the computer system." "We want each teacher to have a computer in their classroom," McNaught said. "Eventually this will tie technology together with all three schools. There will possibly be schoolwide, full Internet access next year." According to the grant proposal, the total amount budgeted for the technology project is \$99,480. The amount of state funds requested was \$49,428. The grant requires a school district match of 10 percent, or \$5,252. The district has also pledged an additional \$44,800 in funding to set up the network. The total project is broken down into four categories. \$69,750 will be used for equipment, which includes 36 Macintosh computers equipped with CD-ROMs, 15-inch monitors, keyboards and mouse. The cost of materials and supplies is \$12,076. Other purchased services, including computer setup and network installation, is \$10,160. A total of \$7,776 will be used for employee salaries and benefits for teachers to attend in-service and follow-up sessions. In addition to the grant, the elementary school received a check for \$16,700 from last spring's P.T.A. carnival. The money was donated to the elementary for the purchase of computer equipment. The "Let's Get Wired" project is designed to increase the language arts, reading and math skills of kindergarten through fifth grade students. Goals are to improve oral, listening, written language and basic math skills, as well as problem-solving and reasoning abilities. These objectives will be accomplished by providing a computer network that will access a variety of resources for students and teachers. Planned visual, oral and written activities that utilize computer network resources will provide students with the means to master these basic skills. The project targets the entire student population, approximately 900 kindergarten through fifth grade students and 36 homeroom teachers. Existing classroom technology and software will be expanded and enhanced by the installation of a local area network. Interaction with new technology will ultimately prepare younger students for the high-tech information age.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Meet Ward! Ward is a gorgeous brindle Shepherd mix with an estimated date of birth of May 5, 2016. He is a happy go lucky boy who is accustomed to leash walks, crate trained, likes other dogs (but we think he would do best in a home with older dogs or calm dogs. He doesn't seem to be a fan of smaller dogs). He doesn't like sharing food so would need to be fed separately. Ward knows commands such as sit. and shake. There is nothing this boy won't do for a treat. Although he isn't a pup anymore, this boy has quite the playful side, but he also enjoys being a couch potato. His ideal family will be gentle with him. He recently spent time in a foster home and does well with kids of all ages. He made himself right at home in her room in fact! He would be best in a home with no cats. His adoption fee is just \$25. 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 havenozark-sanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo





PENELOPE EDWINA “PENNY” BROWN

Penelope Edwina “Penny” Brown, 68, of Exeter, Mo. passed away Monday, July 20, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield, Mo.

She was born August 28, 1957 in Green County, Mo., the daughter of Edwin and Auda (Grisham) Johnson, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death were her son, Russell Johnson, and brothers, Sam Johnson, Charles Johnson, and Max Johnson.

Survivors include her sons, Steven Johnson of Exeter, Mo., Israel Brown of Exeter, Mo., Emanuel Brown of Diller, Neb., and Anthony Brown of Exeter, Mo.; 12 grandchildren and

three great grandchildren. She attended school in Galena, Mo., and graduated from Galena High School. She was a devoted homemaker and had made her home in Exeter for the past 30 years. She was of the Baptist faith.

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

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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

ALVAH ELZIE CASSITY

Alvah Elzie Cassity, 82, of Purdy, Mo., passed away peacefully at his home on July 25, 2026.

Born on July 13, 1944, in Klamath Falls, Ore.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Margaret Helen Golubski, and several brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his sons, Jason Cassity and wife Tamara, of Purdy, Mo. and Aaron Cassity

and wife Dawn, of Mt. Vernon, Mo.; daughter, Stacy Cassity, of Joplin, Mo.; two grandchildren; as well as a host of extended family and friends.

He dedicated 34 years to the Mo. Department of Transportation as a State Inspector before retiring.

Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at Buchanan Funeral Home, with Father Paul Pudhota officiating. Interment will follow in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8:00 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions have been suggested to Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, Mo.



PAULA MARIE CRIGGER

Paula Marie Crigger, 71, of Seligman, Mo. passed away peacefully at her home July 24, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on July 26, 1954 in Wichita, Kan., the daughter of Arthur Jacob and Viola Vernoa (Reed) McCleary, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her son, Bryan Crigger and two brothers, Wayne McCleary and William McCleary.

Survivors include her husband, Melvin Crigger; her daughter, Amanda Horton and husband Billy Robinson of Seligman, Mo.; her sister, Lenett Atteberry and husband Allen of Seligman, Mo.; one granddaughter; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She attended school in Topeka, Kan., and graduated from Topeka High School. She dedicated much of her life to her career, beginning as a Quality Control Inspector with Emerson Electric in Independence, Kan., where she worked for 21 years. She later spent 15 years with Fuji Film in Bentonville, Ark., before joining Walmart as a lab technician, where she worked for the past 18 years until her passing.

A memorial service to honor and celebrate Paula's life will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, July 31, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Mo. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the services. Burial will be at Pratt Cemetery

in Garfield, Ark., at a later date.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



NORMA L. HAYWARD

Norma L. Hayward, 88, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Monday, July 20, 2026 at her home.

She was born February 19, 1938 in Cassville, Mo., the daughter of Clarence D. and Cora V. (Preddy) Saunders, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband, Bobby Wayne Hayward; brothers, Harold Saunders, Alfred Saunders, and Charles Saunders and sisters, Louise Skelton and June Bateman.

Survivors include her sons, Gary Hayward of Cassville, Mo. and Larry Hayward and wife Vickie of Republic, Mo.; brothers, Johnny Saunders and wife Janie of Washburn, Mo. and Verdayne Saunders and wife Gail of Republic, Mo.; four grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren and special friends, Mitchell and Janice Allen of Cassville, Mo.

She attended school in Exeter, Mo., and graduated from Exeter High School with the Class of 1956. She was a devoted homemaker and a talented seamstress who made her son's clothes for many years. She was of the Baptist faith.

Graveside services were held Friday, July 24, 2026 at Mineral Springs Cemetery in Cassville, Mo., under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Laith Hayward conducted the services.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



ELIZABETH JANNA STAPLETON

Elizabeth Janna Stapleton, was called home to be with the Lord on July 18, 2026. Elizabeth was born June 24, 1962 in Denver, CO to William Sr. and Martha VanTwyver. Elizabeth grew up in the Washburn, MO area and is one of seven children. She attended Missouri State University. She joined the Red Cross AFES serving several years and in several foreign countries. She was an ordained pastor and is very strong in her faith. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Alice Ann VanTwyver, and brother-in-law Borie Fortune. She is survived by her son, Aaron Stapleton, Bentonville, AR. Also by her brothers and sisters: William VanTwyver, Jr., wife Diane, Shell Knob, MO., Lewis Cooper, wife Pat, Violet Hill, AR., Nancy Fortune, Payette, ID., Martha “Marti” Miller, husband Steve, Prescott, KS., and Jan VanTwyver, Washburn, MO. The memories that Elizabeth creating and the love she shared

will continue to live in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and loved.

A private family service will be held at a later date. **PAID OBITUARY**



HARVEY LEE STOCKTON

Harvey Lee Stockton, age 85, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Monday, July 20, 2026 at his home.

He was born May 16, 1941 in Shell Knob, Mo., the son of James Jefferson and Mattie Mae (Hampton) Stockton, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death were his sisters, Reta Henson, Reba Kamler, and Mary Matthews; brother, Harry Stockton; nieces, Karen Kamler and Paula Bacca; nephews, Steve Stockton and Marty Stockton; father-in-law, Charles Lewis and mother-in-law, Dorothy Lewis.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Belle Lewis; his son, Wade Stockton and wife Tracy of Rockledge, Fla.; daughter, Julie Tuttle and husband Joe of Oak Grove, Mo.; sisters, Sharon Hayworth and husband James of Washburn, Mo.; four grandchildren; one great grandchild, and several nieces and nephews.

He attended school in Cassville and graduated from Cassville High School with the Class of 1959. He was employed as an operating engineer at Independence Regional Hospital in Independence, Mo.

He attended First Baptist Church in Cassville. Services were held Saturday, July 25, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Wade Stockton conducted the services. Burial was at Mineral Springs Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

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



CAROL SUE (DECOCQ) TIPPEN

Carol Sue (Decocq) Tippen, 77, of Howell, Mich., and Mannheim, Germany, passed away on her birthday, May 26, 2026, surrounded by family.

She was born May 26, 1949 in Wheaton, Mo., the daughter of Olan Leroy Decocq and Mary Rozella Decocq, who preceded her in death.

The family moved to Mich. in 1954. She graduated from Kimball High School, Royal Oak, Mich., in 1967.

Survivors include her brother, Paul L. Decocq (and his wife Amy Lamoreaux), of Howell, Mich., her sister, Janet K. Decocq, of Joplin, Mo., and nieces and nephews Eric and Tara Fleming, Nick Webb, Emily Turner, Alex Webb, Hannah Way, Charles Decator and Briella, Bailey and Blake Weersing. As well as, her “surrogate daughters,” Lara and Nele Sternkopf, of Mannheim, who lovingly accompanied Carol

home to Mich.

She served in the United States Army for 22 years, from 1982 until 2004, primarily as a Military Police officer. During her military service, She served first in South Korea and then in Germany for many years, during which time she was also deployed to Bosnia and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. After retiring from the Army, she was in the civil employment of the military for 10 years, serving in various capacities in the area of Anti-terrorism Force Protection.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 11:00 am at the White Funeral Home, Cassville, Mo., followed by the burial ceremony at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Butterfield, Mo.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Devereaux Post 141, 3265 W Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48855.

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

White Funeral Home and Crematory
Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org
417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400



MICHAEL SCOTT “MIKE” WOOD

Michael Scott “Mike” Wood, age 61, of Seligman, Missouri passed away Friday, July 17, 2026 at his home.

He was born September 12, 1964 in Columbus, Mississippi, the son of Melvin Douglas and Shirley Jean (Eldridge) Wood. On July 25, 1992 in Arlington, Texas he was united in marriage to Kristi Willim, who survives. Also surviving are his mother, Shirley Wood of Arlington, Texas; sister, Stephanie Bliss Tancred and husband Chris of Arlington, Texas; mother-in-law, Dannel Willim of Miami, Oklahoma; brothers-in-law, Douglas Willim and wife Karen of Tulsa, Oklahoma, David Willim of Miami, Oklahoma, and Drew Willim and wife Robin of Bentonville, Arkansas; numerous nieces and nephews and his dog, Piper.

Preceding him in death were his father, Melvin Wood and father-in-law, Douglas Willim.

Mike graduated from Lamar High School in Arlington, Texas, and later attended Tarrant County Junior College, where he earned an associate degree in welding. He and Kristi had made their home in Seligman for the past 21 years. Mike was employed by Long Ridge Ranch in Seligman.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, RVing, and crafting knives in his spare time. Mike especially enjoyed traveling with Kristi, including memorable trips to Alaska. He treasured time spent with his family and friends. Mike was a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

Memorial services were held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to Corinth Baptist Church in memory of Michael.

PAID OBITUARY

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LOCAL

A fine night on the prairie for a picnic



Veteran area musician Dewayne Bowman and his band entertained the Stones Prairie Picnic crowd with classic country music selections. Bowman, second from left, on guitar, and Randy Vanderpool, right, on bass provided vocals. Steve Matlock, at left, played steel guitar and Johnny Winter, center right, played percussion. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Beverly Childress, left, chatted with Kay Johnson, seated, at the craft table, when handmade items made by ladies from St. John's Lutheran Church were available for sale. One of the big draws at the picnic are the quilts, visible at rear, given away in a drawing. Carla Schad, of Purdy, who buys multiple chances on the quilts, won both the Midnight Garden quilt and the baby quilt. Schad also purchased two other quilts, supporting the efforts of the church ladies who made them. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat



The Stones Prairie Picnic featured food, games, live music, and an antique car share. One of the most popular features remained the wagon rides around the field west of the church grounds. Joe Grissom, with his horses Shaggy and Scooby, provided a picturesque jaunt into the country, the essence of a community gathering in rural Barry County. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Linda Schad, right, chatted with one of the many customers coming to the food shack at the Stones Prairie Picnic. The line of customers extended back to the bandstand. Several political candidates took the opportunity to greet guests and promote their campaign. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Even small children had games they could play at the Stones Prairie Picnic. Collins Hardwick, 4, daughter of Britten and Katelyn Hardwick of Purdy, directed by ball girl Lily Terry at right, may not have grasped tossing a softball from a distance into a milk can, but she understood a deposited ball constituted a prize, and for that, she was right on target. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Arrests: Charges pending

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Tuesday, two on warrants in Arkansas and one in McDonald County. David Scott pleaded not guilty in Barry County court on Monday, and he has a bond hearing set for Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke. Cases for Bobby and Mark Scott do not appear to be on Casenet as of Monday evening. A live press conference was scheduled for Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Barry County Sheriff's Office. More information on this story will be released as it becomes available. The Cassville Democrat ran a four-part series on Hocutt's murder in October and November 2020. Those articles may be found at: <https://www.cassville-democrat.com/2025/10/09/murder-on-the-tracks-who-killed-justin-hocutt/>.

Tax: Credit law enacted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

source of revenue for the state, with over \$9 billion. Tax credits in the amount of \$1.4 trillion to out-of-state businesses could be attributed, in part, to the enactment of a new Missouri tax credit law almost four years ago. The State and Local Tax Parity Act (SPA) Tax Credit was enacted through House Bill 2400 and signed into law by former Governor Mike Parson in August 2022. According to Legal Clarity Missouri, Missouri's SALT Parity Act allows a state and local tax work-around for S corporations and partnerships, including those from out of state who operate in Missouri. The complicated tax formula hinges on the rate of Missouri's income tax for individuals. (Section 143.436 RSMo) If Amendment 5 passes in the August 4 election, it will amend the state constitution to reduce the state individual income tax, based on revenue growth, until the tax is eliminated. The Cassville Democrat emailed both the Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) and State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick's office, requesting an explanation for the discrepancy on the DOR reports. The DOR's communications director replied by telephone, stating that an emailed reply would be forthcoming, but no reply has been received. Trevor Fox, the communications director with the Auditor's office, replied by email, stating that questions about the discrepancy had been referred to others in his office. They agreed, he said, that there was a discrepancy. "We're not sure why [yet] though," Fox said.

Purdy firefighters join southeast Missouri rescue efforts

Armed with a boat, locals responded to state mutual aid summons

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat
Responding to the state-wide emergency call, Purdy Fire District firefighters sent a team recently to Iron and Reynolds counties in southeast Missouri to assist in rescues due to flooding along the Black River in southeast Missouri. Two Purdy firefighters, equipped with their rescue boat, responded as part of the Missouri Mutual Aid System from Region D to help local agencies in need. According to

Fire Chief Nick Mercer, the Purdy team worked alongside other firefighters from across the state. The Region D Strike Team also includes Branson Fire-Rescue, fire districts in Ozark and Battlefield, and Cox Emergency Medical Services. "Our mission extends beyond the boundaries of our district when our neighbors are facing extraordinary emergencies," Mercer said. "I am incredibly proud of our personnel for their professionalism, dedication, and willingness to answer the call when Missouri communities need help." Purdy firefighters deployed to the city of

Ironton, then operated out of nearby Lesterville. Widespread flooding created dangerous conditions. Rains raised the Black River to a record 28.7 feet and caused one fatality. The response involved rescue operations, resource deployment, and continuous support for affected communities. Purdy was one of the first local departments to secure a rescue boat, having responded to numerous incidents in the McDowell area. Mercer extended thanks for the Purdy district to the emergency responders, public safety agencies, emergency management officials, volunteers, and community members whom, he noted, "worked tirelessly throughout the response and recovery efforts." He noted the district remains committed to maintaining the equipment, training, and readiness to respond to calls through the Missouri Mutual Aid System. "We are honored to stand beside our fellow first responders and assist the citizens of Iron and Reynolds counties during this devastating event," Mercer said. "Our thoughts remain with the residents, businesses, and families affected by this historic flooding as recovery continues."

and community members whom, he noted, "worked tirelessly throughout the response and recovery efforts." He noted the district remains committed to maintaining the equipment, training, and readiness to respond to calls through the Missouri Mutual Aid System. "We are honored to stand beside our fellow first responders and assist the citizens of Iron and Reynolds counties during this devastating event," Mercer said. "Our thoughts remain with the residents, businesses, and families affected by this historic flooding as recovery continues."

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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Speaking before the meeting in Monett on pollution concerns due to industrial agriculture and data centers were, from left: moderator Ashlen Busick, Kim Prince with Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources, Jasper County rancher and realtor Richard Jones, and reporter Sheila Harris. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat



Susie Crutchfield, with the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project speaks at the public meeting on July 19 at the Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

CAFO: Call to repeal Senate Bill 391 and House Bill 1713 drew applause

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Gill claimed the commission has been “captured by industrial agriculture. Even public interest seats have been taken over. They want to protect the bottom line of industrial agriculture.”

Unregulated pollution

Sources of concern surfaced in the discussion. Sheila Harris, a reporter with the Cassville Democrat, reviewed her coverage of permitted plans to build sludge storage tanks northwest of Cassville. Harris noted the sludge planned is “raw meat processing parts” that are “thrown onto fields.” Such a source, she said, is “a vector for disease and odor.”

Moreover, she noted the recharge area for Roaring River has been traced to more than 47 square miles. Such a practice could not only endanger drinking water but also threaten the integrity of Barry County’s recreation and tourist industry.

Harris further recounted how C&H Hog Farms was shut down by Arkansas officials, but contracted to bring its waste material to Missouri. Citizens sued DNR and waste contracting companies, prompting a change in legislation. Harris noted Missouri laws only apply to surface distribution of waste material. The karst topography in southwest Missouri, with fractures in the bedrock, allows land-applied substances to seep into the underground water table, which is not protected by law.

Harris and Kim Prince, speaking for POWER in Newton County, pointed out that Iowa is No. 2 in the nation for cancer rates. A recent study by the IEC-Harkin Institute credited the cancer rate to water nitrite contamination due to fertilizers in particular, a



A panel focusing on the political roots of unregulated pollution and industrialization at the Monett meeting were, from left: Rebecca Collins with the Joplin Sustainable Technology Alliance, Maxine Gill with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and attorney Steve Jeffery. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

disbursement that access drinking water. Prince added that a Class 2 poultry farm can receive a permit from DNR without any notification to neighbors, leaving those nearby “helpless.”

Steve Jeffery, an environmental attorney with the Jeffery Law Firm in Chesterfield, noted that DNR will not regulate Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly known as “forever chemicals,” nor does the agency monitor for the presence of veterinary medicine in waste material from farms. Both seep into the water table and risk widespread contamination of public water sources.

Land value concerns

Richard Jones, a rancher and realtor from Sarcoxie, pulled statistics from the construction of data centers in Virginia, Oregon, Arizona, and Illinois. He found the closer a property is located to a data center, the greater the impact on property values. While land purchased by data centers sells for 20%

above normal prices, land within three miles of a data center drops in value by 20%.

Susie Crutchfield, with the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, identified herself as a contract poultry grower for Tyson Foods for 25 years. She was among the growers impacted by “integrators” who dictate terms to growers. The integrators, since 2012, have systematically demanded growers undertake “massive” upgrades. Her husband calculated that he would not be able to pay off the debt to upgrade until he was 80, so the Crutchfields withdrew.

The integrator “has all the control,” she continued, extending to “the meat factory industry.” The upgrade would have boosted her monthly electric bill three to four times. She asserted integrators have pushed to shut down older farms that have a lower paper value so that they can build newer farms with a greater portfolio value. Crutchfield also related that flushing

water lines as instructed with iodine for 17 years resulted in her contracting thyroid cancer. She is now cancer-free, but was never warned about the danger.

Strategies for change

Several strategies were suggested for fighting these issues.

Rebecca Collins, with the Joplin Sustainable

Technology Alliance, said companies come to towns with business proposals and are told, “You must accept unregulated growth or nothing. We don’t have to accept that.” A Community Benefit Agreement, dictating standards for businesses to meet, including local employment and regulation, can be pursued.

Attorney Steve Jeffery pointed out a “common playbook” by data centers involves promises of benefits to the community at the price of governments signing non-disclosure agreements. “Big city lawyers overwhelm rural county commissioners by promising big money,” Jeffery said. Governments should refuse. In Festus, he noted, the public recently voted out four city council members for their involvement in a data center deal and is now going after others.

“If I could be blunt, the reason DNR does a crappy job is because people like to do the right thing, but are told not to because of policy makers,” Jeffery said. “In 2009-2010, people lost the right to file nuisance suits. The Republican

super-majority caused it. If you continue to vote red in every election cycle, this is on you, unless you want to vote against your own self-interest. The power in Jefferson City is from the lobbyists all up and down High Street. The solution to all these problems is political. The person who looks back at you from the mirror is the one who can cause change. It starts with you.”

Jamie Blair, with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, injected that some Republicans have been good allies. “Sometimes all they need is political cover.” Several added that showing up for hearings, talking to legislators, and presenting a unified front has an impact on lawmakers.

Kim Prince’s call to repeal Senate Bill 391 and House Bill 1713 drew applause.

Heidlage wrapped up the program by noting, “Lasting change happens whenever we all work together. We want change and we want it today. We are the Show-Me State. Show us we care. Together we can all make a difference.”

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LADY ‘CATS EVALUATE DEPTH OVER SUMMER



Cassville's Alex Holycross runs point during a summer game against Clever in Monett. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Sammi Stockton puts up a shot in a summer game against Clever in Monett. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville girls hoops goes 4-2 in Branson summer jam

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

With five returning starters and several varsity roles still to be filled, Clayton Bagby, Cassville girls basketball coach, used this summer's practices and team camps as an opportunity to evaluate the Lady Wildcats' depth while experimenting with new ideas before the upcoming season.

The team opened its summer schedule in late May in its own gym before traveling for team camps in Monett and Branson.

"We started out about the end of May and had about six days in our own gym just working on individual skill work," Bagby said. "We did a lot of 3-on-

3 work just to try and get the ball into girls' hands more than maybe if we went out and played 5-on-5."

Cassville then split two games in Monett against Clever and Pierce City before heading to Branson, where the Lady Wildcats finished 4-2 against mostly unfamiliar opponents.

"We always enjoy going down there because usually at a camp like that we see a lot of teams that we don't see," Bagby said. "Of the six games we played, the only team that we know we'll see next year will be Bolivar."

Attendance varied throughout the summer, something Bagby said is expected during the off-season.

"Summer is always tough," Bagby said. "We saw

15 or 16 different girls this summer, which is still pretty solid, but you have them hit and miss here and there."

Only eight players made the Branson trip because of scheduling conflicts.

"We only took eight to Branson because we had a lot of girls out for different varying things that week," Bagby said. "If they're in town, we want them to be there, but we also understand it's summer and they're kids. If you're going on vacation, go have fun."

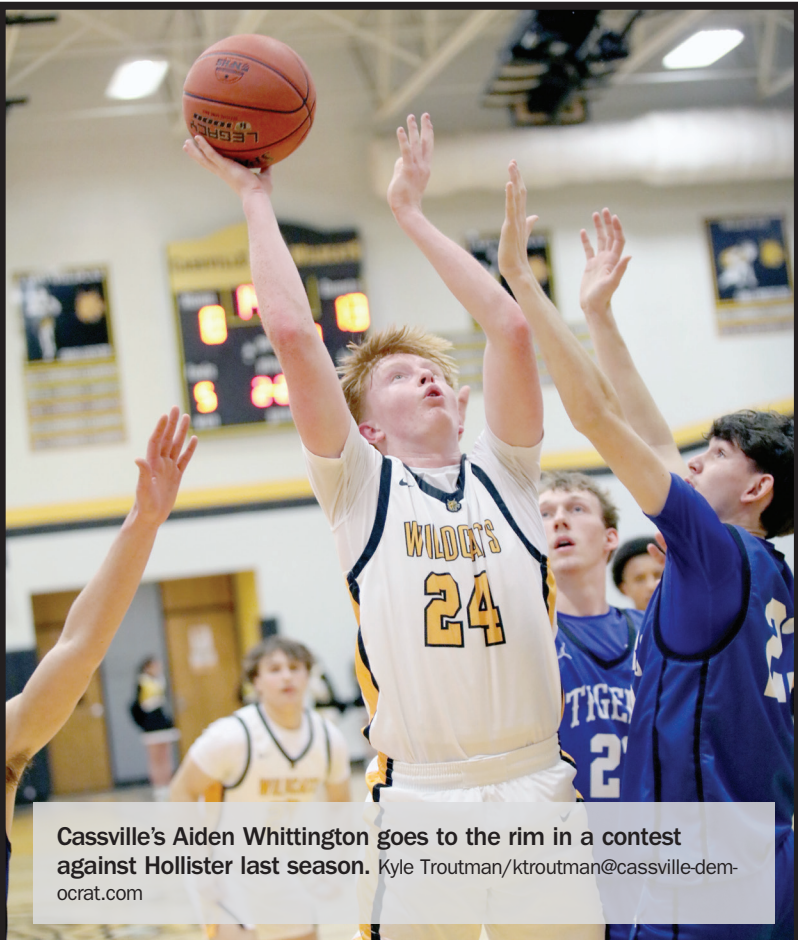
While Cassville returns five players who started games last season, Bagby said one of the biggest objectives this summer was identifying who will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B

Year in Photos — Cassville boys basketball



Cassville's Masin Bryan drives under the hoop during a game against Hollister last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Aiden Whittington goes to the rim in a contest against Hollister last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



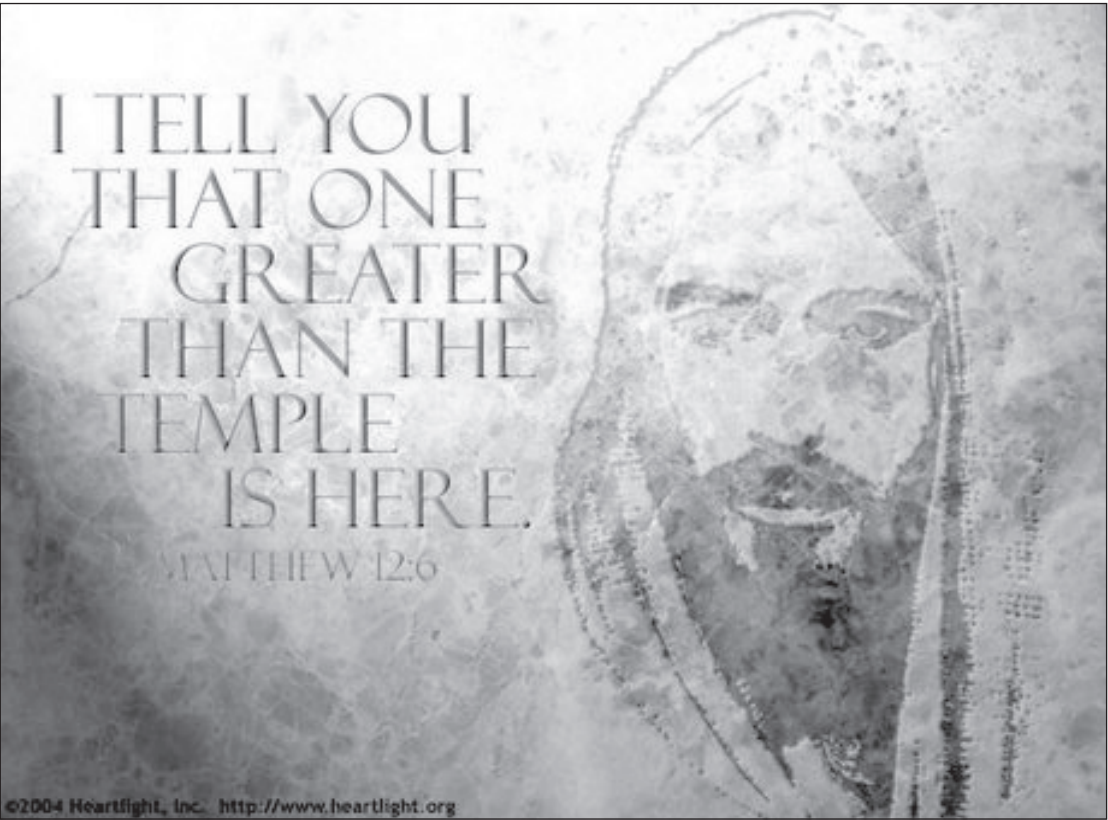
Cassville's Carlos Barrientos puts up a shot in a home contest against Hollister last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Tyson Bohmke sends a pass up the floor during action against Hollister last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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BIBLE VERSE:

“Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

— HEBREWS 12:1

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CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

HELP NEEDED

HELP: Seeking handyman in Cassville. One day per week, \$15 per hour. 951-288-9996.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

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

By virtue and 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 the 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: 29-6.0-14-002-006-0007.000/3-1254-0

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 AVD 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 Mortgage LLC and against the defendants Amber Atkisson, et al., I have levied upon and seized all of the right, title, interest, and estate of the

PUBLIC AUCTION
GUNS - TRAILER - ANTIQUES - TOOLS

SATURDAY, AUG. 1, 2026 *9:00 AM
LOCATION: 30496 Hwy 37, Seligman, MO 65745.

Guns - Bows - Ammo Heritage 410ga - Winchester Model 69-A 22cal - Taurus 38 special revolver - Rossi 243/20ga combo - Heritage 22lr revolver - Ruger 10/22 - 22mag bolt action rifle - compound bows - crossbow - lots of ammo

Trailer - Boat - Dirtbike 5x8 trailer - v-bottom boat - Honda 100r dirtbike
Antiques & Collectables Fishing reels - plugs & jigs - pink, green, amber depression ware - Fire King - cast iron - enamelware - Advertising pieces - embroidery - childrens collectables - etc

Tools - Shop - Outdoor Large assortment of good modern and antique hand tools all varieties

***Note** - Large auction - very partial listing - Go to auctionzip.com, Auctioneer ID 35501 for pictures and listing

OWNER: TERRY AND SHIRLEY CORN
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BUTTERFIELD, MISSOURI
JEFF HOLDER 417-342-3218
CARL HENDRIX 417-342-4370

defendant Amber Atkisson, in and to the following described real estate, situate in Stone County, Missouri, to wit:

All of Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), Walker Olde Towne Addition Phase I, according to the recorded Plat thereof, in Book 20, Page 38, Stone County Recorder's Office, Stone County, Missouri, commonly known as 403 Kadee Dr., Crane, MO 65633

which I shall expose at public sale to the highest bidder for certified funds on the 17th day of August, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the North Front Door of the Stone County Courthouse located in Galena, Missouri to satisfy said judgment and costs.

Date: June 26, 2026
Doug Rader, Sheriff of Stone County, Missouri
1st insertion 07/22/26 28-31

PUBLIC NOTICE

BREAD BID
The Exeter R-VI School District is requesting Bread Bids for the 2026-27 school year.

Bids are due to 101 Locust Street, Exeter, MO 65647 by Friday, August 07, 2026.

The Exeter R-VI School District has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Questions may be referred to the Central Office, 417-835-2922 Ext. 5
Only insertion 7/29/26 29

PUBLIC NOTICE

DIESEL BID
The Exeter R-VI School District is requesting Diesel Bids for the 2026-27 school year.

Bids are due to 101 Locust Street, Exeter, MO 65647 by Friday, August 07, 2026.

The Exeter R-VI School District has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Questions may be referred to the Central Office, 417-835-2922 Ext. 5
Only insertion 7/29/26 29

PUBLIC NOTICE

MILK BID
The Exeter R-VI School District is requesting Milk bids for the 2026-27 school year.

Bids are due to 101 Locust Street, Exeter, MO 65647 by Friday, August 07, 2026.

The Exeter R-VI School District has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Questions may be referred to the Central Office, 417-835-2922 Ext. 5
Only insertion 7/29/26 29

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Seligman, Missouri, will conduct a public hearing on August 17th, 7pm, at City Hall, 29144 Main Street, Seligman, MO 65745, to discuss the following changes to the City Code.

Update minimum square footage requirements.
Roof pitch standards.
Age limitations for manufactured structures.
Drainage and culvert specifications.
Permitted uses, Comprehensive marijuana cultivation facility.
Definition additions.
Amending title iv of the City code, land use.
To add chapter 415, subdivision requirements and regulations.

For the purpose of updating the code to better reflect the revised statutes of Missouri.

For a more orderly and organized code.
Only insertion 07/29/26 29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

County of Barry will hold a public hearing to adopt 2026 tax rate.

The meeting will be held at Barry County Courthouse at Monday, 9:20 a.m. Monday, August 10, 2026.

2026	Current	Year
Assessed	Valuations are,	
Real Estate	\$514,788,009.	Personal
Property	\$204,488,485.	
Total	\$719,276,494.	
2025 Prior Year	Assessed	
Valuations were:		
Real Estate	\$506,111,638.	Personal
Property	\$198,765,789.	
Total	\$704,877,427.	
2025 Tax Rate Ceiling	was	0.0000.
2026 Tax Rate Ceiling		0.0000.
Only insertion 7/29/26		29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Butterfield Special Road District of Barry County will hold a public hearing to adopt 2026 tax rate.

The meeting will be held at Butterfield Community Building at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

2026	Current	Year
Assessed	Valuations are,	
Real Estate	\$16,858,608.	Personal
Property	\$9,108,129.	
Total	Valuation	\$25,966,737.
2025 Prior Year	Assessed	
Valuations were:		
Real Estate	\$16,668,502.	Personal
Property	\$10,250,199.	
Total	\$26,918,701.	
2025 Tax Rate Ceiling	was	0.3212.
2026 Tax Rate Ceiling		0.3299.
Only insertion 7/29/26		29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Capps Creek Special Road District of Barry County will hold a public hearing to adopt 2026 tax rate.

The meeting will be held at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett at noon Thursday, August 20, 2026.

2026	Current	Year
Assessed	Valuations are,	
Real Estate	\$8,226,460.	Personal
Property	\$3,328,377.	
Total	\$11,554,837.	
2025 Prior Year	Assessed	
Valuations were:		
Real Estate	\$8,004,239.	Personal
Property	\$3,078,538.	
Total	\$11,082,777.	
2025 Tax Rate Ceiling	was	0.2691.
2026 Tax Rate Ceiling		0.2691.
Only insertion 7/29/26		29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Crane Creek Special Road District of Barry County will hold a public hearing to adopt their 2026 tax rate. The meeting will be held at the office of Kaup Bookkeeping, 121 Main St, Crane, MO at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, August 4, 2025.

The 2025 Assessed Valuations were:

\$8,454,778.00, Real Estate; \$4,463,822.00, Personal Property; \$12,918,600.00, Total Valuation. The 2026 Assessed Valuations are \$8,565,609.00, Real Estate; \$4,513,981.00, Personal Property; \$13,079,590.00, Total Valuation. The 2025 Tax Rate Ceiling was .1931. The 2026 Tax Rate Ceiling is .1989.

Mark A McCullough, Authorized Signature for Political Subdivision
Only insertion 7/29/26 29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Corsicana Special Road District of Barry County will hold a public hearing to adopt 2026 tax rate.

The meeting will be held at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

2026	Current	Year
Assessed	Valuations are,	
Real Estate	\$5,773,564.	Personal
Property	\$1,678,180.	
Total	Valuation	\$7,451,744.
2025 Prior Year	Assessed	
Valuations were:		
Real Estate	\$5,888,334.	Personal
Property	\$1,512,805.	
Total	Valuation	\$7,401,139.
2025 Tax Rate Ceiling	was	0.1320.
2026 Tax Rate Ceiling		0.1320.
Only insertion 7/29/26		29

MOUNTAIN SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

Mountain Special Road District will hold a public hearing to adopt 2026 tax rate.

The meeting will be held at Jenkins Fire station at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 20, 2026.

2026	Current	Year
Assessed	Valuations are,	
Real Estate	\$3,862,594.	Personal
Property	\$1,660,380.	
Total	Valuation	\$5,522,974.
2025 Prior Year	Assessed	
Valuations were:		
Real Estate	\$3,727,816.	Personal
Property	\$1,529,878.	
Total	Valuation	\$5,257,694.
2025 Tax Rate Ceiling	was	0.1861.
2026 Tax Rate Ceiling		0.1861.
Only insertion 7/29/26		29

PROBATE

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

In the Estate of ALBERT BRUMLEY JR, Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00048

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (SMALL ESTATE)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of ALBERT BRUMLEY JR, Decedent.

On April 10, 2026 a small estate affidavit was filed by the distributees for the decedent under Section 473.097, RSMo, with the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY Missouri.

All creditors of Decedent, who died on 24-OCT-2024, are notified that Section 473.444, RSMo, sets a limitation period that would bar claims one year after the death of Decedent. A creditor

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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 <i>Proposed by 103rd General Assembly, (First Regular Session) HCS HJR Nos. 23 & 3</i> 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 <i>Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Extraordinary Session) HCS HJR No. 3</i> 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 <i>Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c) (Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1</i> 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 5

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly,
(Second Regular Session) SS SCS
HCS HJR Nos. 173 & 174

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Require legislative phase-out of the individual state income tax based on revenue growth, and authorize the expansion of sales and use taxes;
- Curtail constitutional limits on taxing goods and services; and
- Require local tax rate cuts without reducing school funding if local sales tax revenue increases?

The proposal has no direct impact on state or local tax revenue. If passed, implementing legislation will have an unknown impact to state and local tax revenue. If implemented, state government entities expect a reduction of \$57,000 annually in income tax check-off donations and implementation costs of at least \$100,000.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Voters must present photo identification to vote.

Acceptable IDs include:
Missouri Driver License,
Missouri Non-Driver License,
Military ID or Passport. For more information, call the Barry County Clerk’s Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

CENTRAL CROSSING FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOND ELECTION
PROPOSITION FIRE

Shall the Board of Directors of the Central Crossing Fire Protection District, Missouri, issue general obligation bonds in the amount of Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) for the purpose of acquiring real property; constructing, renovating, furnishing and equipping fire stations and other facilities; purchasing and equipping new and replacement fire fighting vehicles, apparatus, and auxiliary equipment to meet current safety standards; retiring existing lease financings; and to the extent funds are available, completing other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District?

☐ YES

☐ NO

POLLING LOCATIONS

Butterfield/McDonald.....	Butterfield Fire Station
Cassville City/Rural/Mineral.....	Family Life Center
Exeter.....	Exeter Community Building
Golden.....	Golden Baptist Church Activity Center
Jenkins.....	Jenkins Fire Department
Kings Prairie/Pleasant Ridge.....	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
Monett-City/Rural/Capps Creek.....	Monett City Park Casino
Ozark/Crane Creek.....	Madry Christian Union Building
Purdy/McDowell.....	Purdy City Hall
Roaring River.....	Eagle Rock Community Building
Seligman.....	Seligman Community Center
Shell Knob.....	Shell Knob Community Building
Washburn/Ash.....	Washburn 1st Baptist Act. Center
Wheaton.....	Wheaton Community Building

The polling places for said election will open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m., during which time any person properly registered to vote in Barry County will be given the opportunity to cast his/her ballot.

Two week in-person, no
excuse absentee voting
for the Aug. 4 Primary
Election runs through
Aug. 3 at the Clerk’s Office.

CERTIFICATION

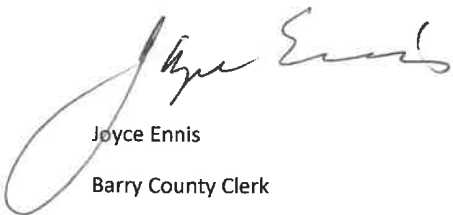
STATE OF MISSOURI)

) ss.

COUNTY OF BARRY)

I, Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, within and for the County of Barry, State of Missouri, hereby certify that the attached form of Official Ballot is in compliance with requirement of Section 116.230 of 1984 Cumulative Supplement of the Missouri Revised Statutes.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of my office. Done at the Barry County Courthouse this 18th day of June, 2026.



Joyce Ennis
Barry County Clerk



NOTICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION ACCESSABILITY FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that no less than one-half of the sites provided for voter registration shall be accessible to handicapped persons (RSMo 115.140). In addition, a disabled or elderly citizen may register to vote by alternative means, including registration by mail and curbside registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND VOTING: Persons may contact their election authority by telephone at: 417-847-2561 or by mail at 700 Main, Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625.

The Missouri Secretary of State’s Office provides a toll free number for persons with hearing impairments who have access to a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) TDD users may call 800-669-8683 to obtain information on voter registration, polling place location, and accessibility, absentee balloting, and other election-related services available in their local jurisdictions and from the State of Missouri.



CASSVILLE
SENIOR CENTER

Weekly Menu

WEEK OF AUGUST 3–7, 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AUGUST 3	AUGUST 4	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 6	AUGUST 7
Sloppy Joes Potato Wedges Capri Veggies Assorted Cookies	Chicken Tenders Mac & Cheese Green Beans Fresh Fruit Chocolate Cake	Oven Fried Chicken Roasted Potatoes Normandy Veggies Country Veggies Whole Grain Roll Cherry Crisp	Chicken Burrito Bowl w/ all the fixings Cilantro Lime Rice Black Bean & Corn Salad Tres Leches Cake	Baked Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Italian Veggies Whole Grain Garlic Breadstick Strawberry Italian Love Cake
				



Salad Bar

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

BOWL – \$2.00

PLATE – \$4.00

AD SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES

• White Funeral Home • Freedom Bank • Cassville Democrat

 **SERVING HOURS: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**



Suggested donation:
\$4.00 for those 60 and over
\$8.00 for those 59 and under



**On days pork is served,
an alternate is available
upon request.*

Nearby summer adventures
include Carver Day



Summertime offers many activities for weekend adventures and opportunities to do new and different things. Misty Hunter, a mom and grandmother from Cassville, took her family group to George Washington Carver Day at the Carver National Monument, west of Diamond, on July 11. From left are: Keanu Jump, Sage Hunter, Skylar Hunter, Treyton Jump, and Misty Hunter. They are pictured at the Newtonia Battlefield Protection Association booth, where association president Cathy Sheehy provided details about the annual Newtonia Festival, which will be held Sept. 26.

Murray Bishoff/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Call 847-2610 to subscribe

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, ERDIE W.				
SECTION: 23 TOWNSHIP: 21		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 2.20		
PT. SENW			2023 521.06	
			2024 460.56	
			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				
SECTION: 04 TOWNSHIP: 21		RANGE: 26 ACRES: 1.00		
NE COR. NWSE N & E ROAD			2023 54.81	
			2024 54.52	
			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 & KAT TRUST				
SECTION: 04 TOWNSHIP: 21		RANGE: 26 ACRES: 4.10		
PT. S 1/2 SW			2023 201.56	
			2024 178.91	
			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 & KRISTY				
SECTION: 26 TOWNSHIP: 21		RANGE: 26 ACRES: 1.13		
PT. SE 1/4 FRL. WEST HWY. P (250' X 90')			2023 4,551.60	
			2024 4,014.43	
			2025 3,628.69	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 12,298.72	
5. 01-0004654-0002		16-6.0-13-000-000-0006.002		
GARRETT, KAREN L.				
SECTION: 13 TOWNSHIP: 23		RANGE: 29 ACRES: 3.50		
PT. E 1/2 SW			2023 1,109.06	
			2024 978.93	
			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				
SECTION: 32 TOWNSHIP: 24		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.50		
PT. SE COR. SESW			2023 18.67	
			2024 16.37	
			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		
HARTKOFF, MARVIN E. & WILMA N.				
SECTION: 13 TOWNSHIP: 24		RANGE: 26 ACRES: 5.00		
PT. S 1/2 SE E. HY.			2023 1,050.71	
			2024 928.14	
			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 D.				
SECTION: 26 TOWNSHIP: 25		RANGE: 26 ACRES: 6.20		
PT. NWSE & PT. SWSE			2023 164.85	
			2024 146.53	
			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				
SECTION: 19 TOWNSHIP: 25		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 37.85		
SENE			2023 1,788.71	
			2024 3,189.82	
			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				
SECTION: 19 TOWNSHIP: 25		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 40.00		
SWNE			2023 113.26	
			2024 101.12	
			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.				
SECTION: 23 TOWNSHIP: 23		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00		
CASSVILLE OUT LOT: PT. NO. 52			2023 260.37	
			2024 230.77	
			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.				
SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 23		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00		
SMITH HAYS CASV. 5 FT. S. SIDE 6, ALL 7 & 8, BLK.10			2023 442.39	
			2024 391.26	
			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.				
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00		RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00		
MEADOW VALLEY: LOT 5 & 6			2023 1,101.62	
			2024 972.55	
			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, BRITANY				
SECTION: 33 TOWNSHIP: 23		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 1.00		
CASSVILLE LAND LOT: PT. NWSW			2023 1,396.05	
			2024 1,232.17	
			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.				
SECTION: 32 TOWNSHIP: 26		RANGE: 27 ACRES: 0.00		
MARSHALLS 2ND. MO.: LT. 1 & 2, BLK. 1			2023 332.70	
			2024 234.73	
			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				
SECTION: 02 TOWNSHIP: 24		RANGE: 28 ACRES: 0.00		
SCOTCH TO PURDY LT.12, BLK.1			2023 604.51	
			2024 537.06	
			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				
SECTION: 27 TOWNSHIP: 24		RANGE: 29 ACRES: 0.00		
WHE. ORIG.: LT. 1, BLK. 18			2023 204.71	
			2024 181.96	
			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				
SECTION: 27 TOWNSHIP: 24		RANGE: 29 ACRES: 0.00		
WHE. ORIG.: LOT 2, BLK. 18			2023 72.99	
			2024 65.63	
			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.				
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00		RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00		
ARROW PT. EST. LT. 225			2023 64.00	
			2024 57.62	
			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.				
SECTION: 10 TOWNSHIP: 21		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		
ARROWPOINT ESTATES 2ND: LOT 75			2023 30.02	
			2024 27.16	
			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				
SECTION: 02 TOWNSHIP: 22		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		
BIG BASS BEND; LOTS 4A - 10A, BLK.1-A			2023 19.21	
			2024 18.08	
			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				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		
BIG BASS BEND: LOT 2, BLK.17			2023 39.22	
			2024 35.60	
			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 A.				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		
BIG BASS BEND 5X12 FT. PT 3 & ALL 4, BLK. 17			2023 33.04	
			2024 30.19	
			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.				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22		RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		
BIG BASS BEND LT.8, BLK. 17			2023 117.67	
			2024 120.27	
			2025 96.73	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 422.67	

03-0000592-0004	21-1.0-11-001-018-0003.000			
WILSON, ANTOINE				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 56.14	
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 203			2024 50.41	
			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 L. & VIRGINIA L.				
SECTION: 12 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 65.32	
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 21			2024 58.47	
			2025 51.63	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 279.42	
27. 03-0000657-0000	21-1.0-11-001-023-0002.000			
YOUNG, JOHN E.				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 99.19	
BIG CREEK 4TH. LT. 101 & 102			2024 88.10	
			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				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 26.91	
BIG CREEK 4TH: LT. 178			2024 22.82	
			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				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 26.91	
BIG CREEK 4TH: LT. 179			2024 24.82	
			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				
SECTION: 11 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 56.14	
BIG CREEK 4TH: LOT 224			2024 54.41	
			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, ELI D. & SADIE E.				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 68.43	
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 40, BLOCK B			2024 61.17	
			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.				
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00	RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00		2023 68.43	
BIG CREEK NO.2, LT.61, BLK.B			2024 61.17	
			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.				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 85.38	
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 65, BLOCK C			2024 74.99	
			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.				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 68.43	
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 10, BLOCK E			2024 61.17	
			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, ELI D. & SADIE				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 31.50	
BIG CREEK 2ND: LOT 35, BLOCK G			2024 28.85	
			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				
SECTION: 23 TOWNSHIP: 28	RANGE: 28 ACRES: 5.48		2023 386.55	
BREEZE POINT: LOT 2			2024 342.19	
			2025 300.64	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 1,133.38	
37. 03-0001254-0000	29-6.0-14-002-006-0007.000			
KING, JUSTIN & JARED KING				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 26 ACRES: 0.00		2023 2,143.06	
CHAIN-O-LAKES #2: LOTS 15 & 17, BLOCK 5			2024 1,890.66	
			2025 1,767.91	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 5,905.63	
38. 03-0001328-0000	29-6.0-14-002-012-0003.000			
RIORDAN, JAMES				
SECTION: 14 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 26 ACRES: 0.00		2023 457.44	
BIG CHAIN O LAKES NO. 2: LT. 3, BLK. 10 (EX. E. 20 FT.)			2024 404.51	
			2025 348.76	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 1,314.71	
39. 03-0001701-0005	30-4.0-19-001-010-0004.000			
JENNEJOHN, HAROLD & MARY L.				
SECTION: 19 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 88.73	
ELMO'S SUBDIVISION #2: LOT 5			2024 79.42	
			2025 69.90	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 342.05	
40. 03-0001811-0000	21-9.0-31-000-000-0016.000			
ADAMSON, BOB & JACKIE TRUST				
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00	RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00		2023 79.45	
EM. BEA. NO. 1: LT. 228			2024 72.44	
			2025 62.84	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 317.52	
41. 03-0002501-0000	21-4.0-20-003-001-0035.000			
COGSDILL, PAUL				
SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 23	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 23.83	
GUMBO WOODS LT.39			2024 22.13	
			2025 20.40	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 170.36	
42. 03-0002533-0000	21-4.0-20-003-001-0012.000			
TEDE, RANDY L. & VON DEYLEN BRUMAGIN, LESIE & TEDE, TURNER KEITH				
SECTION: 34 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 42.25	
GUMBO WOODS LT.80 & 83			2024 38.26	
			2025 34.28	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 218.79	
43. 03-0002549-0000	21-4.0-20-003-001-0004.000			
EASLEY, J.L. & ELIA M.				
SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 26.91	
GUMBO WOODS: LOT 107			2024 24.82	
			2025 22.74	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 178.47	
44. 03-0002834-0004	21-7.0-25-000-000-0181.000			
EDER, ALBERT H. & ROSEMARY				
SECTION: 25 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 77.19	
LAKESEIDE HGTS.2ND.:LT.48			2024 69.25	
			2025 60.89	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 311.33	
45. 03-0002934-0004	21-7.0-26-000-000-0064.001			
SWETZIG, ROBERT BARBARA, DEANNA				
SECTION: 26 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 317.09	
LAKEWOOD MANOR: LOTS 72 & 73			2024 280.76	
			2025 242.41	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 944.26	
46. 03-0003172-0000	23-8.0-34-000-000-0009.000			
BERGER, BURT B. & CLAY M. & LUKE A.				
SECTION: 05 TOWNSHIP: 22	RANGE: 27 ACRES: 5.28		2023 255.63	
PARKCLIFF MANOR TRACT NO.2			2024 226.59	
			2025 196.89	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 783.11	
47. 03-0003279-0000	29-2.0-09-002-002-0015.000			
KIRKPATRICK, NORMA				
SECTION: 09 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 06 ACRES: 0.00		2023 331.36	
RED BUD BLUFFS: LOTS 10 INC.12			2024 293.36	
			2025 260.39	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 989.11	
48. 03-0003427-0000	29-2.0-04-004-018-0006.000			
SOTO, MARIEL				
SECTION: 04 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 26 ACRES: 0.00		2023 113.48	
ROARING RIVER VILLAGE: LOT 81 & 70			2024 102.25	
			2025 88.75	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 407.48	
49. 03-0003716-0004	30-3.0-05-000-000-0024.000			
RING, CONNIE & JOHN ANDERSON JR.				
SECTION: 09 TOWNSHIP: 21	RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00		2023 1,367.21	
SHAWNEE WOODS: LOT 27			2024 1,206.50	
			2025 1,133.88	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 3,811.59	
50. 03-0003957-0000	21-9.0-31-000-000-0284.000			
STRINGER, MICHAEL J. & GIANNA MICHELLE & MICHAEL J. JR. & DANIEL LEE				
SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00	RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00		2023 72.06	
STRINGERS RIVERIA: LT. 117			2024 64.34	
			2025 56.90	
			PUB.FEE 50.00	
			REC.FEE 54.00	
			TOTAL 297.30	

51.	03-0004253-0001	21-9.0-29-000-000-0709.000							
	EVANS, KANDI S.	SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00	2023	65.32			2023	65.32	
	TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOT 320		2024	58.47			2024	58.47	
			2025	51.63			2025	51.63	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	279.42			TOTAL	279.42	
52.	03-0004287-0000	21-9.0-29-000-000-0395.000							
	DAWSON, DAVID E. & DOLORES A.	SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00	2023	65.32			2023	3,478.19	
	TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOT 363		2024	58.47			2024	3,325.19	
			2025	51.63			2025	3,083.01	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	279.42			TOTAL	9,990.39	
53.	03-0004387-0000	21-9.0-29-000-000-0477.000							
	RADCLIFFE, MALCOLM O. JR. & ROBERT J.	SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00	2023	89.97			2023	178.06	
	TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST: LOTS 45 & 46		2024	80.03			2024	158.18	
			2025	70.13			2025	137.19	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	344.13			TOTAL	577.43	
54.	03-0004454-0000	21-9.0-29-000-000-0246.000							
	SELLS, DON L. & EDNA B.	SECTION: 29 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00	2023	119.22					
	TURKEY MOUNTAIN ESTATES EAST 2ND: LOTS 130 & 131		2024	105.64					
			2025	92.12					
			PUB. FEE	50.00					
			REC. FEE	54.00					
			TOTAL	420.98					
55.	03-0004601-0000	21-4.0-20-003-007-0004.000							
	HOLT, SILAS	SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00	2023	63.81					
	TURKEY MTN. W. LT. 95		2024	57.13					
			2025	50.50					
			PUB. FEE	50.00					
			REC. FEE	54.00					
			TOTAL	275.44					
56.	03-0004696-0000	21-4.0-20-003-010-0011.000							
	VANOSDOL, THE TRUST	SECTION: 00 TOWNSHIP: 00 RANGE: 00 ACRES: 0.00	2023	65.32			2023	65.32	
	TURKEY MTN. W. LT. 204		2024	58.47			2024	58.47	
			2025	51.63			2025	51.63	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	279.42			TOTAL	279.42	
57.	03-0004713-0000	21-4.0-20-003-009-0007.000							
	ZARYCKI, ALAN T. & SUZANNE C.	SECTION: 20 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00	2023	3,478.19			2023	3,478.19	
	TURKEY MTN. WEST: LOTS 223 INC. 227		2024	3,325.19			2024	3,325.19	
			2025	3,083.01			2025	3,083.01	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	9,990.39			TOTAL	9,990.39	
58.	03-0004798-0000	21-7.0-36-000-000-0015.000							
	COUSINS, NADINE F.	SECTION: 36 TOWNSHIP: 22 RANGE: 25 ACRES: 0.00	2023	178.06			2023	178.06	
	VIOLA ORIGINAL: PT. LOTS 2, 3 & 4; BLK. 3		2024	158.18			2024	158.18	
			2025	137.19			2025	137.19	
			PUB. FEE	50.00			PUB. FEE	50.00	
			REC. FEE	54.00			REC. FEE	54.00	
			TOTAL	577.43			TOTAL	577.43	

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



Cassville's Kynzleigh Scott makes a basket during action against Clever in Monett this summer. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com . Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Briley Gross fights through traffic during action against Clever in Monett this summer. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

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PLAYERS

OF THE WEEK

Lucas Hudson

Makiah Colf

Hailey Mills

Brextin Sprague

Summer: Used to test changes for regular season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

fill the remaining varsity spots.

“We’ve got five girls coming back that started last year at one point or another,” Bagby said. “From there, it’s just trying to figure out where we’re going to get the rest of our lineup from and who’s going to take those six, seven, eight and nine spots on the varsity floor.”

The absence of some returning players at Branson created additional

opportunities for others to earn valuable varsity minutes.

“Obviously, we want the Kennedys, [Audrey and Taylor] there, but they weren’t able to make it down to Branson with us,” Bagby said. “All that did was give girls an opportunity to play and show us what they could do when they’re around some other varsity players.”

Among those seeing expanded action were

Aubrie Atkinson and Tomi Blankenship, both returning letter winners, along with Sammi Stockton, Kynzleigh Scott and Addy Ramaeker.

“Sammi got an opportunity to play quite a bit, Kynzleigh Scott got an opportunity to play quite a bit, as well as Addy,” Bagby said. “It gave them an opportunity to see what they can do.”

The coaching staff also used the summer to test changes before the regular season.

“We’re looking to change a few things up, so it’s always a good time in summer to try a few of those things,” Bagby said. “You can see if it’s something you might be able to do or if it might be a bad idea and you probably need to look a different direction.”

One area Bagby hopes to improve is the Lady Wildcats’ half-court defense.

“We feel like after last year we could do a better job, especially in the half court defensively, than maybe we did at times last year,” he said.

Offensively, the focus is on finding the right combinations as new players step into larger roles.

“It’s just trying to figure out, with the girls that are going to come in and step up, how they’re going to fit together,” Bagby said. “What do we need to do and how do we want to attack things from the offensive standpoint?”

With summer activities winding down, Bagby said basketball now takes a back seat as most of the roster transitions into fall sports.

“Once July gets there, we kind of give way to the fall sports,” he said. “I think we only have one or two girls right now that’s not going to be involved in a fall sport.”

The coaching staff plans to provide opportunities for players to continue developing individually before basketball season resumes.

“We’ll probably open the gym in the morning so they can get a ball in their hand and get shots up,” Bagby said. “Hopefully, they do well there and come to basketball in the winter ready to go.”

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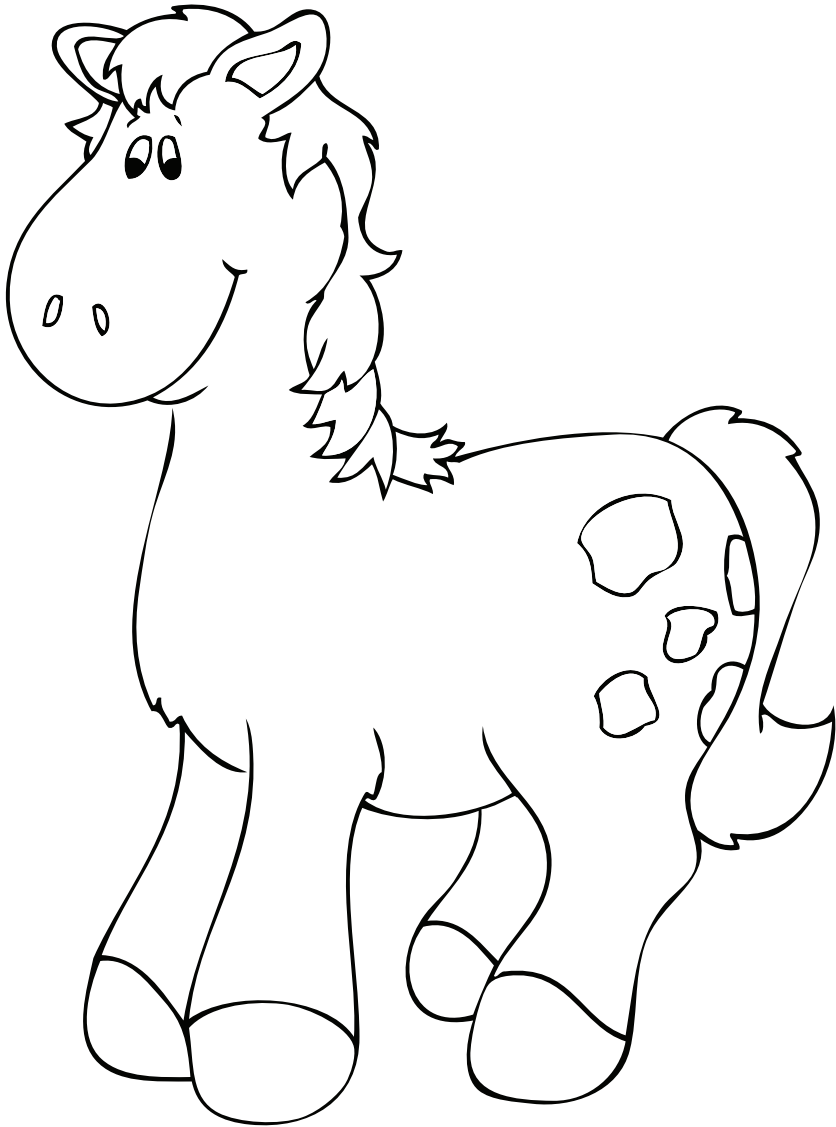
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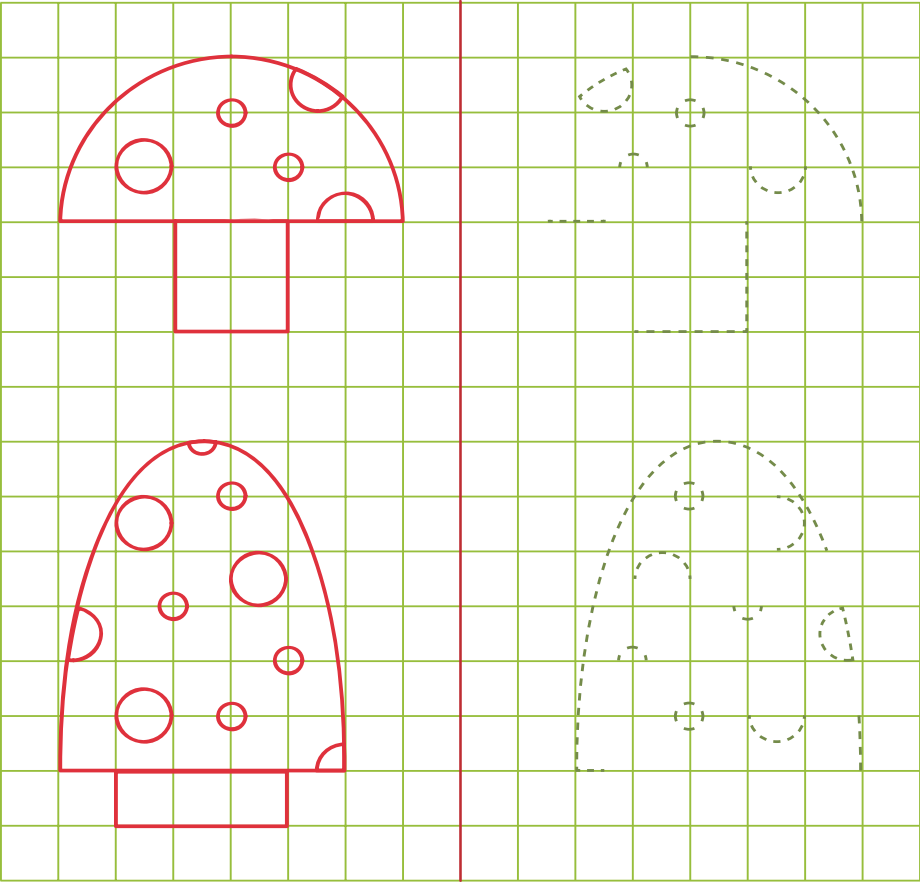


JUST kidding
Q: What do you call someone who is afraid of Santa?
A: Claustrophobic.

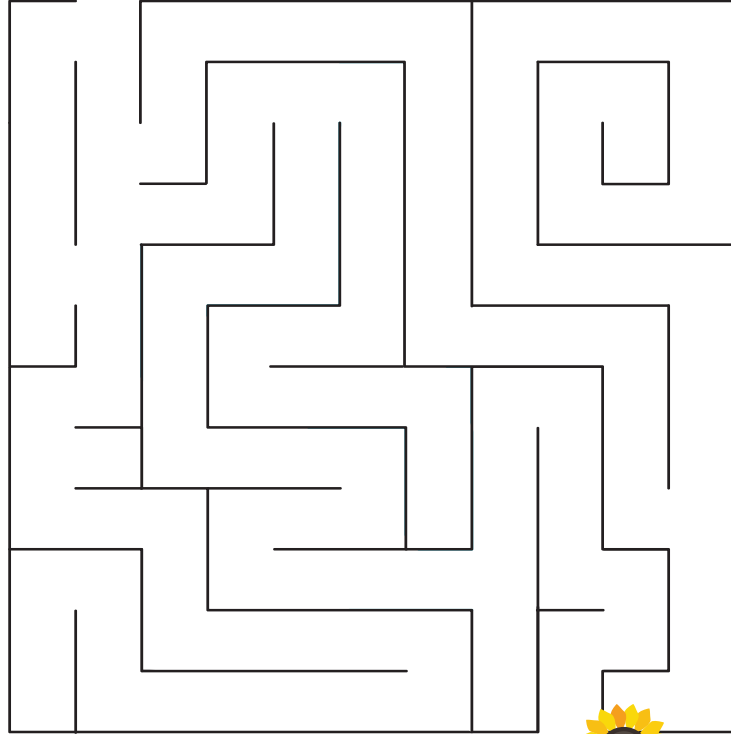

JUST kidding
Q: What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?
A: Ouch!


JUST kidding
Q: Why was the guy looking for fast food on his friend?
A: Because his friend said "Dinner is on me."


MIRROR IMAGE
DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



Amazing maze
Your flower needs to be watered; can you find the path that leads to it?



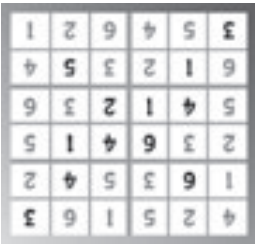
What is the name of the flower?
It's a: S _ _ _ _ R

ANSWER: SUNFLOWER

Sudoku 6 x 6

					3
	6			4	
		6	4	1	
	4	1	2		
	1			5	
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



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