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Lady Tigers turn in winning record, memorable season. — 1B



# CASSVILLE Democrat

JULY 8, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

## Alarm in the name of karst

Cassville native advocates for clean water

BY SHEILA HARRIS  
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Karst topography represents a source of endless fascination for explorers, but its quirky characteristics—consisting of ever-dissolving limestone and dolomite, fractured with fissures, sinkholes, caves, springs and losing streams—present unique

### KARST HYDROGEOLOGY

**What:** Local resident raises concerns about karst in area and use of sludge storage tanks  
**Why:** Storage tank planned for two miles north of Cassville  
**More:** Comment period on the draft permit for the HydroAg storage tank extended through 5 p.m., July 15

challenges for Missouri and Arkansas legislators.

Nowhere are the challenges more apparent than along the 300-mile stretch of karst that

lies below and on each side of the Missouri/Arkansas state line, between Noel in southwest Missouri and a point east of the Current River. State legislators on each side of that arbitrary boundary have different ideas about what the law should allow when it comes to protecting the groundwater in the fragile karst hydrogeology.

Groundwater travel rates in karst areas are often in the range of a mile per day, while travel rates in non-karst

areas are commonly only a few feet per year, according to Tom Aley, Missouri hydrologist in an article published by the Missouri Department of Conservation publication, titled Conserving Missouri's Caves and Karst.

Ben Miller, Cave Research Foundation volunteer, calls karst a “vast underground plumbing system.” Last year, Miller and fellow volunteer, Bob Lerch, completed a five-year dye-tracing study to

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### FELONY ARREST

**Who:** Jeremy James, born 1986, of Cameron

**What:** Is charged with kidnapping, second-degree domestic assault, armed criminal action and tampering or attempting to tamper with a victim in a felony prosecution

**Bond:** Is set at \$15,000, cash only

## Man arrested for alleged kidnapping in 2023

Police: Suspect threatened, assaulted victim at multiple locations

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

A man released from prison in Cameron has been extradited to Barry County and booked into the jail, facing four felonies relating to an alleged kidnapping and assault in 2023.

Jeremy James, born 1986, of Cameron, is charged with kidnapping, second-degree domestic assault, armed criminal action and tampering or attempting to tamper with a victim in a felony prosecution.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Abby Parsons on Dec. 20, 2023, on Dec. 5, 2023, deputies were notified by Seligman Police Chief Matt Phillips of an alleged assault occurring in Barry County and Carroll County, Ark. Phillips stated the victim had significant injuries and was hospitalized at that time.

On Dec. 8, 2023, Parsons and a Carroll County detective interviewed the victim, who disclosed James came to a relative's residence in Barry County, took the victim's cell phone and allegedly stated the victim was leaving with him or he would kill the victim's family.

The victim said they left with James in a small, green four-door vehicle, and James drove through backroad in Barry County while allegedly assaulting the victim multiple times. The victim said James struck them with his fist in the head and back, and he jabbed the victim on the legs with a screwdriver.

The victim said on one backroad, James dragged them out of the vehicle and began kicking the victim's head and back.

The victim said James drove them to another residence in Carroll County, where the assaults allegedly continued. On Dec. 13, 2023, the victim called the Barry County Sheriff's Office wanting to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

## Fire & Thunder — literally



The annual Fire & Thunder fireworks show lit up Table Rock Lake and the Shell Knob bridge on Saturday. Views from the lookout point northeast of the show provided a view of the pyrotechnics, as well as hundreds of boats in the water and distant lightning from a line of storms moving into the area. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

## Honors unfurled

American Legion presents 25 banners to be displayed in city

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

The new Hometown Heroes undertaking by the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118 saw its first major sign of progress on July 1, as 25 banners were presented to veterans, active duty military or their families at the Barry County Courthouse.

The banners were presented, then given to Mike Hagins, city of Cassville Public Works director, to be displayed on light poles on Main Street and around the courthouse square. Hagins said the banners would be put up over the next two days, ahead of the United States' 250th birthday on July 4.

Post Commander Larry Neukirch opened the ceremony, turning the lectern over to Presiding Commissioner Steve Blankenship to address the nearly 100 individuals in attendance.



Larry Neukirch, post commander for the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118, speaks to a crowd of nearly 100 gathered for the first Hometown Heroes banners unveiling at the Barry County Courthouse on July 1. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

Blankenship told the story of his cousin, John Phillips, who was interned in a mass grave overseas after serving in the military. He said he was 5 years old when he heard his Phillips' mother singing “My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean,” replacing the name “Bonnie” with her son's name,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9A

## Man arrested for DWI after crash

2 teens injured in wreck west of Purdy

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

Two teenagers were injured and a Purdy man was arrested for DWI following a wreck at 9:20 p.m. on Friday on Route B, two miles west of Purdy.

### INJURY WRECK

**When:** 9:20 p.m. Friday  
**Where:** Route B, two miles west of Purdy  
**Who:** Two teenagers from Purdy  
**More:** Felony DWI arrest made

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, a 36-year-old male, of Purdy, was driving a 2016 Ford F-150 eastbound when his vehicle crossed the center line

and struck head-on a westbound 2025 Toyota Grand Highlander, being driven by a 16-year-old male, of Purdy.

The 16-year-old male suffered moderate injuries, and a passenger, a 15-year-old female, of Purdy, suffered serious injuries. Both were transported to Cox South Hospital in Springfield. The driver of the Ford was uninjured.

All three individuals were

wearing safety devices, and both vehicles were totaled.

At 9:45 p.m., Biak Cin, 36, of Purdy, was arrested for felony DWI - serious physical injury, and failure to drive on the right half of the roadway, causing a crash.

Cin is being held in the Barry County jail on a bond of \$100,000, per the jail roster. A probable cause statement has yet to be filed on Casenet.

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# LOCAL

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Eagle Rock Community Association hosting political event

The Eagle Rock Community Association is inviting the community to a Meet and Greet with Andrew Cole on Monday at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Community Center, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. Cole will talk for a bit then open the floor up for questions. The Community Association invites voters to attend to help make an informed decision on their vote for Barry County Prosecuting Attorney.

### Purdy Road District to meet

The Purdy Special Road District will meet July 13 at the District Road Barn at 4 p.m.

### Capps Creek Road District meeting

The Capps Creek Special Road District will meet in regular session on July 16 at noon, at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

### Quilts of Valor presentation at Senior Center

The Cassville Senior Center will host a special presentation of Quilts of Valor to previously nominated veterans on July 10 at 11 a.m. during the lunch hour. The public is welcome to attend this presentation. This event is presented for the second time in Cassville thanks to the Quilts of Valor from Kimberling City.

### Hidden underground history panel in Monett

Join the Monett Historical Society for a special open panel discussion on the legendary Monett Muddy Cave (also known as the Monett City Park Cave) on July 21 at 7 p.m. at the Monett Historical Society Museum, located at 422 Broadway in Monett. Hosted by Robert Painter, Mike Randall, Rusty Morris, and author E. A. Hilton, BS. Explore stories of early 1900s explorations, underground rivers, deep drop-offs, rumored connections to Pierce City, its use as a quarry/trash dump, and why it was sealed around 1918. The event is free and open to the public.

### Take a walk down memory lane

Take a walk down memory lane in downtown Monett from 1887 to now. Come share what once was and appreciate the diverse places of business that Monett Broadway has welcomed over the years. The event is for ages 18-and-older, and it is from 5-6 p.m. on July 23, starting at the Monett Historical Society and Museum, located at 422 Broadway in Monett.

### Voter registration through Thursday

The last day to register to vote is Thursday for those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the Aug. 4 Primary Election. People may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or the Monett Chamber of Commerce. Please notify the Barry County Clerk's office of any address or name change. Photo ID required to vote in the August Primary Election. Absentee voting starts June 23 at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Aug. 3. Two week in-person, no excuse absentee voting begins July 21 and runs through Aug. 3. If unable to vote in person, a voter may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625 or fax to: 417-847-5311. The office will need: Name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four digits of Social Security number, phone number, party, reason for voting absentee and signature. Those who live in the Monett area can go by the Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information, call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com

### 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., Fossil Fest 2 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet, 10 a.m., Barn & Quilt Craft at Harvick Farms, Movie with the City at dusk; Monday, Adult Paint Class, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Story Time, 10 a.m., Open Craft Night, 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Tween Book Club, 3:30 p.m.

### Old Church Gallery Farmers Market open

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

### Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

### Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

The Cassville Farmers Market is open weekly on Saturdays on the Barry County Courthouse Square, from 8 a.m. to noon. Vendors are offering eggs, vegetables, 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.

## Slides and sounds punctuate Wheaton celebration



Hundreds of people attended the annual Fourth of July celebration, hosted by the Wheaton Fire Protection District, at the Wheaton City Park, where The Black Moods put on a show prior to the fireworks display. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Renley Watson, 6, of Purdy, held Jenna Slater, 1, of Purdy, as the two enjoyed the slide at the Wheaton City Park during the annual Fourth of July celebration, hosted by the Wheaton Fire Protection District. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



The Black Moods performed ahead of the fireworks show during the annual Fourth of July celebration, hosted by the Wheaton Fire Protection District. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

# Wheaton Elementary receives recognition

## School lauded for Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports at exemplary levels

Each year, Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (MO SW-PBS) recognizes Missouri schools that implement Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (SW-PBS) at exemplary levels with the MO SW-PBS Award of Excellence.

This year, the organization has announced 217 schools — including Wheaton Elementary School — have met the standards required to earn this prestigious award.

Schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports is an evidence-based, multi-tiered system of behavioral supports. It is based on prevention and early intervention and has been shown to produce positive behavioral outcomes for students.

Missouri schools that earn the Award of Excellence have demonstrated increased pro-so-

cial/expectation following behavior, improved attendance, fewer office discipline referrals and fewer days missed due to out of school suspensions than schools that do not implement SW-PBS or did not earn the Award of Excellence.

MO SW-PBS gives three awards, depending on the tiers at which the school is implementing.

- The Tier 1 Award of Excellence: The school meets criteria for implementing Tier 1 at exemplary levels

- The Tier 2 Award of Excellence: The school meets criteria for implementing Tiers 1 and 2 at exemplary levels

- The Tier 3 Award of Excellence: The school meets criteria for implementing Tiers 1, 2, and 3 at exemplary levels.

"Our thanks to the Missouri educators, students, their families, and community members who work together to make our schools places of excellence, where students have a sense of belonging, and that nurture academic and social/emotional growth," a MO SW-PBS press release said.

Wheaton Elementary School was one of 70 schools to earn the Tier 1 Award of Excellence.

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## CORRECTIONS

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

# CASSVILLE Democrat

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# Sludge: No answer for emergency contingency

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

determine the extent of Roaring River Spring's recharge basin.

"The spring's recharge area covers 47.3 square miles, and extends northwest, past Exeter, to the headwaters of Shoal Creek," Miller said.

Differences between Missouri and Arkansas state law regarding the karst bedrock that lies below both southern Missouri and northern Arkansas became apparent several years ago, after Arkansas mandated the closure of C&H Hog Farms: a 6,000-head operation that stored and spread liquid feces and urine in the karst recharge area of the Buffalo National River, located some six miles away.

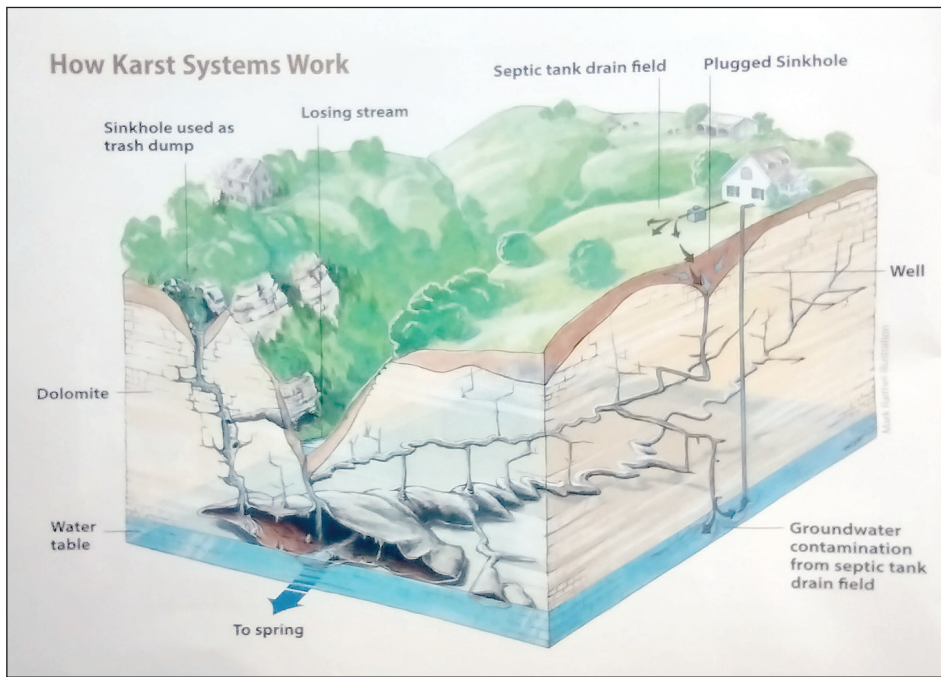
Environmental groups raised an alarm, suspecting the hog farm was contaminating the river with an excess of phosphorus from the manure.

As a result of environmental efforts and public outcry, C&H Hog Farms was closed and bought out by the State of Arkansas. The owners were instructed to empty the farm's two storage lagoons and dispose of some 1.8 million gallons of liquid manure "somewhere outside of the Buffalo National River's recharge area," according to a 2020 article in the Springfield News-Leader.

Waste-hauler, Denali Water Solutions, LLC, hauled the manure some 70 miles due north, where they spread it on farmland, just across the state line, in Taney County, Missouri (<https://tinyurl.com/yjdk5auk>).

The State of Arkansas has since permanently banned large-scale swine farms from operating within the Buffalo National River watershed (<https://tinyurl.com/36vhhvwx> and <https://tinyurl.com/3w-2w94cp>).

In another Arkansas-focused lawsuit — one that dragged on for over 20 years — last summer, a federal judge found that poultry conglomerates operating atop karst bedrock in northwest Arkansas violated Oklahoma statutes prohibiting pollution of Oklahoma's air, land and waters. Their ongoing pollution of the Illinois River Watershed (which conjoins Arkansas and



An infographic shows how karst hydrogeology works in Barry County and surrounding areas in southwest Missouri. Karst hydrogeology allows rainwater and land-applied contaminants to infiltrate groundwater, where they can travel rapidly, "often in the range of a mile per day," Missouri Hydrologist Tom Aley said in an article included in a Missouri Department of Conservation publication, titled *Conserving Missouri's Caves and Karst*. Groundwater travel rates in non-karst areas, Aley says, are commonly only a few feet per year. Contributed photo

Oklahoma) constituted irreparable harm, the judge said.

A few of the multiple defendants, including Tyson's, Cargill and George's, agreed to settle out of court and clean up the watershed, including the Illinois River and Tenkiller Lake, in Oklahoma, which were polluted with excess phosphorus, allegedly from the northwest Arkansas poultry operations (<https://tinyurl.com/yzjj4xbv>).

The defendants were instructed to remove waste from northwest Arkansas and the Illinois River Watershed to a location where the soil did not already contain excess phosphorus.

Around 2018, Denali Water Solutions constructed two earthen storage lagoons in southwest Missouri, each with a capacity of 15-million-gallons, and began hauling tanker-loads of sludge from Arkansas, into Missouri, where laws and regulations for the storage and land-application of sludge were lax to non-existent.

Missouri legislation changed in 2024, and new permits — including the permit for the Cassville storage tank, as well as one near Humansville and Wentworth — are currently being drafted by the DNR.

Legislative changes in Missouri, however, can't change the nature of the karst bedrock below Barry County, said Adryana Quinlan,

Cassville resident. The 2021 Cassville High School graduate is making it her business to advocate for the preservation of the groundwater quality in Barry County — Roaring River Spring's, in particular.

"I grew up in a home near Roaring River State Park," Quinlan said. "Our geology in Barry County has always fascinated me."

Quinlan knows firsthand about sludge from a lesson learned after graduating from high school.

"When I came home one day, after being away for a while, I ran a big glass of well-water from the kitchen faucet, and started to drink it down, when my mom yelled, 'Stop! There's something wrong with our water!'"

"That's when I learned that someone was land-applying sludge in the field across from our house, and that our well-water was a little off. I even questioned whether I should shower in it. When I learned that the land-application of more sludge is planned for our area, I've been making it a point to learn as much as I can about our karst hydrogeology, including how easily water can be polluted. If food and meat-processing residuals are allowed to be stored and land-applied on top of our karst, it will be catastrophic for Roaring River Spring and Barry County as a whole."

Quinlan expressed the same sentiments during

a virtual public hearing hosted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on June 29, regarding the pending issuance of a permit to HydroAg Environmental, for the construction of a sludge-storage tank two miles north of Cassville.

According to the DNR's draft permit, the Cassville storage tank will contain food and meat processing residuals (poultry, beef and pork, if an application that HydroAg submitted to the DNR in 2024 is an indication), as well as residuals from food-generation, animal-food manufacturing and other organic byproducts.

Chemicals and contaminants not covered in the draft permit will not be allowed, states the current DNR draft, but the department makes exceptions for "incidental amounts of cleaning materials that may remain" after the cleaning materials are used.

Quinlan's public comments, for the DNR's official record, were multiple. Her emphasis was whether the DNR had given sufficient thought to the threat posed by a sludge-storage tank situated atop Barry County's fractured limestone karst topography.

"If a catastrophic leak occurred, the materials would enter the groundwater and damage Cassville's drinking water and the quality of water in Roaring River Spring," Quinlan said.

## Barry County Health Corner



### Septic neglect stinks — literally

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Do you have an emergency contingency plan?" She asked the DNR agents present at the meeting.

She received no answer.

The planned waste storage tank will not be inspected by the DNR prior to operation, said Heather Peters, DNR Water Pollution Section chief, who anticipates that HydroAg's third-party construction engineers will build a facility that meets industry standards.

Neither will there be round-the-clock monitoring of the Cassville waste storage tank by onsite personnel. A leak-detection system designed to sound an alarm if there's a problem will serve as a leak-monitoring mechanism, according to the DNR's draft permit.

Reports of leakage must be reported to the DNR within 24 hours of discovery.

The lack of oversight concerns Adryana Quinlan.

"A catastrophic failure of the storage tank, due to leaks or even a storm, will spell disaster for Cassville's drinking water and the water in Roaring River Spring," she said.

On a broader scale, the characteristics of karst, Adryana Quinlan believes, will lead to the degradation of the water in Roaring River Spring, if the storage

and land-application of sludge is allowed to occur in Barry County.

"Roaring River's recharge area covers 47.3 square miles and extends to Exeter and beyond," she said. "There are a lot of farms in that direction where sludge has been land-applied in the past. If it happens again — and continues to happen — Barry County will lose everything we have in our county that the Ozarks are known and loved for."

The loss could conceivably include Barry County's tourism economy.

The karst surrounding Roaring River State Park, including the 47.3 miles of its recharge area, is the same karst that led to the closure of a hog farm that threatened the Buffalo National River.

The DNR has extended the public comment period on the draft permit for the HydroAg storage tank through 5 p.m., July 15. The tank is proposed for construction on private property east of Farm Road 1095, two miles north of Cassville.

Comments can be emailed to [publicnoticenpdes@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:publicnoticenpdes@dnr.mo.gov). People should include permit number MO0141021 in the comment letter.

More information about the draft permit and the public comment period can be found at <https://dnr.mo.gov/calendar/event/305501>.

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# COMMENTARY

## PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

## Reflecting and preparing

May and December are typically our busiest months of the year at the newspaper, but July is giving the other two a run for their money this year.

The Fourth went off without much of a hitch. Last week leading up to the USA's 250th birthday, 25 banners were presented to veterans or their family members, a project by the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118 to recognize our local members of the military in Cassville. The banners were promptly put up on light poles around the courthouse square, and credit to the Post for their efforts and the city of Cassville public works crews who hung them — they look fantastic.

Friday was the Terry Family Fireworks event in Purdy, an event we have made a habit of attending because of family that lives in the city. The Terrys always put on a great Fourth of July event, and this year was no different. The band was excellent, and the fireworks were spectacular.

Saturday brought Wheaton's July 4 celebration, with The Black Moods headlining the entertainment. There's always something special about Josh Kennedy returning to his hometown to play, and the hundreds of folks who attended the show were not disappointed.

From Wheaton, I made my way down south to Shell Knob for the annual Fire & Thunder fireworks show. As usual, it was stunning, especially this year with a line of storms providing an electric backdrop and literal thunder alongside the booms of the pyrotechnics.

From the lookout point on Highway YY, the fireworks, storms and boats on the lake provided a visual treat unique to Barry County.

The fun does not stop this week. On Thursday, the Democrat is hosting the Barry County Candidates Forum, with all four candidates, two for prosecutor and two for presiding commissioner, agreeing to attend.

We will have nine questions for each race, alternating between races every three questions.

The questions, which the candidates do not see beforehand, cover a range of topics from finances to leadership, drug crimes to rehabilitation, transparency to accountability, and landowner rights to charging decisions.

The event should last about 90 minutes, and we're planning to live stream for those who are unable to attend. We are looking forward to, once again, providing a forum voters can use to make their decisions in the Republican Primary Election next month.

When the Forum is done, my attention will turn heavily to next week, when I head to Wales for the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors annual convention. Having attended two World Cup games in Kansas City at the end of June and taken in the pageantry of our semiquincentennial, I'm beyond excited to broaden my horizons with my first trip across the pond.

The convention is being held in Cardiff, with trips to Cardiff Castle and Cardiff Bay on tap, as well as multiple informative discussion sessions and the editorial critiques, which year after year have proved humbling and always make our 8-time Gold Cup-winning publication even stronger.

The conference culminates with the annual gala, where a dozen people will be awarded for excellence in editorial writing, an exercise that leaves no shortage of inspiration.

The only sad part of the trip is my flight back will be during the World Cup final, which I will hate to miss. At least I don't have to miss the U.S. playing for the cup, and that's about all I have to say about our team's exit from the competition.

Once back on home soil, I hope to get some semblance of rest, but with the election and return to the school on the horizon, we'll see how that goes.

We hope to see you Thursday at the Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m. for our Forum, and I'm excited to share what I picked up in Cardiff in a couple weeks!

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## COMMUNITY VOICES

# Death threats are not OK

I learned last week that Mike Henbest, owner of the property where HydroAg Environmental proposes to construct a sludge-storage tank, has been receiving death threats.

He attributes the threats, I was told, to me.

Or, to be more accurate, to the publication of articles I've written for the Cassville Democrat pertaining to a pending permit for the 900,000-gallon sludge tank planned for his property.

The news about the death threats was delivered to me via a mutual acquaintance, since Mr. Henbest is reluctant to talk to me personally. However, the validity of the threats was confirmed by the Barry County Sheriff's Department. An investigation into the source of the threats is ongoing.

This isn't cool, folks! In fact, I'm dismayed.

I've been the recipient of threats before, so I know how frightening they can be. In my case, the threats happened years ago, and were intended to prevent me from writing a story about a legal case involving alleged child molestation. While I didn't necessarily fear for my life, I did feel physically threatened.

Either way, threats are a bully's game, and I have no respect for bullies, no matter which side of a controversial topic they endorse.

Threats are intended to make their targets feel vulnerable, and they often succeed. Sometimes they serve the intended purpose of silencing their recipients. Sometimes, however, they can have the opposite effect. For those made of sturdy stock, a received threat can make a person more determined to continue



SHEILA HARRIS

the course of action they were threatened to stop pursuing.

Mr. Henbest took the right course of action in taking the threats to the sheriff, just as I reported mine to the local police.

I'm ashamed that readers of my articles could stoop to the level of death threats.

Yes, my articles and editorials often have political connotations, but they're designed to make people think — think about a larger picture, perhaps, or, in this case, think about how the land-application of sludge will affect our property values and the quality of the water in our springs and wells 10 or 20 years down the road.

Yes, we have a difference of opinion among residents in Barry County regarding the practice of storing and land-applying meat-processing residuals (commonly referred to as "sludge").

But, it's not Mr. Henbest's fault. He's simply taking advantage of what Missouri law allows.

If you have a problem with Mr. Henbest and his practices, take them to the source of the problem: the state law, beginning with our elected state officials — State Rep. Scott Cupps and State Sen. Mike Moon.

If Mr. Cupps and Mr. Moon

seem reluctant to address your concerns, another option exists. Residents of Barry County can do what the residents of Newton and McDonald County did: form a citizens' coalition, start raising funds and hire an environmental attorney to file a lawsuit against the appropriate entities.

Decide how much the quality of our groundwater in Barry County — including the water in Roaring River Spring — is worth to you, and proceed according to the law. Death threats are not acceptable. No self-respecting attorney would want to represent a bunch of bullies and hooligans.

Meanwhile, you can submit a public comment to the DNR through 5 p.m., July 15, letting them know why you disagree with the construction of a sludge storage tank on Mr. Henbest's property.

Comments can be emailed to publicnoticenpdns@dnr.mo.gov. Please include permit number MO0141021 in the comment letter, referencing the Cassville Storage Tank.

More information about the draft permit and the public comment period can be found at <https://dnr.mo.gov/calendar/event/305501>.

And, Mr. Henbest, if you're reading this, I'd love to meet and talk with you in person. There are two sides to every story, and we do have something in common, it seems.

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

## AMERICAN INSIGHTS

# Alice Paul's dream

Women voting: It was her dream. It was also the unfulfilled promise of America's founding principles.

On March 3, 1913 — the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration — Alice Paul organized the first political march in the nation's capital.

"What politicians had not been able to get through their minds, we would give them through their eyes — often a powerful substitute," Doris Stevens recalled.

But the parade did not go as planned. A crowd of unruly spectators besieged the 5,000 suffrage marchers.

"Women were spit upon, slapped in the face, tripped up, pelted with burning cigar stubs," the *Woman's Journal* reported. Toward the rear, male supporters proudly marched under a banner that bore the words of Lincoln: "No country can exist half slave and half free." They, too, were surrounded and jeered.

Horses struggled to pull carts carrying floats and banners. We demand an amendment enfranchising women, one banner declared. Ambulances and emergency workers "came and went constantly for six hours." One hundred were injured, though none seriously. Paul tried to push the crowd back but to no avail. The police watched on, some cheering on the rabble.



DAKODA PETTIGREW

Ultimately, the U.S. cavalry had to restore order. "I did not know men could be such fiends," one marcher lamented.

Paul's parade was a disaster. Still, it served a purpose: It awakened the nation to longstanding injustice. "Now, in our valley of shadow," Mary Johnston said, "the dawn begins to break." And so it would. Just not yet.

Four years later, Alice Paul sat shivering and starving in her cell at Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. She and her not-so-silent sentinels had been arrested for picketing the White House fence. Jailed, Paul went on a hunger strike; she was held down by guards and brutally force-fed with a tube shoved up her nose and down her stomach. "Miss Paul vomits much," one prisoner wrote. Some women were choked, others beaten; one suffered a heart attack. November 14, 1917, was aptly named the "Night of Terror."

In time, Paul's strategy of direct confrontation paid off. One year later, Woodrow Wilson, the

man who once paid little mind to Paul's antics, stood before the Senate and asked for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment as an urgent "war measure." The Senate vote came up short. But a year later, Congress finally capitulated, and on June 4, 1919, the amendment passed.

Winning the states was as difficult as winning Wilson and Congress. But Paul worked tirelessly to reach the finish line, raising money, writing letters, making calls, and lobbying governors and legislators.

Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin came first. On June 28, Texas was the first Southern state to ratify; Georgia voted against a month later, the first state to do so. But the momentum was in suffrage's favor.

On the warm summer day of August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to ratify, and equal suffrage was enshrined in the Constitution. "A tremendous burst of applause followed the vote," the *Chattanooga News* wrote. It was the end of a long struggle, one that, as Paul optimistically said, "completes the political democracy of America." Tacie, Paul's mother, told her diary: "Alice at last saw her dream realized."

She had fought for a central and timeless prin-

ciple of the Declaration of Independence: the consent of the governed. But the victory was not complete. For Black women, the Nineteenth Amendment was the beginning, not the end, of a long struggle; Jim Crowism in the South whittled down the meaning of equal suffrage until it was meaningless.

Paul herself thought more needed to be done. In 1923, she proposed the Equal Rights Amendment, hoping to further codify equal treatment under the law — a task still unfulfilled.

Six years later, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in Atlanta. He, too, had a dream — that America would "rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed" and "make real the promises of democracy."

For Paul, as for King, the American Revolution was a constant struggle, always a beginning rather than an end. The task, in Tennyson's words: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

And so they did. And so must we.

*Dakota Pettigrew is a summa cum laude graduate of Liberty University with a Bachelor's of science in political science and history. Pettigrew's father went to school in Cassville, and he lives in Tennessee. He can be reached at pettigrewdakoda6@gmail.com.*

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A catastrophic failure of the storage tank, due to leaks or even a storm, will spell disaster for Cassville's drinking water and the water in Roaring River Spring."

— CASSVILLE RESIDENT ADRYANA QUINLAN ON POSSIBLE FAILURE OF A SLUDGE-STORAGE TANK PLANNED FOR TWO MILES NORTH OF CASSVILLE

**50 years ago**

**July 14, 1976**  
**— COUNCIL IN ANNUAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISCUSSION**

At least once a year the subject of flood control becomes a major agenda item for the Cassville City Council. Tuesday night was the first such meeting this year. On hand for the session were members of two federal agencies that had been involved in flood problems for the city for a number of years. Mayor Bill LeCompte opened the discussion toward permanent solutions to the problem. Marvin Grandy, Soil Conservation Service conservationist, discussed a long-pending program of flood-control structures in the west area of town. Phil Couch, land improvement contractor who had done considerable work for the city, reminded council that piecemeal improvements were costly and did not provide a permanent remedy to problems. Couch said more comprehensive work was needed to save city finances. Mayor LeCompte said a select committee of citizens was being considered to work with adjoining property owners to determine what part of a Resources, Conservation and Development plan could be achieved. Involved are property easements for holding structures in areas of drainage into the city. Marvin Phipps, county Farmers Home Administration director, reminded the council funds are available for road and flood improvement projects in the area of Sales Barn Road to Highway 37. Included would be widening of the road and a new Gaylen Bridge crossing over Flat Creek. Phipps said \$50,000 in FmHA funds and \$65,000 in Ozarks financing were still in plans being developed by Alligier-Martin and Associates of Joplin. Mayor LeCompte and city attorney Joe Ellis suggested a meeting with property owners in the area after Aug. 1. Flooding took another turn for the city fathers in a petition bearing 48 signatures from persons in the Ivy Addition and the area between 10th and 11th streets through the town's midsection. They requested cleaning of drainage ditches and removal of obstructions that would better protect their property. Council reaction was to study solutions to the property owners' problems. In another action before the council, attended by all four aldermen — Gene Schlichtman, Marlee Edie, Bill Hailey and W.E. Leonard — an ordinance was approved containing four points pertaining to the Cassville Municipal Airport. These included prohibiting vehicle traffic on the landing strip, trespassing on airport property or obstructing landing facilities, littering at the airport and making violations of these regulations misdemeanors. A contract was awarded to Laverne Hilburn for \$1,850 to install a new roof on the Community Building being remodeled. It was the low of two bids. Council was notified the city was expecting an audit of its books to be completed in the near future. Red Dodson was authorized to attach water service to a home on Highway 112 outside the city limits. Kenneth Propps and Randy Hilburn were employed as relief patrolmen for the city police force to fill vacancies. Sheriff Vernon Still's department was cited for providing assistance during the shortage of officers. City Collector Opal Santee was authorized to remove 35 tax bills, ranging from \$1.02 to \$82, from unpaid lists. They involved deceased persons and incorrect assessments in both real and personal tax departments. Five cutoff water service notices mailed June 30 did not appear at the council meeting as instructed, and water service was ordered dis-



**30 YEARS AGO: ALTERNATE ENERGY TEAM EXAMINES SOLAR BIKE** — Members of the alternate energy group examine the solar bike before their preliminary run. Three members of the group are from Barry County. They are Jason Porter, Exeter; Tammie Wormington, Purdy; and Kevin Reynard, Southwest. A team of eight students headed for Akita, Japan, July 15, where the World Solar Bike Race was held. The team stayed in Japan for 10 days.

Democrat file photo

continued. Problems at the sewage lift station on East Seventh Street were discussed. The mayor noted long-range plans would replace the unit in about two years. An improvement plan suggested by Alligier-Martin and Associates, costing \$1,500, was being studied along with another plan. Patrolman Ray Burnette informed council breathalyzer equipment and training on its use were available for the police force at no cost to the city. Full details were to be obtained. Lot moving orders would be checked by city clerk F.O. Fields in a continued effort to have weeds removed from property within the city limits. Tuesday's council meeting was a true "open" meeting, as the body moved to the curbside at City Hall because of temperatures inside the city chambers, which were not air-conditioned.

**— PURDY VOTERS DIVIDED ON BOND PROPOSITIONS**

Purdy School District voters approved one of two propositions Tuesday that would eventually lead to a campus improvement project. Superintendent Thomas Kurucz said voters approved a \$195,000 bond issue, but a transfer of funds from the present school levy was defeated. Proposition One, the bond issue, received a 426-163 favorable vote. Proposition Two, transferring 72 cents from the present \$4.62 levy without an increase, failed to gain the necessary majority with 365 in favor and 205 in opposition. Superintendent Kurucz said voters would be asked to return to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 17, to reconsider Proposition Two. He said there was an apparent misunderstanding about the issue. Neither proposition, submitted to construct 10 additional classrooms, two offices, a library and music facilities, would increase the present district tax levy. Passage of both propositions was necessary before the district could continue plans for the construction program.

**40 years ago**

**July 16, 1986**  
**— FINAL FOREST PLAN FOR MARK TWAIN**

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Mark Twain National Forest has been released to the public. The plan had been in the making for about seven years with public involvement throughout the planning period, starting with identification of issues, concerns and opportunities in the early 1980s. The Forest Plan and its companion Environmental Impact Statement were circulated in draft form for a 90-day public review period beginning in April 1985. A total of 1,330 persons commented, giving 6,032 comments for consideration by the Forest Service. The Final

Forest Plan and its Final Environmental Impact Statement reflect changes in response to public comment. Other changes were made as a result of new policies and procedures. Mark Twain Forest Supervisor B. Eric Morse commented, "We have now completed our work on the Forest's integrated resource management for the next 10 years. The very key to successful management with this plan is the integrated approach used in its application, which combines management of the Forest's many resources into one integrated course of action. Copies of the Plan, its Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision have been sent to many involved and interested parties." The Forest Plan was to be implemented in early August, 30 days after notification that the Final Environmental Impact Statement had been posted in the Federal Register. Copies of the Forest Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision could be viewed at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Rolla and at the Mark Twain National Forest Ranger Station in Cassville.

**— SCHOOLS PROUD OF PARENTS FIRST TEACHERS**

The first year of statewide implementation of the Parents As First Teachers program had come to a close. The program in the Cassville R-IV School District served 23 families during the 1985-86 school year, providing age-appropriate developmental information about their children through monthly home visits. Group meetings provided knowledge about various topics such as discipline, childhood nutrition and language development. Twenty-five children were screened in the areas of language, motor skills, social skills, vision and hearing. Missouri was proud of what had been accomplished through the project during the past year. School districts planned to serve twice as many families during the 1986-87 school year. Cassville schools set Aug. 25 as the beginning of the second year of serving families of children from birth to age 3. The program is voluntary and free of charge. Parents wanting more information or wishing to enroll in the program were asked to contact Linda Marple, parent educator.

**— WHEATON NEW LEVY IS PENNY LOWER**

The regular meeting of the Wheaton R-III Board of Education was held July 10. The board held its annual tax hearing, establishing the 1986-87 tax rate of \$1.43 after the Proposition C rollback. The new tax rate reflected a 1-cent drop from last year's levy, according to Superintendent Sheldon Buxton. Under old business, discussion centered on policy dealing with the

senior trip. The general feeling at that time was for continuation of the trip with adjustments in policy dealing with its length and timing. Under new business, the superintendent was authorized to release bids for goods and services for the 1986-87 school year. Authorization was also granted to reinstate the contract with the State Highway Department to place crosswalk lines and warning signs on Highway W. Adult supervision was to be provided on a shared basis with the city, as the contract was a three-way agreement among the state, school and community, according to Buxton, and required adult supervision. Final action taken was the employment of Nancy Gillogly as high school English teacher. She was certified in speech and drama, having earned a master's degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1971. Gillogly had nine years of teaching experience, having most recently taught for the Sarcoxie School District during the 1985-86 school term. The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Attending the meeting were board president Jerry McBride, Karen Vinyard, Larry Butler, Lester Prewitz, Dale Forgey, Lindy Lombard, secretary Connie Forgey and Coach Bob Baker.

**30 years ago**

**July 20, 1996**  
**— FBI APPREHENDS "MOST WANTED" SUSPECT IN SHELL KNOB CHASE**

A criminal profiled on America's Most Wanted was apprehended July 3 in Shell Knob. Steven Lloyd Rowe, 23, of Wisconsin, considered a fugitive since January of this year, was taken into custody by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Barry County Sheriff's Department on federal charges of unlaw-

ful flight to avoid prosecution. On Jan. 4, 1996, Rowe was sentenced to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for five years on two charges of second-degree sexual assault of a child and interference with custody. The judge executed a suspended sentence, making Rowe a free man. At some point Rowe absconded from probation, and a matter was filed Jan. 18 for a hearing on pending charges. A criminal complaint was filed Feb. 5 against Rowe with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073. Judge Patricia Gorence signed a federal warrant for his arrest, beginning the official manhunt. According to I.C. Smith, special agent in charge of the Arkansas FBI, it was determined that Rowe had obtained employment at a carpet store in Shell Knob. On July 3, at approximately 8:30 a.m., two FBI agents from Fayetteville and officers from the Barry County Sheriff's Department went to his place of employment. According to an FBI agent out of Little Rock, Ark., Rowe spotted the men and started running. Rowe attempted to flag down cars, but when no one stopped he began running for a nearby wooded area. After some time Rowe surfaced at a nearby gas station and tried to get into two locked vehicles. When those efforts were unsuccessful, he jumped into a nearby truck that had a 6-year-old child inside and a boat attached to it. He started the truck and began to drive away. The father of the child saw what was happening and jumped into the back of the vehicle and began choking Rowe through the sliding rear window. After this incident, FBI agents, accompanied by the Barry County Sheriff's Department, seized Rowe and took him into custody.

Additional charges were to be filed in Barry County against Rowe. Rowe went before a judge on July 8 to determine the issue of bond. "Based on what I know about this case, I'm not going to set bond at this time," said Associate Circuit Judge Mike Garrett. Other business handled was the matter of counsel. It was stated that a Little Rock attorney had not yet been retained, so the court approved his application for a public defender. Rowe signed a waiver for extradition to return to Wisconsin to face impending charges. A new hearing was scheduled for Thursday, July 11, at 1:30 p.m., according to Prosecuting Attorney David Cole.

**— BARRY ELECTRIC BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING**

Officials of Barry Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Cassville, were to be in force Monday, July 15, at 3 p.m. to break ground on their new building at the north edge of town. Manager Bill Shiveley said the turning of the first dirt on the project would be a public event. Breaking ground would signal the start of the doubling of space for the cooperative, now into its 50th year of service to the communities of Seligman, Washburn, Exeter, Wheaton and Cassville. Virtually all of south Barry County, except portions of Table Rock Lake, are in the Barry Electric service area. Ceremonies were to be held at the north edge of Cassville, adjacent to a new water storage tower. The 10.04 acres were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Thompson. Almost adjacent is the First Assembly of God Church on Business 37. Costing \$1.46 million, the facility will include 15,400 square feet of warehouse and garage area and 7,000 square feet of office space. Outside storage space and a pole yard will eventually be located at the site. After the 10-month construction period and the co-op's move to the new location, existing office and parking facilities at First and South Main will be available for sale. Shiveley said electric feed facilities at the present pole yard on the banks of Flat Creek and East Eighth Street will eventually determine what disposal is made of that real estate. The new location is currently in the process of annexation into the Cassville city limits. In developing the site, city water and sewer lines will be extended to serve the facility. Members of the board participating in developing the project and expected to take part in the groundbreaking include David Cupps, president; John Marney, vice president; Harold Reece, secretary-treasurer; and members Frank Armstrong, Curtis Thomas, Richard Wierman, Max Hudson, Glen Craig and C.L. Hendrix.

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

Hey there — I'm Fee, a vibrant 1-year-old orange domestic shorthair with plenty of life ahead of me! I'm already spayed and ready to bring some serious affection to your home. At just under 6 pounds, I'm the perfect size for snuggles and lap time. Come meet me and let's start our purr-fect friendship together — my adoption fee is \$65. Adopters can complete an application at [www.havenoftheoazarks.org/adopt](http://www.havenoftheoazarks.org/adopt). No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email [havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com), or call at 417-835-3647.

Contributed photo





## NORMAN RAY BOLES

Norman Ray Boles, 78, of Bentonville, Ark., formerly of Wheaton, Mo., passed away at his home on Sunday, June 28, 2026.

He was born April 18, 1948, in Wheaton, Missouri the son of Loren and Ferry (Dalton) Boles, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were his stepson, Lucas McDowell and brother, Charles Boles.

Survivors include his sons, Brad Boles and wife Tami of Beaverdam, Va., and Rodney Kurtz and wife Jodi of Gardner, Kan.; daughters, Jami Hovey and husband Paul of Birmingham, Ala., and Angela Lundberg and husband Kory of Bentonville, Ark.; ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He attended school in Cassville, Missouri, where he graduated from Cassville High School. Following graduation, he completed a four-year apprenticeship with Royal Typewriter in Springfield, Mo., which led to his

employment at FASCO Industries in Cassville, Mo., in the tool and die department. After leaving FASCO, he owned and operated his own tool and die business in Cassville.

He attended Hillcrest Church in Bentonville, Ark.

Visitation was held Thursday, July 2, 2026, at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Pastor Michael Goering will conduct the service. A private burial will be held later at Fox Cemetery in Powell, Mo.

**McQUEEN FUNERAL HOME**  
Wheaton, Missouri  
417-652-7268  
Visit [www.fohnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fohnfuneralhome.com)  
for online obituaries, guestbooks  
and private condolences



## SHANNON DWAYNE BRUTON

Shannon Dwayne Bruton, age 56, of Cassville, Mo., passed away on Friday, July 3, 2026, at his home.

He was born on September 19, 1969, in Monett, Mo., to Joe Bruton and Donna Faye (Isley) McCloud.

Survivors include his mother, Donna Faye McCloud of Cassville, Mo.; his life partner, Christine Tucker of Cassville, Mo.; his sons, Kylan Bruton of Purdy, Mo., and Lucas James and his wife, Rachel, of Exeter, Mo.; his daughter, Katelyn Adams of Purdy, Mo.; his sisters, Shawna Ellison of Exeter, Mo., and Jami Curry Bruton of Eagle Rock, Mo.; and his eight beloved grandchildren; as well as many extended family members and friends who will cherish his memory.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Lisa LaDawn James in Cassville, Mo., and his father, Joe Bruton.

He worked as a machinist for several manufacturing companies in the area. He attended Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville.

A celebration of Shannon's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Mo.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family in memory of Shannon.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
Cassville, Missouri  
417-847-2141  
Visit [www.fohnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fohnfuneralhome.com)  
for online obituaries, guestbooks  
and private condolences



## EDWARD "SCOTT" MARBUT

Edward "Scott" Marbut, 65, of San Antonio, Texas passed

away Thursday, June 18, 2026, at his residence.

He was born July 13, 1960, in San Antonio, Texas, the son of Stanley Edward and Patsy Ann (Miller) Marbut.

Survivors include his sister, Pamela Lane of League City, Texas; one niece, and three nephews.

Preceding him in death was his father, Stanley Marbut and mother, Patsy "Pat" Marbut who passed away Sunday, June 28, 2026 and his brother, Christy Lee Marbut.

He grew up and attended school in San Antonio, graduating from Oliver Wendall Holmes High School in 1978. He continued his education at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas, earning an Associate Degree in Diesel Technology. He was employed by the United States Civil Service as a logistics specialist. He was of the Baptist faith.

Services were held Friday, July 3, 2026 at Arnhart Baptist Church in Purdy, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jason Mackey officiated. A private burial will be held at Arnhart Cemetery in Purdy, Missouri.

Contributions may be made to Arnhart Baptist Church in memory of Scott.

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## AL DONALD PARSONS

Al Donald Parsons, son of Donald Albert and Maxine (Hudson) Parsons, was born June 15, 1940, in Cassville, Missouri. He departed this life June 24, 2026, at his home in Laquey, Missouri, surrounded by his loved ones, at the age of eighty-six years.

As a child, Al attended school in Hurley, Blue Eye and Exeter Missouri following his father's career as a Principal. While in school, he was a gifted athlete and an excellent basketball player. He thoroughly enjoyed the game and being apart of the team. He graduated High School from Exeter Missouri with the class of 1958.

After graduating from high school, Al joined the United States Army. During his service time, Al obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He

was a highly decorated officer in the United States Army for over twenty-two years. His service time included two tours in Vietnam, as a Helicopter Pilot and an Attack Helicopter Company Commander. Al was the recipient of four distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star, with Oakleaf cluster and 69 Air Medals, three with Valor. Al Parsons was honored to fly Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore in the Ia Drang Valley, just after the famed battle that was chronicled in the movie "We were soldiers once and .....Young". Al also piloted the Commander of US Forces, Gen William

Westmoreland, as well. His faithful service brought great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Al was united in marriage with Helen Marie (Hawk) Parsons and to this union were three children, Al "Ali", Maxie and Madonna. He later married Deborah "Debby" York. To this union came Thomas Parsons. Together Al and Debbie shared nearly thirteen years of love and memories. Al was raised in a Christian home and environment. He Made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his personal savior in this spring of 2026. Al was a simple man. He loved his farming. He had owned and operated three farms from Laquey, Missouri to Cassville Missouri. He farmed cows and raised goats and horses. He liked to pheasant hunt and enjoyed watching westerns. Al leaves behind to celebrate his memory, his wife Debby (York) Parsons; his children, Jeremiah Nickels and his wife Sarah, Joshua Nickels and his wife Becky, Thomas Parsons, Maxie Buescher and Madonna Bonnafous and her husband Xavier; his grandchildren, Baylee & Rylee Gee, Preston Cook, Taylor Kearbey (Sean), Makenzie Bieber (Adam), Grace Helen Lumberas, Eva Marie Bonnafous, Madison Boorum (Brian), Bailey Nickels, Issac Nickels, Anabel Nickels, Hannah Nickels, Ivy Nickels and Cora Nickels; his great-grandchildren, Asher Cook, Kloie Wiseman (Caleb), Kaison, Boorum, Dailan Boorum and Montana Hawk Parsons II; his brother H.G. Parsons and his wife Vicki; other relatives and many dear friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Al "Ali" Donald Parsons II; one grandson, Montana Hawk Parsons; one great-grandson, Koby Cook and one sister, Pamela Parsons.

Al will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

**PAID OBITUARY**



## PRESTON YUNK

Preston Yunk, 25, passed away unexpectedly at home in Cassville, Mo., on Tuesday, June 30. He was born September 13, 2000 in Brandon, Fla., to Ronald and Janet (Ballenger) Yunk.

He is survived by his parents, brother David of Nogales, Mexico, and brother Powell and his wife Kayla Knight of Leesburg, Va.; his paternal grandmother Maxine Yunk of Hutchinson, Kan., aunts Jean Ann Ballenger of Stillwater, Oklah., Katie Edelbute of Leawood, Kan., and Crystal Miller (Darrel) of Hutchinson, Kan.; Brook Ballenger of Stillwater, Oklah., Robert Yunk (Jonelle) of Oklahoma City, Oklah., and Steve Yunk of De Soto, Kan., as well as numerous cousins.

He was preceded by his grandparents David & Lois Ballenger, and Raymond Yunk.

He attended Valrico Elementary, Mann Middle School, and Durant High School until his family relocated to Cassville in 2018. He was a member of Cassville High School Class of 2019. He continued his education locally at Crowder College and completed his associate's degree before being diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Please join the family to celebrate his life at White Funeral Home in Cassville, on July 11 at 1:00 pm.

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](http://www.whitefuneralhome.org)  
417-847-8100 or 417-858-8400



## PATSY ANN "PAT" MARBUT

Patsy Ann "Pat" Marbut, 89, of Purdy, Mo., passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2026 at Select Specialty Hospital in Springfield, Mo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

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# ELECTION 2026



## BARRY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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

**1. How do you determine what charges should be filed in a case?**

Each case is based upon the evidence submitted by law enforcement. I have an ethical obligation to only file charges that are supported by sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction. The evidence and applicable statutes are reviewed to determine what charges can be proven and should be filed.

**2. What factors determine plea bargain decisions?**

Many factors come into play when determining a plea offer. For example, if a victim is requesting restitution, that can only be ordered if the defendant is placed on probation. If the defendant goes to prison, restitution cannot be collected. The defendant's criminal history is also taken into consideration and the wishes of the crime victim if there is one.

**3. What steps would you take to reduce the amount of drug crime in Barry County?**

The prosecutor's office handles crime on the backend. Law enforcement is on the frontline for reducing drug crime. The prosecutor aides in that effort by allowing certain individuals to help catch



**Amy Boxx**

the bigger fish, provide law enforcement with the appropriate search warrants and offer drug court to those that meet the criteria established by the court.

**4. What steps would you take to reduce burglaries and thefts in Barry County?**

Repeat offenders have their charges enhanced if at all possible so that their sentence is longer. If restitution is requested, we attempt to work with probation and parole to have it collected. If the defendant refuses to pay, then it's simply time for

them to go to prison. Keep in mind, the amount of time served by a defendant is not determined by the local prosecutor, but by the department of corrections and parole board.

**5. What role should treatment and recovery programs play in crime reduction?**

Treatment programs can help reduce crime, but only if the participant wants help. No program can stop someone from committing crimes, unless that person truly wants help getting his/her life back on track and drug free.

**1. How do you determine what charges should be filed in a case?**

Charging decisions must be based on the evidence and the law, not personal relationships or politics. In determining what offenses to charge, I look at the evidence and whether there is a reasonable likelihood of proving those charges beyond a reasonable doubt. Input from the victim, the extent of the harm, the defendant's conduct and criminal history all play a role in making charging decisions. Every case is different and the ultimate question is not simply what can be charged, but what charges fairly reflect the conduct and allow justice to be pursued.

**2. What factors determine plea bargain decisions?**

When determining whether to offer a plea bargain, public safety is the first consideration. Victim input is also weighed heavily when making an offer as they are the ones who have been harmed by the offense. I also consider the seriousness of the offense, the strength of the evidence, the defendant's criminal history and the likelihood of reoffending. A plea agreement should not be offered merely to clear a case from the docket. It must provide accountability and serve the interests of justice. Depending upon the case, justice may require incarceration, restitution, treatment, supervision or a combination of these. Serious and repeat offenders should receive serious consequences, while appropriate first-time offenders may benefit from structured opportunities for rehabilitation.

**3. What steps would you take to reduce the amount of drug crime in Barry County?**

It is important to make the distinction between the drug dealers who bring poison into our community and people whose addiction is causing them to commit crimes. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will also work closely with law enforcement to build strong cases, properly use confidential informants and improve communication between the different agencies investigating drug



**Andrew Cole**

crimes. I will hold the dealers and drug users accountable. Drug dealers, especially those selling methamphetamine, fentanyl and other dangerous drugs, will be prosecuted aggressively. Addicts who want help should be given the ability to participate in drug court, treatment, diversion and other available resources to help them address their addiction, with the understanding that treatment does not replace accountability.

**4. What steps would you take to reduce burglaries and thefts in Barry County?**

A fundamental belief in our society is that a person's home is their castle, and they should feel safe inside. Burglaries contradict that belief and make us all feel less safe. Burglaries and thefts are often connected to drug abuse and addressing the underlying addiction can prevent additional victims. As Prosecuting Attorney, I will respond meaningfully to a person's first property offense rather than allowing repeated offenses to accumulate without serious intervention. I will work to recognize and eliminate the underlying factors which lead to burglaries and thefts. Where appropriate, these cases should include restitution paid to the victim, supervision, treatment court, or incarceration. I will work with law enforcement to identify patterns, repeat offenders and locations experiencing repeated

thefts. Strong investigations and consistent prosecution will make it clear that stealing from the people of Barry County will not be treated as a minor inconvenience.

**5. What role should treatment and recovery programs play in crime reduction?**

As previously mentioned, I believe drug addiction is one of the main contributing factors leading to crime. I am an advocate for treatment and recovery programs, but I acknowledge they are not appropriate for every offender. Treatment should be a tool for preventing repeat offenses and not a substitute for prosecution or punishment. These programs should be used where they are likely to reduce future criminal behavior and protect the public. Participation should include clear expectations, regular monitoring and consequences for noncompliance. For those individuals who genuinely want to change and will respond to treatment, structure and accountability can help them achieve that goal. Individuals who are unwilling to participate or have continued to commit serious crimes despite repeated opportunities should face the consequences of their actions. As Prosecuting Attorney, I intend to expand the use of treatment court and recovery programs and utilize these resources sooner rather than later.

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She was born February 3, 1937 to Gladden and Gwendolyn (Henderson) Miller near Purdy, Mo., who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her spouse, Stanley Marbut; son, Christi Lee Marbut and Edward "Scott" Marbut who passed away Thursday, June 18, 2026, and brother-in-law, Bill Roller.

Survivors included her daughter, Pamela Lane of League City, Texas; two grandchildren; two great grandsons; sisters, Betty Jo Francisco and husband Gene of Republic, Mo. and Peggy Roller of Purdy, Mo., and brother,

Carl Miller and wife Pam of Monett, Mo.

She attended Purdy schools and graduated in 1955.

Her husband was in the United States Air Force and their first years were spent in San Antonio, Texas, Frankfort, Germany, and Fort Walton, Fla. In 1967 they moved back to San Antonio to make their home. She started her career with the United States Air Force as a GS-4 typist and retired as a Human Resources Specialist, GS-12 in 1991. After retirement they returned to Purdy to build a new home. She attended Arnhart Baptist Church, served as vice president and service

officer for the National Association of Federal Retirees and treasurer of Arnhart Cemetery in Purdy.

Services were held Friday, July 3, 2026 at Arnhart Baptist Church in Purdy, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jason Mackey officiated. A private burial will be held at Arnhart Cemetery in Purdy, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Arnhart Baptist Church in memory of Pat.

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Visit [www.fohnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbooks and private condolences

### Kidnapping: \$15K bond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

change their statement.

On Dec. 14, 2023, James was taken into custody while with the victim, who said the call to change the statement was at James' direction, and the victim said they are afraid of James.

In a post-Miranda interview on Dec. 15, 2023, James denied assaulting the victim.

Parsons noted in the statement James has a history of fleeing and failed to appear at three previous court hearings. She also said James poses a danger to the victim, community or other persons because James allegedly assaulted the victim to the point the victim feared death. James was booked

into the Barry County jail on June 30 after being released from the Crossroads Correctional Center in Cameron. his bond is set at \$15,000, cash only.

He has been arraigned, and a bond hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

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# LOCAL

## A party in Purdy!



The eagle statue in Purdy was alight with the brightness of fireworks at the start of the annual pyrotechnics show during the Terry Family Fireworks celebration in Purdy on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Trying to stay cool in the July heat, Hazel Martin, 6, of Cassville, applied a pair of chilly water bottles to her forehead during the Terry Family Fireworks celebration in Purdy on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Lyndi Austen, 4, of Monett, watches Lancaster station perform as she opens up her hot dog during the Terry Family Fireworks celebration in Purdy on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Attendees at the Terry Family Fireworks celebration in Purdy got out of their seats and on their feet as Lancaster Station performed "Uptown Funk" prior to a fireworks show. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Lancaster Station performs "Uptown Funk" during the Terry Family Fireworks celebration in Purdy on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Don Beeson, Army chaplain from 1962-1982, was the first to receive a Hometown Heroes banner as part of the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118's effort to display them along Main Street and the Courthouse square in Cassville. Beeson, who recently turned 97, said he was honored to be recognized for his service. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Dustin Gregory, center, with the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118, presents a Hometown Heroes banner to an individual after the veteran on the banner was named by the Post's Adjunct Historian, John Easley, left. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

## Honors: 97-year-old honored with banner on courthouse square

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"Johnny."  
In 2019, Phillips' remains were identified, and in September 2021, he was interned in Arlington National Cemetery. Blankenship said that series of events led him to recall the interaction at an early age and one of his connections to honorable military service.

Following Blankenship's speech, the 25 banners were presented, with recipients taking photos with the banners before handing them over to Hagins.

Don Beeson, who celebrated his 97th birthday on June 24, was the first to receive a banner, joking that he looks about the same as now as he did in the photo. Beeson served as an Army chaplain for 20 years, from 1962-1982.

"I have lots of memories, lots of good memories," he said. "tink it's a great thing the Legion is doing this. I give thanks to everyone who has had a part in this recognition."

Beeson was born 5.7 miles northeast of the Courthouse in Forest Grove, and he said the area has always been supportive of veterans.

"It's great to have roots here in Cassville," he said. "During the depression and after, I don't think I appreciated it then, but I do now — the grounding, the learning, the teaching, the discipline — those were innumerable and priceless lessons learned here."

Ted Bolton, who served in the Army from 1967-1969, said he greatly appreciated the honor of receiving a banner.

"This is something that brings everyone together," he said. "It will make the city a little more patriotic, and I hope it encourages young people to join the service."

Among the attendees, Bolton said, were may friends he had not seen in some time.

"It was really great to meet up with other veterans I have not see in a long time, and for us to encourage one another," he said.

John Easley, adjunct historian for the Post, said eight more banners are already in the works, and with the city's commitment to putting up banners on both sides of light posts, there could be as many as 150 servicemen

and servicewomen recognized.

"We will send the next banner order when we have 20 ready to go," he said. "Originally, we counted about 78 poles, but now that we're doing two on each, we can put about 150 up on Main Street and around the square. The city has been amazing in helping us. [City Administrator] Richard Asbill and Mike Hagins have been awesome."

Easley, who named each of the veterans and the banner recipients at the ceremony, said it was an honor to do so.

"I was overwhelmed by the turnout today," he said. "It's tough to look through the glass and figure out how it will all work out, and it did work out. Barry County is full of heroes."

Easley said the Post is also working to get names of Korean War and Vietnam War veterans displayed inside the courthouse, where his grandfather, great grandfather and great uncles are named for their prior service.

"There's a lot of legacy in Barry County," he said.

As for the banners, Easley said the Post will continue to have new ones printed until all spaces are full and the effort exhausted to the point no one else wants one.

To get a banner displayed, Easley said the Post will need a photo, application form and check of \$125 dollars to be submitted to: Veterans Banner Committee, C/O John C Easley, 18767 State Hwy E, Eagle Rock, MO 65641.

A photo and form can also be emailed to john.easley@outlook.com, and people seeking more information may reach Easley at 479-228-0513.

Veterans honored and those receiving the banners on July 1 included:

- Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Donald Beeson, received by Chaplain Beeson
- Private (PVT) Stephen (Ted) Douglas Bolton and Specialist 5 (SP5) Ted Ray Bolton, received by Ted Bolton
- Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2) Blaine Edmondson Brock, received by Susan Brock-Lane
- Technical Sergeant Gene Perry Brock, received by Harold Brock

- Command Sergeant Major (CSM) James D Day, received by his wife Lucille Day and Don Jason Day

- Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) John Charles Easley, received by his Father Charles Easley

- Senior Airman (SrA) Mollie Marina Michaela Easley, received by her Mother Heather Easley

- Captain (CPT) Max Easley, received by nephew David

- Major (Maj) William "Rocky" Rothrock Edmondson, received by his sister Mrs. Gayle Farmer

- Corporal (CPL) Ryan Gregory Hodge is receiving his banner

- Quartermaster 2nd Class (QM2) Donald Eugene Lambert, received by his daughter Lynette Dilbeck

- Sergeant First Class (SFC) Matthew Reams Ledgerwood, received by his parents Dennis and Charli Jo Ledgerwood

- Corporal (CPL) Charles L. Marple, received by Jerry Marple

- Sergeant (SGT) James Edward Morgan, received by Wes Stephens

- Sergeant (SGT) John V Phillips, received by Judy Eaton and Jane Howe

- Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Allen Preddy and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Joseph Paul Preddy, received by Granddaughter and niece Devon Forsythe

- Sergeant (SGT) Cleburn Priest, received by his wife Luann Priest and Son Dan Priest

- Lieutenant General (LTG) William Henry Reno, received by Phil Hutchens



Charli Jo Ledgerwood, center, and Dennis Ledgerwood, right, walk up to accept a Hometown Heroes banner for their son, Matthew Ledgerwood. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com



Devon Forsythe, right, accepts Hometown Heroes banners for Joseph A. Preddy, U.S. Army, and Joseph P. Preddy, U.S. Navy, during the first banners presentation at the Barry County Courthouse on July 1. Kyle Troutman/ktoutman@cassville-democrat.com

- Private (PVT) Mrs. Fran Bolton wife Beck Thompson and daughters Becky Hodge, Charles Franklin Miekley, and Charli Jo Ledgerwood.
- Corporal (CPL) Thompson, received by his

### BARRY COUNTY CANDIDATES FORUM

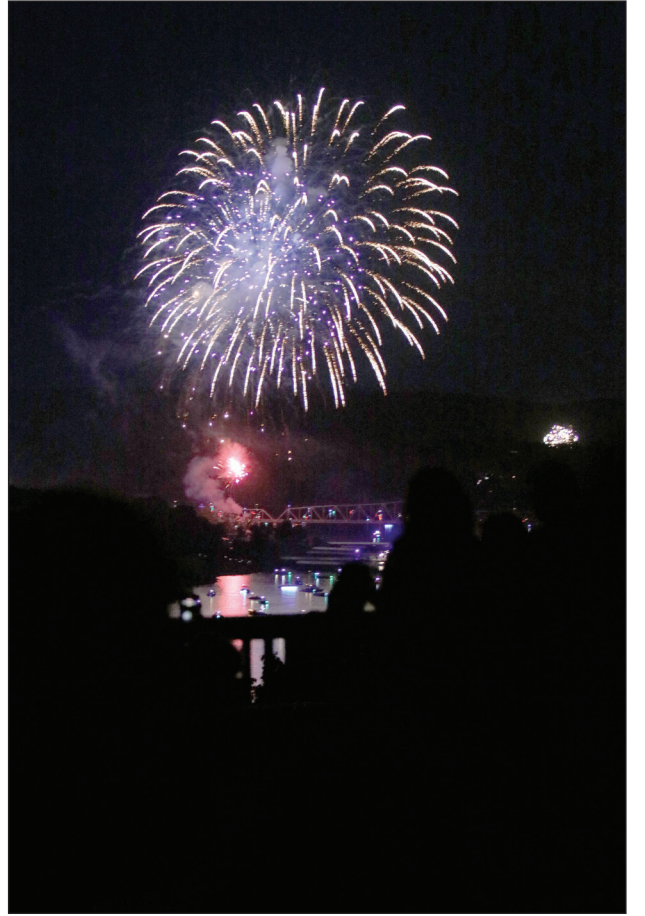
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**Thursday, July 9 • 6 p.m.**  
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# Fire & Thunder lights up lake, bridge

The annual Fire & Thunder fireworks show lit up Table Rock Lake and the Shell Knob bridge on Saturday. Views from the lookout point northeast of the show provided a view of the pyrotechnics, as well as hundreds of boats in the water and distant lightning from a line of storms moving into the area. The Shell Knob bridge was closed off during the show, as fireworks exploded above the iconic Barry County structure. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



## LADY TIGERS MEET GOALS ON THE DIAMOND



Exeter's Shea Hilburn makes a catch and goes for a tag at second during action against Wheaton last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

# Winning record, reaching district semis marked as goals achieved

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Exeter softball team accomplished the goals it set before the season began, overcoming a young lineup to finish above .500, win a conference championship and make another postseason run.

"Overall, it was a good season," said Ashley Fly, Lady Tigers softball coach. "We finished above .500 [at 11-9-1], which was our goal at the beginning of the season, and our goal was to fight through districts, and we did just that."

"We came up with some good wins, and we played well. "There were some games that we could have picked up that we didn't, but overall,

### EXETER SOFTBALL

**Record:** 11-9-1

**Last result:** 8-5 loss to Crane in Class 1, District 5 Tournament

**More:** Team met goals, will miss impact made by seniors

we had a really, really good season and was really, really proud of the kids and how they worked through adversity and came back and worked hard."

One of the biggest changes Fly saw from the opening weeks to the postseason came at the plate.

"Start to finish, we probably improved most

offensively," Fly said. "At the beginning of the season, we kind of struggled a little bit with hitting. But, toward the end of the season, we were right up there with anybody."

"We finished the season with Shea hitting a home run out of the park, which she had struggled at the beginning of the season, but Zeandrea Brown, Lily Stevenson, Madison Younger and Shea Hilburn, they all stepped up. Gracie McCracken was another one that stepped up toward the end of the season and really just started putting the ball in play, little singles and doubles that definitely helped us out."

While the offense found its rhythm, Fly said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7B

## Year in Photos — Barry County volleyball



Wheaton's Hallie Potarf reaches to keep a ball in play in a match at Volleyfest last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Southwest's Emma Outhouse sets a ball in a match at Volleyfest last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Kahlan Fuller serves a ball into play in a match at Volleyfest last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Purdy's Lucy Lee volleys a ball over the net in a match at Volleyfest last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

# CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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## BIBLE VERSE:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

— MATTHEW 24:35

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N. to FR 1052, Exeter<br/>                 652-3885<br/> <b>OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST</b><br/>                 16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville<br/>                 Pastor: 501-538-6261<br/>                 Local: 417-847-4597<br/> <b>PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST</b><br/>                 RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn<br/>                 435-2319<br/> <b>PURDY FIRST BAPTIST</b><br/>                 3rd &amp; Washington St., Purdy<br/>                 442-7435<br/> <b>SHILOH BAPTIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. 248, Jenkins<br/>                 574-6466<br/> <b>PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>                 Rocky Comfort<br/> <b>PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST</b><br/>                 RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn<br/>                 826-5158<br/> <b>RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>                 Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter<br/>                 652-7884<br/> <b>ROARING RIVER BAPTIST</b></p> | <p>HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock<br/>                 271-3142<br/> <b>ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST</b><br/>                 RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770<br/> <b>SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>                 Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592<br/> <b>VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>                 Business 37 N., Cassville<br/>                 826-5295<br/> <b>VIOLA BAPTIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. 39, Shell Knob<br/>                 858-2597<br/> <b>WASHBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>                 618 N. 2nd Street, Washburn<br/>                 826-5000<br/> <b>WAYMARK CHURCH</b><br/>                 2581 State Hwy 37<br/>                 235-7466<br/> <b>WHEATON FIRST BAPTIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. 86 &amp; Hwy. A, Wheaton<br/>                 652-3898<br/> <b>WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST</b><br/>                 11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton<br/>                 PO Box 175, 652-3186</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC</b><br/> <b>HOLY FAMILY PARISH</b><br/>                 Hwy. 39-30, Shell Knob<br/>                 858-2518<br/> <b>ST. EDWARD PARISH</b><br/>                 107 17th St., Cassville<br/>                 847-4948</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/> <b>CASSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 404 State Hwy 248 Cassville, MO, 65625<br/>                 Normal worship time, 10 a.m.<br/>                 916-539-4708<br/>                 cassvillechurchofchrist.com<br/> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. 90 E., Washburn<br/>                 826-5890<br/> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 39 Lake Rd., Shell Knob<br/>                 858-3839<br/> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 Goosetree Hwy. 86, Wheaton<br/>                 652-3873<br/> <b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 1104 Mill St., Cassville<br/>                 847-2374</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF GOD APOSTOLIC FAITH</b><br/> <b>GOLDEN CHURCH OF GOD</b></p> | <p>Hwy. 86, Golden<br/>                 271-3134<br/> <b>SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP</b><br/>                 Hwy. 112, Cassville<br/>                 846-6339</p> <p><b>EPISCOPAL</b><br/> <b>ST. THOMAS À BECKET</b><br/>                 Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville<br/>                 846-2155</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN</b><br/> <b>COMMUNITY LUTHERAN</b><br/>                 Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock<br/>                 271-4383<br/> <b>PEACE LUTHERAN</b><br/>                 N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob<br/>                 858-3900</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b><br/> <b>ALL FAITH UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock<br/>                 271-3737<br/> <b>CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>                 7th &amp; Gravel, Cassville<br/>                 847-2328<br/> <b>UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>                 Hwy. YY, Shell Knob<br/>                 858-6707<br/> <b>WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>                 Washburn<br/>                 Corner of 1st and North, Washburn<br/> <b>WHEATON UNITED METHODIST</b><br/>                 101 Santee St., Wheaton<br/>                 652-3858</p> <p><b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br/> <b>CASSVILLE BRANCH</b><br/>                 3426 County Farm Road<br/>                 Sunday, 10 a.m.<br/>                 417-986-3161</p> <p><b>NAZARENE</b><br/> <b>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b><br/>                 Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville<br/>                 417-619-1498</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL</b><br/> <b>LIGHTHOUSE PENTECOSTAL</b><br/>                 Hwy. 86 &amp; P St., Eagle Rock<br/>                 271-4929</p> | <p><b>NEW LIFE TEMPLE</b><br/>                 Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville<br/>                 847-3106<br/> <b>GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP</b><br/>                 Washburn Community Building<br/>                 479-366-2561<br/> <b>NEW LIFE TABERNACLE</b><br/>                 30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman<br/>                 662-0076</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/> <b>TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/>                 Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob<br/>                 858-3902<br/> <b>WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/>                 1 mi. S. of Monett<br/>                 235-3337</p> <p><b>OTHER</b><br/> <b>BELIEVERS FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP</b><br/>                 1st. &amp; South St., Washburn<br/>                 826-5875<br/> <b>BLESSING HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER</b><br/>                 1107 Farm Rd., Cassville<br/>                 847-4061<br/> <b>CASSVILLE SDA</b><br/>                 Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville<br/>                 847-3622<br/> <b>BODY OF CHRIST</b><br/>                 Wheaton, 417-652-3709<br/> <b>COMMUNITY FAITH CHAPEL</b><br/>                 13372 State Hwy. 248, Cassville<br/>                 847-4643<br/> <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b><br/>                 Seligman, 662-3118<br/> <b>EAGLE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br/>                 Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock<br/>                 342-0516<br/> <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b><br/>                 Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob<br/>                 858-8200<br/> <b>FIRST CHRISTIAN</b><br/>                 Old Exeter Rd. &amp; Hwy. 37, Cassville<br/>                 847-2460<br/> <b>GOD'S HEALING CENTER</b><br/>                 Seligman, 662-3118<br/> <b>LAKEVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/>                 22321 Oak Ridge Drive, Shell Knob<br/>                 278-6674<br/> <b>OZARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/>                 Hwy. 37, N. of Purdy<br/>                 442-3361<br/> <b>REAL LIFE WORSHIP CENTER</b><br/>                 709 W. 10th St., Cassville</p> |
|--|--|---|---|---|

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# CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

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

**LOST PET**

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

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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

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

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

1st insertion 06/17/26  
23-26

**BIDS**

The City of Seligman is accepting bids to clear approximately 450' of fence line with trees and brush, then install a new 5 strand barb wire fence. Bids will be accepted through August 3rd. Additional information can be found on the City website under the parks & recreation page.

1st insertion 07/01/26  
25-27

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

MADALENA C. RACANELLI, Plaintiff, Vs. ROCKY ELSEY If they be living or

their unborn or unknown Heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, donees, alienees, legatees, administrators, executors, guardians, mortgagees, trustees, consorts and legal representatives, spouses and all Other persons, corporations or successors claiming by, through and under them.

Case No: 26BR-CC 00091 Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

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

All of Lots 5 and 6, Block 4, Oklahoma Addition to the City of Wheaton, Barry County, Missouri. The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Blake B. Fields, 605 Main Street, Cassville, Missouri, 65625.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 1st day of July 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you.

IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the *Cassville Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri. A true copy for the record. Witness by hand and the seal of the circuit court this 25th day of June 2026. Craig Williams BY H.C. Barry County Circuit Clerk

FIRST PUBLICATION: 07/01/2026  
 S E C O N D PUBLICATION: 07/08/2026  
 THIRD PUBLICATION: 07/15/2026  
 FOURTH PUBLICATION: 07/22/2026  
 1st insertion 07/01/26  
 25-28

**TESTING VOTER TABULATION EQUIPMENT**

Barry County Clerk, Joyce Ennis, reports a public pre-election tabulation test of the electronic tabulating equipment for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election. It will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in the County Clerk's Office. Only insertion 07/08/26  
26

**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

**PROBATE**

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

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

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

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

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

The name, business address, and phone number of the personal representative is: WILLIAM D. HOUSER, 10000 N. CENTRAL EXPWY, STE. 800, DALLAS, TX 75231

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is: ANGELA C. ARTHERTON, 10388 FARM ROAD 2172, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, (870) 688-0619

The personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is: ANGELA C. ARTHERTON, 10388 FARM ROAD 2172, CASSVILLE, MO 65625, (870) 688-0619

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

Date of the decedent's death: 19-JAN-2026 Date of first publication: JUNE 17, 2026 Date of second publication: JUNE 24, 2026 Date of third publication: JULY 1, 2026 Date of fourth publication: JULY 8, 2026 Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk Receipt of this notice

**BOAT SLIP AUCTION**

Friday, July 10 — 1 PM  
 Location: 26068 N. Royal Point Drive, Shell Knob MO



(4) 12x30 boat slips, in dock with 10x66 swim deck, 1 slip with lift. Permit # 8282. All deck concrete-swim deck on end. 1/2 under roof, asphalt road access. **Boat Slip Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Qualified buyers only with bank letter of credit. Sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Ownership transfers with bill of sale. If paying by check, bill of sale will not be recorded until check clears the bank. Balance paid in full day of auction. If paying by check, buyer will need 2 checks day of auction. A 10% buyer's premium will apply. Sells with owner confirmation. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material

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

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

Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

**LAND AUCTION — LAND AUCTION**

Friday, July 10 — 10 AM

Location: From Cassville Mo go East on Hwy 248, 5.5 miles. Turn Right on FR 1160 to Fr 2155. Turn left, go approx. 1 mile to auction. Several ways to get to this property, you could also come from Hwy 76, this is mineral springs area.

Selling: Land only, 44 acres m/l. Wooded, county road frontage, great deer & turkey hunting, build your dream home, etc. **Note:** Selling land only so be on time. Auction won't last long. Ridge tops are beautiful, need a utv/atv or 4x4 to get to the ridge top, selling Friday July 10th at 10:00 AM. Go to www.stumpffauction.com for terms and conditions.



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

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

Auctioneer: Parker Stumpff AR State Champion Auctioneer #2352

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

1st insertion 06/17/26  
23-26

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

In the Estate of DORIS M. VAUGHAN, Deceased. Case Number: 26BR-PR00073

**NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION) TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF**

DORIS M. VAUGHAN, Decedent: On MAY 28, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of DORIS M. VAUGHAN, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The name and business address of the personal representative is: LAURIE ETTER, 1316 6TH ST, MONETT MO 65708-1131

The personal representative's attorney's name is business address, and phone number is: RYAN F RICKETTS, 278 SOUTH HIGHWAY SIXTY PO BOX 517, MARIONVILLE, MO 65705, 417-258-7000 All creditors of said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or if a copy of this notice

was mailed to, or served upon, such creditor by the personal representative, then within two months from the date it was mailed or served, whichever is later, or be forever barred to the fullest extent permissible by law. Such six-month period and such two-month period do not extend the limitation period that would bar claims one year after Decedent's death, as provided in Section 473.444; RSMo, or any other applicable limitation periods. Nothing in Section 473.033, RSMo, shall be construed to bar any action against a decedent's insurance carrier through a defendant ad litem pursuant to Section 537 021, RSMo.

Date of the decedent's death: 09-JUL-2025 Date of first publication: JUNE 24, 2026 Date of second publication: JULY 1, 2026 Date of third publication: JULY 8, 2026 Date of fourth publication: JULY 15, 2026 Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk by S. Parker, Probate Clerk

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

1st insertion 06/24/26  
24-27

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

In the Estate of STEPHEN A. PEIFFER, Deceased. Case Number: 26BR-PR00076 To All Persons Interested in the Estate of STEPHEN A. PEIFFER, Decedent:

Notice of Letters of Administration Granted ( I n d e p e n d e n t

Administration - Non-Resident Fiduciary)

On MAY 26, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of STEPHEN A. PEIFFER, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri. The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

The personal representative's name is: LAURA K PEIFFER The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is: EDWARD E COX, 105 W VAN BUREN, PO BOX 518, CENTERVILLE, IA 52544, 641-856-3251 The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is: RUSSELL D. COX, 1531 E MONROE STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802, (417) 380-0916

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

# CLASSIFIEDS/LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B  
 defendant ad litem pursuant to section 537.021, RSMo.  
 Date of the decedent's death: 15-FEB-2026  
 Date of first publication: JULY 1, 2026  
 Date of second publication: JULY 8, 2026  
 Date of third publication: JULY 15, 2026  
 Date of fourth publication: JULY 22, 2026  
 Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk  
 by S. Parker, Probate Clerk  
 Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.

1st insertion 07/01/26  
 27-30

## TRUSTEE'S SALES

### TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:  
 James Hughes  
 Trustee's Sale:  
 For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by James Hughes dated February 13, 2024 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 24, Page 707 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time of 10:50 AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:  
 ALL OF LOT THREE (3), TIMBER CREEK SUBDIVISION, PHASE I, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

to satisfy said debt and cost.  
 MILLSAP & SINGER, P.C.,  
 Successor Trustee  
 612 Spirit Drive  
 St. Louis, MO 63005  
 (636) 537-0110  
 File No:  
 234649.072126.471016 FC  
 NOTICE  
 Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PUBLISH ON:  
 June 24, 2026  
 07/01/2026,  
 07/08/2026,  
 07/15/2026  
 1st Insertion 06/24/26  
 24-27

### NOTICE OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE'S SALE

In re: John Bowman and Sandra Bowman, husband and wife  
 Default having been made in the payment of certain monthly installments on a Note described in and secured by Deed of Trust executed by John Bowman and Sandra Bowman, husband and wife, dated August 15, 1996, and recorded August 19, 1996, in Book 96, Page 5444, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County of Barry, State of Missouri; the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note, who has elected to declare the entire indebtedness due and payable, will on July 24, 2026, at 1:30 P.M., at the East front door of the Barry County Courthouse, in the city of Cassville, 700 Main St, Cassville, MO 65625 sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate described in said

City of Washburn Profit & Loss by Class January through June 2026							
Accrual Basis	Court	General	Police	Sewer	Street	Water	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
4000 · Sewer Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,658.97	0.00	0.00	32,658.97
4020 · Reconnect Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	950.46	950.46
4100 · Sales Tax 1/2 cent General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,582.53	18,582.53
4120 · Use Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,724.01	19,724.01
4130 · Sales Tax 1/2 Capital Imp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,291.39	9,291.39
4140 · Sales Tax 1/2 Transportation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,291.39	0.00	9,291.39
4150 · FIT TAX INTREST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07
4200 · Missouri Motor Fuel Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,846.03	0.00	8,846.03
4210 · Missouri Motor V Sales Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,268.54	0.00	2,268.54
4230 · Missouri Motor V Fee Increases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.33	0.00	1,000.33
4245 · Primacy Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.16	164.16
4250 · Personal Property Taxes	0.00	11,880.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,880.84
4305 · Surtax Commercial Property	0.00	641.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	641.94
4310 · Railroad & Utility Tax	0.00	351.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	351.77
4410 · Institutional Tax	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62
4420 · Late Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,485.19	2,485.19
4500 · Licenses, Permits & Fees	0.00	1,465.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,465.00
4600 · Fines & Forefeits	2,538.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,538.50
4800 · Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	294.94	1,625.66	1,037.10	2,957.70
4850 · Meter Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,550.00	2,550.00
4955 · Trash Removal	0.00	21,563.77	0.00	18.38	0.00	-19.00	21,563.15
4960 · Sales Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	329.96	329.96
4985 · Bulk Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	390.50	390.50
4990 · Water Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,793.53	72,793.53
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,538.50</b>	<b>35,903.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,972.29</b>	<b>23,031.95</b>	<b>128,279.90</b>	<b>222,726.58</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
5150 · Prosecutor Fees	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
5300 · Payroll Taxes	0.00	319.09	1,471.26	1,487.63	480.00	1,991.51	5,749.49
5310 · State Income Withholdings	0.00	0.00	0.00	720.00	360.00	720.00	1,800.00
5500 · Seminars	0.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.00
6020 · Audit Fees	0.00	2,050.00	0.00	2,050.00	2,050.00	2,050.00	8,200.00
6035 · Building Inspector Fees	0.00	1,041.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,041.70
6040 · Chemicals Labs	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,516.96	0.00	1,016.79	2,532.75
6050 · Computer Software	0.00	1,418.84	0.00	129.72	0.00	644.98	2,193.54
6070 · Contract Labor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,902.50	1,902.50
6120 · Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	498.00	177.95	0.00	119.00	175.00	969.95
6200 · Election Expense	0.00	207.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	207.56
6205 · Electric	0.00	476.18	0.00	3,726.47	4,614.00	4,803.46	13,620.11
6220 · Fuel	0.00	0.00	1,004.05	0.00	196.33	983.70	2,184.08
6225 · Street Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,452.00	0.00	1,452.00
6255 · Veterinary	0.00	0.00	313.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	313.88
6300 · Insurance	0.00	1,278.00	0.00	1,278.00	1,278.00	1,278.00	5,112.00
6330 · Jail/Inmate Boarding	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
6350 · Leased Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	304.23	0.00	304.27	608.50
6410 · MO DNR Primacy Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,230.28	1,230.28
6425 · Mo One Call	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.69	0.00	29.71	59.40
6450 · Misc.	0.00	129.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	129.76
6460 · Membership Fees	0.00	53.00	100.00	106.00	0.00	106.00	365.00
6480 · Meter Refunds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	188.60	188.60
6485 · Municipal Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42,502.92	42,502.92
6490 · Office Equipment	0.00	1,194.20	448.76	1,418.37	41.00	1,454.27	4,556.60
6500 · Office Supplies	0.00	1,373.72	34.76	0.00	0.00	139.87	1,548.35
6550 · Postage	0.00	1,090.75	26.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,117.00
6560 · Printing	0.00	533.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.74	642.48
6565 · Propane	0.00	61.05	0.00	122.10	0.00	122.10	305.25
66000 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	8.19	42.00	48.05	15.44	4,166.55	4,280.23
6620 · Repairs & Maintenance Equip	0.00	0.00	1,764.94	48.00	590.72	7,125.93	9,529.59
6621 · Repairs & Maint Facility	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,123.00	199.99	2,909.10	7,232.09
6622 · Repairs & Maint Vehicles	0.00	0.00	7,591.06	0.00	0.70	751.90	8,343.66
6650 · Returned Checks	0.00	33.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	476.30	509.80
6670 · Sales Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.84	14.84
6700 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.98	87.98
6800 · Telephone	0.00	0.00	200.39	821.25	362.71	846.55	2,230.90
6840 · Trash Collection	0.00	21,237.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,237.12
6845 · Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.54	1,066.54
6850 · Travel Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	377.00	377.00
6855 · Uniforms	0.00	0.00	126.77	0.00	0.00	163.08	289.85
6870 · United States Treasury	0.00	133.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.35
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>33,158.75</b>	<b>13,332.07</b>	<b>17,928.47</b>	<b>11,759.89</b>	<b>79,738.47</b>	<b>156,117.65</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>2,338.50</b>	<b>2,745.19</b>	<b>-13,332.07</b>	<b>15,043.82</b>	<b>11,272.06</b>	<b>48,541.43</b>	<b>66,608.93</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>							
<b>Other Income</b>							
Blue Shield Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MO Coalition Grant	0.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1.00</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>							
5000 · Salaries	0.00	3,240.33	16,938.68	15,716.11	4,442.32	17,658.08	57,995.52
8320 · Bond 2007 Agents Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,259.71	1,259.71
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,240.33</b>	<b>16,938.68</b>	<b>15,716.11</b>	<b>4,442.32</b>	<b>18,917.79</b>	<b>59,255.23</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3,240.33</b>	<b>-16,938.68</b>	<b>-15,716.11</b>	<b>-4,442.32</b>	<b>-18,917.79</b>	<b>-59,256.23</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,338.50</b>	<b>-495.14</b>	<b>-30,271.75</b>	<b>-672.29</b>	<b>6,829.74</b>	<b>29,623.64</b>	<b>7,352.70</b>

Deed of Trust and situated in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, to wit;  
 BEGINNING AT A POINT 7.5 FEET SOUTH AND 27.0 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 25 WEST, THENCE NORTH 250.0 FEET, THENCE WEST 200.0 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 250.0 FEET THENCE EAST 200.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BARRY COUNTY MISSOURI.

Together with all improvements thereon known and numbered as Rt. 2, Box 240A, Crane, Missouri 65633 for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the costs of executing this trust, and the present taxes, if any, due and paid by the holder.  
 Singers corp,  
 Successor Trustee  
 By: /s/ Michael P. Gaughan  
 Michael P. Gaughan  
 12701 W. 87th Street  
 Parkway, Suite 200  
 Lenexa, KS 66215  
 Email: saleinfo@lewisricekc.com  
 SINGERS CORP, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
 1st insertion 07/01/26  
 25-28

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of that certain note secured by Deed of Trust executed by Jonathan L. Reed And Amber R. Reed, Husband And Wife, dated 11/8/2021, recorded on 11/9/2021, as Instrument No. 202107685, in Book 21, Page 7569,

Rerecorded on 2/14/2022 as Book No. 22, Page 958, Office of Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri. The Successor Trustee will on 8/31/2026, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 5:00 P.M. more particularly at 1:15 PM, at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, 102 West Street, Suite 2, Cassville, Missouri 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate:

ALL OF THE WEST SIXTY-TWO AND ONE-HALF (62 1/2) FEET OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND, TO-WIT: BEGINNING TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY (270) FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF OUT LOT NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT (38) IN THE CITY OF CASSVILLE, MISSOURI, LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE (29), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-THREE (23), RANGE TWENTY-SEVEN (27), BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, THENCE EAST ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) FEET, THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TO THE SOUTH LINE OF OUT LOT NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT (38), THENCE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) FEET, THENCE THE SOUTH LINE OF OUT LOT NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT (38), THENCE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) FEET], THENCE IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SAME BEING A STRIP OF LAND SIXTY-TWO AND ONE-HALF (62 1/2) FEET WIDE EAST

AND WEST AND TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET, MORE OR LESS IN LENGTH RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH.  
 ALSO A STRIP OF LAND THREE (3) FEET WIDE OFF THE ENTIRE EAST SIDE OF THE

F O L L O W I N G DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND; BEGINNING 200 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF OUT LOT THIRTY-EIGHT (38) IN THE CITY OF CASSVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE (29), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-THREE SOUTH LINE OF OUT LOT THIRTY-EIGHT (38), THENCE WEST 70 FEET, THENCE NORTH

TO PLACE OF BEGINNING AND BEING A STRIP OF LAND 70 FEET WIDE RUNNING EAST AND WEST AND 200 FEET LONG, MORE OR LESS, RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH. LESS ANY PART THEREOF, IF ANY, TAKEN OR USED FOR ROAD PURPOSES SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD OR FACT. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BRACKETS HAS BEEN ADDED TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION)

For the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.  
 Vylla Solutions - Missouri, LLC  
 Successor Trustee  
 TS No.: 26-40447  
 Pub Commences: 7/1/2026  
 By: NFPDS  
 Website: www.xome.com  
 Purported address: 304 W 14TH ST, CASSVILLE, MO 65625

Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed will be issued for covered transfers. The Buyer may be required to pay charges associated with the gathering and reporting of information to FinCEN. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers-and>  
[https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D\\_](https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_)  
 1st insertion 07/01/26  
 25-33

### TRUSTEE'S SALE

IN RE:  
 Donald Adamson Jr and Rhonda Adamson, husband and wife  
 Trustee's Sale:  
 For default in payment of debt and performance of obligation secured by Deed of Trust executed by Donald Adamson Jr and Rhonda Adamson, husband and wife dated April 25, 2019 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Barry County, Missouri in Book 19, Page 2143 the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note will on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., (at the specific time

of 10:50 AM), at the East Door of the Court House, City of Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, described in said Deed of Trust, and situated in Barry County, State of Missouri, to wit:

LOT EIGHTEEN (18) AND 18 FEET OFF THE EAST SIDE

# LEGALS

## Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Missouri

To be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of August, 2026.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

[Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c), Missouri Constitution (SJR 1, 2005)]

#### OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

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.

Article IV, Section 47(c) of the Missouri Constitution:

Section 47(c). Provisions self-enforcing, exception—not part of general revenue or expense of state—effective and expiration dates.— [The effective date of this amendment shall be November 8, 1998.] All laws inconsistent with this amendment shall no longer remain in full force and effect after the effective date of this section. All of the provisions of Sections 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall be self-enforcing except that the General Assembly shall adjust brackets for the collection of the sales and use taxes. The additional revenue provided by Sections 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall not be part of the “total state revenue” within the meaning of Sections 17 and 18 of Article X of this Constitution. The expenditure of this additional revenue shall not be an “expense of state government” under Section 20 of Article X of this Constitution. [This Section 47(a), 47(b) and 47(c) shall terminate after ten years following the effective date of this amendment.] Upon voter approval of this measure in a general election held in 2006, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, the provisions of this section, 47(b), and 47(a) shall be reauthorized and continue until a general election is held in 2016 or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose. Every ten years thereafter, the issue of whether to continue to impose the sales and use tax described in this section shall be resubmitted to the voters for approval. If a majority of the voters fail to approve the continuance of such sales and use tax, Section 47(a), 47(b), and 47(c) shall terminate at the end of the second fiscal year after the last election was held.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss  
Secretary of State

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 1, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins

DENNY HOSKINS, CPA  
Secretary of State

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (First Regular Session) HCS HJR 23 & 3]

#### OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

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.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Section 18(b) of Article VI of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting one new section in lieu thereof relating to assessors.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article VI of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Section 18(b), Article VI, Constitution of Missouri, is repealed and one new section adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Section 18(b), to read as follows:

Section 18(b). The charter shall provide for its amendment[.]; for the form of the county government[.]; for the number, kinds, manner of selection, terms of office, and salaries of the county officers[.]; and for the exercise of all powers and duties of counties and county officers prescribed by the constitution and laws of the state[.]; However, such charter shall, except for the charter of any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants.] require the assessor of the county to be an elected officer and to comply with all training provisions required by general law.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss  
Secretary of State

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 2, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins

DENNY HOSKINS, CPA  
Secretary of State

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Extraordinary Session) HCS HJR 3]

#### OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

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.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment to Article

III of the Constitution of Missouri, by adopting one new section relating to ballot measures, with penalty provisions.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article III of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Article III, Constitution of Missouri, is amended by adopting one new section, to be known as Section 54, to read as follows:

Section 54. 1. This section shall be known as the “Protect Missouri Voters” amendment.

2. For purposes of this section, a statewide ballot measure shall mean any measure submitted or proposed to be submitted to the voters of the state under articles III or XII of this constitution.

3. (1) No political committee that makes expenditures or contributions in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure shall knowingly or willfully receive, solicit, or accept, whether directly or indirectly, contributions from a foreign adversary of the United States or a foreign national. No foreign adversary of the United States or a foreign national shall make any contribution or expenditure in support of or in opposition to a statewide ballot measure.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) A foreign adversary of the United States shall be defined as:

a. Any national, provincial, or local government or any entity that is directly or indirectly controlled or owned by a government or that directly or indirectly controls a government or a political party of a foreign country designated as a foreign adversary by the United States Secretary of State from the time such designation is published in the Federal Register until revoked; or

b. Any individual who is a citizen of a foreign country meeting the requirements of subparagraph (a) of paragraph (a) subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section and who is not a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident;

(b) A foreign national shall be defined as any individual who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States of America.

(3) Any violation of this subsection shall be punishable by imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to one thousand dollars or both, plus an amount equal to three times the illegal contributions. The attorney general shall have exclusive criminal jurisdiction.

(4) The general assembly may by law:

(a) Enact laws to implement the restrictions of this subsection, or enact further restrictions to implement this subsection;

(b) Enact restrictions on foreign support for or opposition to Missouri ballot measures;

(c) Enact reporting requirements regarding foreign support for persons or committees that oppose or support ballot measures; and

(d) Provide for the investigation and enforcement of the provisions of any such enactments, or of this subsection including, but not limited to, criminal penalties or civil remedies.

4. (1) Any person who commits any of the following acts with respect to a petition on a statewide ballot measure is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:

(a) Signs any name other than his or her own to any petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or who knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this state;

(b) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the signature sheet did not actually sign the petition;

(c) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the one the voter intended to sign;

(d) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

(e) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of value to another person in exchange for a signature on a petition.

(2) Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator’s signatures to be submitted for counting, and who either knows that such circulator has violated subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of facts indicating that such person may have violated subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition signature fraud.

(3) The crime of petition signature fraud shall be punishable by imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to one thousand dollars or both. The attorney general shall have exclusive criminal jurisdiction to prosecute under this section.

5. At a reasonable time and place after an initiative petition is submitted with signatures and before a petition is placed on a ballot, the secretary of state or the secretary’s designee shall conduct one or more in-person or web-based hearings to receive additional public comment regarding the purpose and effect of the proposed measure. Transcripts or summaries of the hearings shall be made available to the public no later than seven days after the hearing is conducted and before the petition is placed on the ballot.

6. Notwithstanding Sections 51 and 52(b) of this article and Article XII, Section 2 (b) of this constitution, statewide ballot measures to amend the constitution that are proposed by initiative petition are approved only if affirmative votes are cast by a majority of voters in each congressional district in effect at the time of the vote.

7. The full text of any statewide ballot measure proposed by the initiative shall be made available to each voter, either legibly printed on paper or in digital format, at the time a ballot is made available to the voter for voting. This requirement is in addition to, and does not replace, all other printings and displays of the full text and the ballot title required under this constitution or by law. The secretary of state is expressly authorized to promulgate rules consistent with rule making authority under Missouri law to implement and administer the provisions of this subsection.

8. The provisions of this section are self-executing. All of the provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or unconstitutionally enacted, the remaining provisions of this section shall be and remain valid.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state, the official summary statement of this resolution shall be as follows:

“Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Stop foreign nationals and foreign adversaries of the United States from providing funding to influence ballot measure elections, and allow criminal prosecution of violators;
- Punish initiative petition signature fraud as a crime;
- Require public hearings be held to get public comment before initiative petitions are placed on the ballot;
- 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?”

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss  
Secretary of State

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 4, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins

DENNY HOSKINS, CPA  
Secretary of State

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

[Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS SCS HCS HJR 173 & 174]

#### OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE:

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.

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri an amendment repealing Sections 4(d) and 26 of Article X of the Constitution of Missouri, and adopting two new sections in lieu thereof relating to taxation.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2026, or at a special election to be called by the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or rejection, the following amendment to Article X of the Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Sections 4(d) and 26, Article X, Constitution of Missouri, are repealed and two new sections adopted in lieu thereof, to be known as Sections 4(d) and 26, to read as follows:

Section 4(d). 1. In enacting any law imposing a tax on or measured by income, the general assembly may define income by reference to provisions of the laws of the United States as they may be or become effective at any time or from time to time, whether retrospective or prospective in their operation. The general assembly shall in any such law set the rate or rates of such tax. The general assembly may in so defining income make exceptions, additions, or modifications to any provisions of the laws of the United States so referred to and for retrospective exceptions or modifications to those provisions which are retrospective.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, the general assembly shall enact legislation to reduce and eliminate the state individual income tax by requiring reductions to the top rate of the individual income tax based on revenue growth until such tax is eliminated. Upon the elimination of the individual income tax, the general assembly shall be prohibited from enacting or imposing any state individual income tax.

Section 26. 1. In order to prohibit an increase in the tax burden on the citizens of Missouri, state and local sales and use taxes (or any similar transaction-based tax) shall not be expanded to impose taxes on any service or transaction that was not subject to sales, use or similar transaction-based tax on January 1, 2015.

2. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, including subsection 1 of this section, for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates, state and local sales and use taxes (or any similar transaction-based tax) may be expanded by legislation to impose taxes on transactions involving any goods and services. For the purposes of this section, the phrase “for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates”, with respect to legislation enacted by the general assembly, means that the legislation expressly states the general assembly’s finding that such legislation will directly lead to the reduction and elimination of the state individual income tax as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and will directly or indirectly lead to the reduction of local tax rates as provided in subsection 3 of this section.

(2) Any expansion of the sales and use tax base or increase in the state sales and use tax rate enacted for the purpose of reducing and eliminating the state individual income tax and reducing local tax rates shall be offset in the same legislation by a reduction in the top rate of individual income tax that reduces such tax revenues, less refunds, by an amount that is at least substantially equal to revenues generated by such expansion of the sales and use tax base or increase in the state sales and use tax rate, and, if such legislation is enacted within five years of the effective date of this amendment, shall not be considered new annual revenue for the purposes of Section 18 (e) of this Article and shall be exempt from the provisions of Article IV, Sections 30(b), 30(c), and 30(d) of this Constitution.

3. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, beginning twelve months from the effective date for legislation in which the general assembly expands the sales and use tax base pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, any political subdivision that imposes a sales or use tax shall, in the manner provided by law enacted by the general assembly, make a one-time adjustment to one or more of the following rates of tax imposed by the political subdivision to reduce the amount of revenue generated thereby in an amount that is substantially equal to ninety-seven percent of the additional revenue produced by any expansion of the sales and use tax base authorized by this section:

- The sales and use tax rate;
- The levy imposed on property in class 2;
- The levy imposed on property in subclass (1) of class 1;
- The levy imposed on all class 1 property if such political subdivision imposes a single rate of levy on all such property; or
- The rate of any tax imposed on earnings.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection to the contrary, no political subdivision shall adjust its local tax rates in a manner that results in any reduction in funding to any public schools within, or serving, such political subdivision.

4. Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, beginning twelve months from the effective date for legislation in which the general assembly expands the sales and use tax base pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, each sales and use tax rate imposed directly by this constitution, with the exception of the rate imposed under Article XIV of this Constitution, shall, in the manner provided by law enacted by the general assembly, be adjusted in order to reduce the amount of tax in an amount substantially equal to the amount of tax produced by any sales and use tax base expansion authorized by this section. The state auditor shall be responsible for calculating the reduced rates that will go into effect as provided in this subsection.

Section B. Pursuant to chapter 116, and other applicable constitutional provisions and laws of this state allowing the general assembly to adopt ballot language for the submission of this joint resolution to the voters of this state, the official summary statement of this resolution shall be as follows:

“Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Phase-out the individual income tax based on revenue growth;
- Reduce personal property and other local taxes when local revenues increase;
- Modify the sales and use tax to eliminate income tax and reduce local taxes; and
- Protect local funding for public schools and other purposes?”

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

STATE OF MISSOURI } ss  
Secretary of State

I, Denny Hoskins, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and complete copy of Constitutional Amendment No. 5, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State of Missouri at the Special Election to be held the fourth day of August, 2026.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, done at the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of May, 2026.



Denny Hoskins

DENNY HOSKINS, CPA  
Secretary of State

# Private eye

In each row, circle the item that DOES NOT go with the others.

# KIDS' COLUMNS

A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

## JUST kidding

Q: What do you call a group of disorganized cats?  
A: A cat-tastrophe!

## JUST kidding

Q: Where do sheep get their hair cut?  
A: The baa-baa shop!

## JUST kidding

Q: Where do hamburgers go dancing?  
A: A meat-ball!

# Amazing maze

Help the pirate find the treasure chest.

# For the up-and-coming artist

# Sudoku 6 x 6

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

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

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

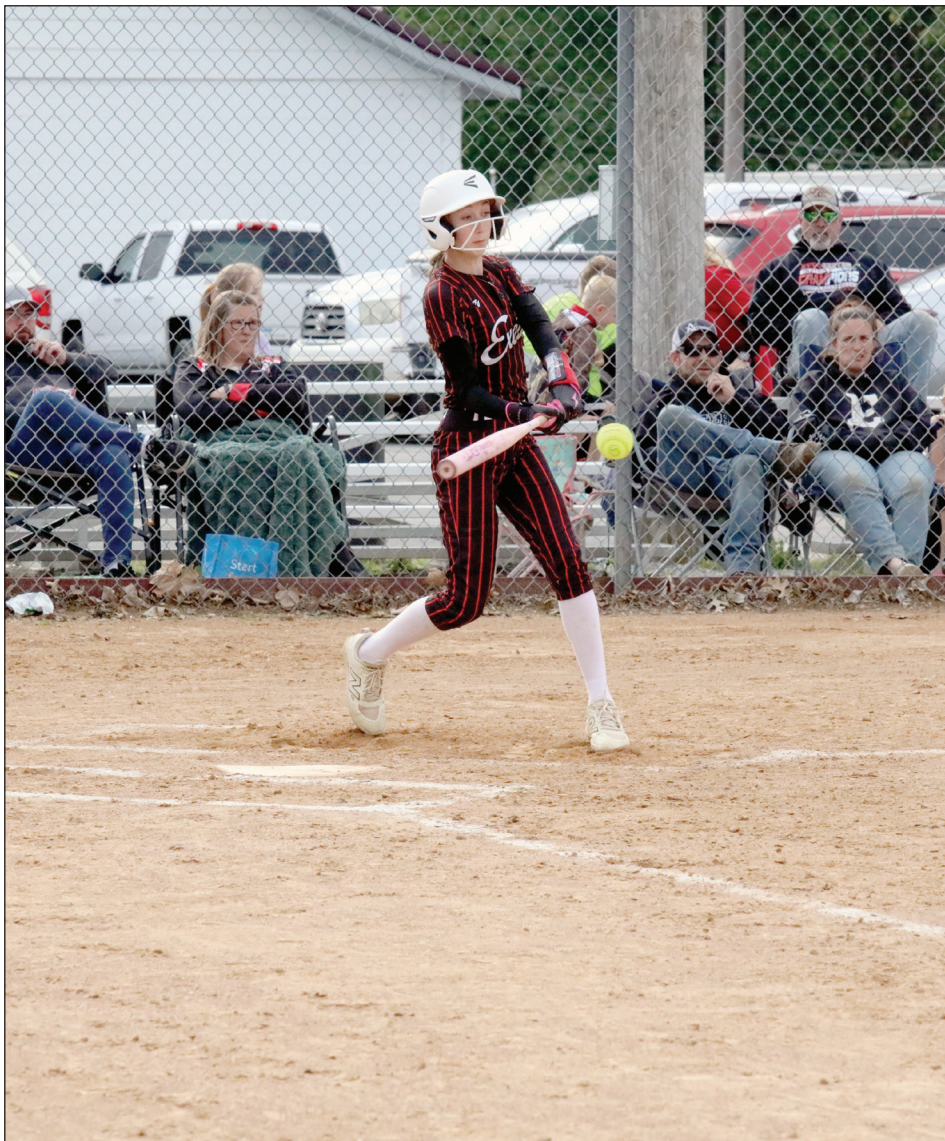
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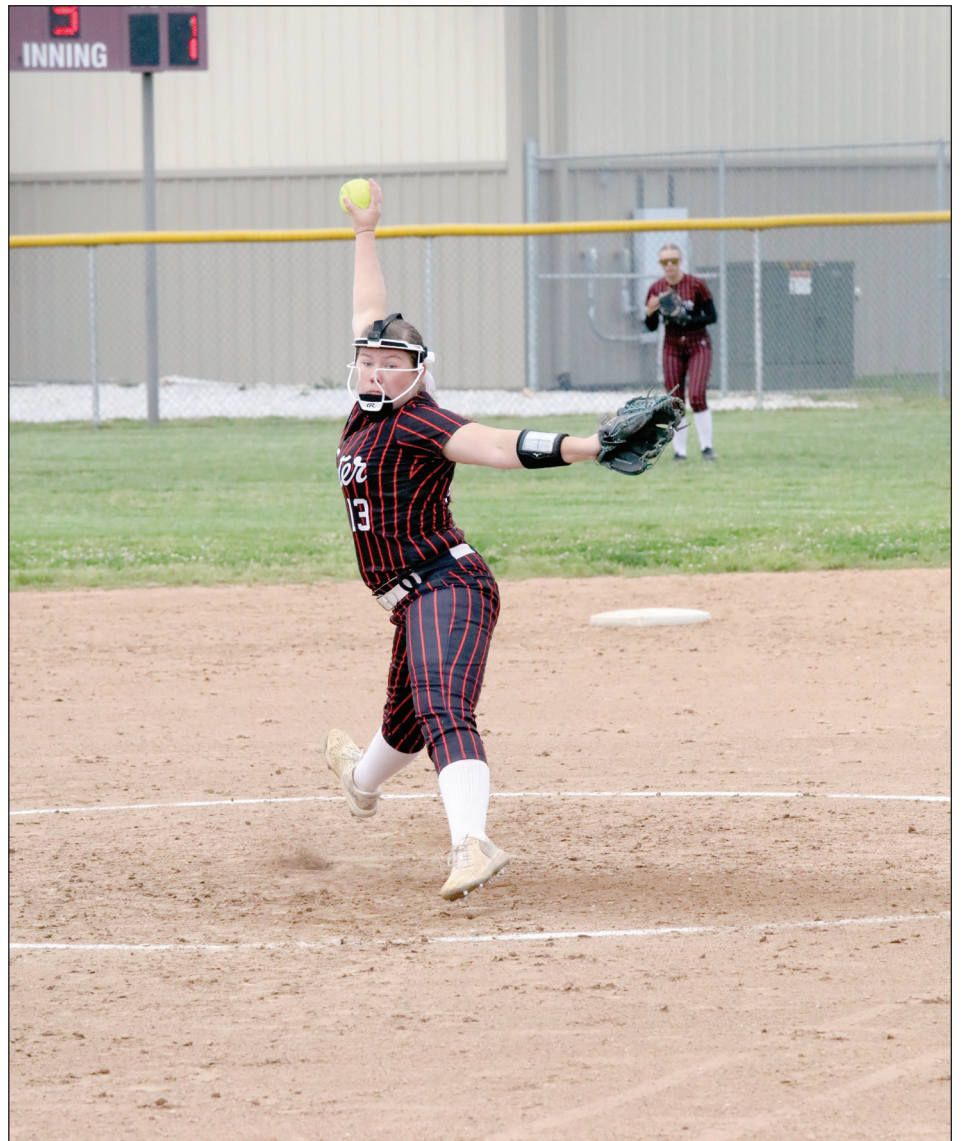
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Exeter's Madison Younger connects on a pitch during a contest at Wheaton last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Lily Stevenson lets a pitch go during a contest against Wheaton last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Kahlan Fuller slides safely into home during a contest against Wheaton last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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**WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**


## Exeter: Crane contest this year was memorable

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

the defense remained a work in progress because of the team's inexperience.

"You know, we were young defensively," Fly said. "We had a lot of kids that were in different places that had never been before. There were a few times that we could have been better defensively than what we were. We had some just young mental errors, so that was definitely an area of improvement that we wanted to see."

Although Fly said there wasn't one defining game that stood above the rest, she recalled a pair of contests that showed the team's growth throughout the season.

"At the beginning of the season, we were playing a really good Concordia team, and we were down like 7-0, and the girls came back and fought to get to 7-4, and then our time ran out," Fly said. "It was just we finally got our bats started, we finally started putting things together. So, that one was a really

exciting game."

She also pointed to a late-season matchup with Crane, an 8-5 loss in the semifinals of the Class 1, District 5 Tournament.

"Probably our Crane game was one of those that was really an exciting game," Fly said. "We played well, we fought hard. We came up short, but we played well."

Fly credited Exeter's senior class with helping guide the team throughout the season on both sides of the ball.

"We had Shea, Gracie, Zee and Mia Smith all as part of the team, and they all had big contributions," Fly said. "They all contributed defensively and offensively. Their leadership as well will be one of those things that is missed with all of those girls."

The Lady Tigers also received valuable experience from a younger group that Fly believes will form the foundation of next season's squad.

"They'll bring a lot of growth, a lot of fire

and are ready to get back and play hard and get the freshmen next year ready to go," Fly said. "They'll bring a lot to the table, and a lot of experience as well."

Fly said the team checked off each of its major goals established before the first pitch of the season.

"We wanted to win the conference championship, and we won that," Fly said. "Then, we wanted to just get back and get to at least the second round or to the finals of districts, and we accomplished that as well. We definitely accomplished our goals throughout the season and our expectations."

Looking ahead, Fly expects a younger roster but believes several returning players are ready to assume larger leadership roles.

"Next season, the goals would just be to get back and get ready," Fly said. "We're going to be young with young kids. There'll be leadership from Lily and

Kahlan Fuller, and those freshmen this year, Ava Aldridge and Madison Younger.

"Those kids will definitely step up and be big leaders, and they will contribute a lot; and hopefully, they will be able to get us back to where we at least ended this year."

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