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Softball team looks to keep program momentum going. — 1B

CASSVILLE
Democrat

AUGUST 26, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

2 fires Friday in Cassville

House blaze,
Arning Industries
fires happen hours
apart

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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The Cassville Fire Protection District responded to a pair of structure fires back-to-back on Friday.

According to Assistant Chief Chris Reibert, at 10:30 a.m. on

CASSVILLE FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

What: Two fires on Friday
Where: A garage and home in the Cassville Fire Protection District, and at Arning Industries
More: No injuries at either fire; garage lost but home saved

Friday, crews were dispatched to a call indicating a garage was on fire. Upon arrival, they found a two story home and

two car garage with heavy fire inside coming out of the open garage doors.

While en route a second alarm was requested due to the high temperatures outside. Aid was provided from Exeter, Eagle Rock-Golden-Mano and Central Crossing fire districts. South Barry County (Mercy) EMS provided medical stand-by.

Reibert said Barry Electric Cooperative discounted power to the garage. Approximately

12,500 gallons of water were used, and no injuries were reported from the homeowners or firefighters on scene.

The State Fire Marshal was requested to investigate the blaze, which was determined to be accidental. The garage was a total loss, but the two story residence was saved.

The residence sustained a couple of broken windows due to heat and exterior damage from the fire. Casville crews

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BREAKOUT HED

Who: Hunter Stephens, 18, of Washburn, and Logan Deiser, 18, of Seligman

What: Are each charged with stealing (\$750 or more) and second-degree trespassing

More: No warrants, criminal summons issued for each

Teens
charged
with
stealing

Pair allegedly
took tools, items
from property

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

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Two teenagers have been charged with felony stealing after allegedly taking tools and other items from a property in Barry County.

Hunter Stephens, 18, of Washburn, and Logan Deiser, 18, of Seligman, are each charged with stealing (\$750 or more) and second-degree trespassing.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Jeremy Berner, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on July 28, law enforcement began investigating an alleged theft that occurred on or before July 20-27.

The victim advised there were photos and videos from a piece of property the victim owned showing a truck and two individuals stealing items from the property.

On July 31, Deiser was interviewed at the Barry County Sheriff's Office and allegedly admitted he and Stephens had entered the property in his truck to look at a building, and they allegedly stole multiple items from the property.

Items allegedly stolen included: a Dewalt 60V Max VSR stud/joist drill kit, a Dewalt 20V Max XR brushless cordless 1/2 in hammer drill, two Dewalt 20 Max HR cordless brushless 1/4 impacts, a Dewalt 20V Max XR brushless cordless reciprocal saw, a Dewalt 20V Max cordless 10,000 PSI variable speed grease gun, a key to a Sky Track, a bag of miscellaneous tools, a Dewalt electric grease gun, a Dewalt skill saw and six Dewalt batteries.

The value of the amount of items totaled \$3,810.

Criminal summons have been issued for Stephens and Deiser, and their initial appearances are scheduled for Oct. 8 at 8:30 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke.

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Vol. 155, No. 33
August 26, 2026
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Vehicles, face paint, dunk tank mark inaugural BCSO event



Luke Olson, right, 2, of Pea Ridge, Ark., crinkled his nose as Jenna Kruse, with Jennaroo Creations, gave him a Shrek-themed face of paint at Saturday's Barry County Sheriff's Office Community Assistance Car Show, an inaugural event at the Sheriff's Office benefiting its Community assistance Fund. Kyle Troutman/ktROUTMAN@cassville-democrat.com

Lack of poultry CAFO regs ruffle feathers

Area residents worry about
environmental impacts,
water quality

BY SHEILA HARRIS

sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

According to Tim Bull, with the Water Pollution Control Branch of the DNR, there are no state regulations that limit the number of poultry broiler houses that can be built on a specific amount of acreage.

Nor, stated Bull, in a recent email to the

Cassville Democrat, are there specific setbacks or separation requirements between one poultry operation and another.

The lack of state regulations governing the density of poultry operations came as a surprise to a group of neighbors who live on the Sarcoux Prairie, west of Wentworth. When a handful of them received "neighbor notices" in the mail in 2024, informing them that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) planned to approve permits for four new poultry broiler operations within 3,000 feet of their addresses, they began to research.

"We learned that broiler operations, includ-

ing 28 barns with a total of 1.3 million birds, would be located within the same square mile, two miles from our farm," said Leah Heidlage, who along with her husband, Dennis, lives on and operates a cattle farm that has been in the Heidlage family for five generations.

The Heidlages and several of their neighbors, including the couple's two daughters and their families, formed a neighborhood group called Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.), and are working to effect relevant legislative changes.

"We're not against farming; we're all farm-

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Purdy Recycling Center hosts tour

Facility's switch to
for-profit model has
been challenging
transition

BY SHEILA HARRIS

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Gerry Wass, of Purdy, who was instrumental in organizing the Purdy Recycling Center over 20 years ago, said he believes the center now processes about 1% of the waste stream in the Purdy School District.

"If we had 2%, we might be overwhelmed," Wass laughed.

Natalie Moseley, Region N District Planner with Southwest Missouri's Solid Waste District, said the Purdy Recycling Center, a 100%-volunteer program, is the only that she knows of in the state that's self-funded.

"Gerry and the other volunteers in Purdy are beyond modest about what they're doing here," Moseley said.

The Purdy Recycling Center recently changed its business model from a nonprofit to for-profit, a transition that Wass said presented his biggest challenge, so far.

"With our 'workers co-op mod-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A



From left: State Rep. Ann Kelly, R-Lamar; Presley Cozort, from Taney County; Cody Stice, from Taney County; Erin Lepper, with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Gerry Wass, from Purdy; and Tanya Turner, with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, tour the Purdy Recycling Center on Aug 11. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

NEWS BRIEFS

GoFundMe benefits local woman after crash

A Barry County family is receiving community support after Gracie Patton, of Purdy, was seriously injured in a 4-wheeler accident and now requires around-the-clock care. According to the GoFundMe, Gracie suffered significant injuries to her face, mouth, throat, foot and leg, including severe damage to her gums that required numerous stitches. Her parents, Nicole and Kelly Patton, are providing 24-hour care as Gracie undergoes continued treatment and remains limited to a liquid and very soft diet. Family member Rebecca Hendrickson launched the GoFundMe to help with Gracie's medical expenses amid her long road to recovery. "Gracie is a caretaker at heart. She works for the VA and has always cared so deeply for the people she serves. Even now, through everything she is going through, all she can think about is making sure her people are okay. That's just who Gracie is — a sweet, caring, loving soul!," the GoFundMe said. To donate, people may visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3numrej9>.

Absentee voting begins Sept. 22 for Nov. 3 General Election

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 General Election is Oct. 7. People may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office or the Monett Chamber of Commerce. Please notify the Clerk's Office if there has been an address or name change for a currently registered voter. Photo ID is required to vote in the November General Election. Absentee voting starts Sept. 22 at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two (2) week in-person, no excuse absentee voting begins Oct. 20. 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, 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. Chamber staff will fax it to the Clerk's Office. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Wheaton Road District to meet

The monthly Wheaton Road District Meeting will be held on Sept. 1 at 5 p.m. at the Wheaton Road District barn on Highway A, across from Holmes Farm Supply.

Pancake breakfast at First Christian

A Free Pancake Breakfast will be offered Sept. 5 from 9-11 a.m. at First Christian Church of Cassville, located at 905 Old Exeter Road in Cassville.

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Friday, Scrapbooking, 1 p.m., Cassville vs. Monett Kickoff at the Library, 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m.

Old Church Gallery Farmers Market open

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

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

Cassville Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

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

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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

Vehicles, face paint, dunk tank mark BCSO event



Sheriff Danny Boyd, left, smiles after being dunked by Deputy Mike McGuire at Saturday's Barry County Sheriff's Office Community Assistance Car Show. Boyd and Presiding Commissioner Steve Blankenship took turns in the tank at the inaugural event. [Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:Kyle.Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)



Weslee Golubski, 3, of Exeter, made sure his parents were watching as he went down the bounce house slide at Saturday's Barry County Sheriff's Office Community Assistance Car Show, an inaugural event at the Sheriff's Office benefiting its Community assistance Fund. [Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:Kyle.Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)



Vehicles of all types were available for viewing at Saturday's Barry County Sheriff's Office Community Assistance Car Show. [Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:Kyle.Troutman@cassville-democrat.com)

Recycling: Grants have provided equipment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

el,' we were able to pay our volunteers a portion of last year's \$2,500 dividend," Wass said.

Wass admits the profits don't come easily.

"We're constantly problem-solving," he said.

Much of the Purdy Recycling Center's operating technicalities and equipment have been courtesy of grants and the ingenuity of volunteers, Wass said.

Volunteer Reese Hillburn, for example, devised a time clock on a used computer as a way of keeping track of volunteers' hours — important when it comes to divvying dividends.

Wass said grants have provided necessary equipment like balers for cardboard and, more recently, a forklift.

"We depend on grants for survival," Wass said.

Carolyn Easley, of Monett, who was present at the Aug. 11 meeting in Purdy, was instrumental in organizing Monett's recycling program, beginning in 1993. The Monett Recycling Center is now supported, in part, by the City.



Region N District Planner, Natalie Moseley, front, with Southwest Missouri Solid Waste Management, welcomes guests at a tour of the Purdy Recycling Center on Aug. 11. [Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com](mailto:Sheila.Harris@sheilaharrisads@gmail.com)

For Region N's August 11 board meeting, Moseley organized a tour to showcase the Purdy recycling facility for representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and state and county legislators. On hand, were State Rep. Ann Kelly, R-Lamar; Lawrence County Presiding Commissioner

Bob Senneger; Barry County Northern Commissioner Gary Schad; and personnel from the DNR's Southwest Regional Office, in Springfield.

Region N is one of 20 solid waste management districts in Missouri, and includes Barry, Lawrence, Dade, Stone and Taney Counties.

Fires: Components of Arning equiment moved

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

cleared the scene at 2:34 p.m.

While firefighters were preparing to leave that scene, Reibert said another call came in for a piece of equipment on fire inside Arning Industries. Upon arrival, firefighters found some internal components on fire.

Those components were removed to the outside and extinguished with approximately 250 gallons of water. There was no damage to the equipment other than the internal components that were pulled out. There was no damage to the building either, and

no injuries were reported.

Exeter and Butterfield fire districts provided aid at Arning, and Mercy EMS again provided medical standby.

Cassville Police were on scene for any assistance needs, and there were none.

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CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT

August 26, 2026

Volume One Hundred Fifty-Five

Number 33

(USPS092920)

600 Main Street - P.O. Box 486

417-847-2610

Troutman Media LLC

Annual Subscription Rate

Local and non-local rate \$52.00

Senior and military discount rate \$47.00

Periodicals Postage Paid At Cassville, Missouri 65625

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Cassville Democrat P.O. Box 486 Cassville, MO 65625

EMAIL: cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com

CORRECTIONS

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CASSVILLE Democrat

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7 join Southwest staff



The Southwest school district has seven new staffers for the 2026-2027 school year. They include, from left: Shelley Henderson (high school business), Addison Cotton (paraprofessional), Matt Freeman (middle school social studies and assistant baseball coach), Trevor Sneed (paraprofessional), Jessica Dermott (elementary physical education and middle school girls basketball coach), Cailyn Ridenhour (elementary teacher), and Taya Hiatt (agriculture and FFA Advisor). Contributed photo

CAFOs: Poultry barns sit atop mine shaft when 52 holes drilled in 1942

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ers out here,” Leah Heidlage said. “But we believe in responsible farming — a way of life that takes our neighbors’ interests into consideration, as well as our own.”

Heidlage doesn’t believe current Missouri laws governing CAFOs encourage responsible farming.

CAFOs and their smaller cousins, Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs), are classified by the DNR according to the number of animals units they support, and how the waste from those animals is disposed of. Using a complicated formula that (for example) categorizes one half of a horse as one animal unit and 125 broiler chickens as one animal unit, computations are made that limit the total number of individual animals that can be confined within a certain class. More information may be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/2hjm78yu>.

Permits from the DNR are required for CAFOs; no permits are required for AFOs. Regulations for CAFOs are stringent in some areas, but could be considered lax in others.

All of the broiler house now permitted by the DNR to operate near the P.O.W.E.R. neighbors are categorized as Class 1C, operations that can house up to 374,999 chickens, if they don’t use water to dispose of their manure. A “wet-handling” manure system, or the addition of just one more chicken, would elevate the farm to a higher classification, where more exacting regulations would apply.

A key difference between classifications is the greater amount of buffering distance required from a neighboring residence for higher classifications.

According to the DNR’s

website, Class 1C broiler operations require that broiler houses cannot be built closer than 1,000 feet from a neighbor’s house without that neighbor’s written consent. A Class 1B farm requires a buffering distance of 2,000 feet, while a Class 1A — the largest category — calls for a separation of 3,000 feet from a neighbor’s house.

The smaller buffering distance that a Class 1C operation requires can spell the difference in the number of broiler houses that can be constructed on a particular piece of property.

According to Bull, property limitations do exist for CAFOs, although they’re not based on the number of barns on a property. Rather, they’re centered around ensuring that the correct number of animals for a CAFO’s permitted class size are present at a single operating location.

“An operating location includes all continuous lands owned, operated, or controlled by one person or by two or more persons jointly or as tenants in common,” Bull said.

Based on the disposition of waste, exceptions to that rule exist.

Waste disposition aside, according to current regulations, the owner of one piece of property is limited to operating one Class 1C broiler farm with a total of 374,999 chickens, even though the size of his farm might be able to accommodate a second operation.

P.O.W.E.R. neighbor, Braden Warner, alleges that poultry growers are working around the single-owner rule.

“They’re trying to hide their common control of multiple CAFOs in order to maintain their Class 1C operating status,” Warner

said. “We’re seeing some land-shuffling oddities, like an owner buying a large parcel, then dividing it up between family members on paper, so that the CAFOs they construct will appear to have separate owners.”

Warner’s father, Brett Warner, voices additional concerns.

“The density of broiler houses within a relatively small area will contribute to the spread of diseases like Avian Flu,” he said.

P.O.W.E.R.’s concern is not just for the surface inconveniences that living near poultry houses present: the odors, the dust, and the possible loss in property value. The neighbors are worried about the poultry operations’ effects on their groundwater, including the increased draw from the water table itself.

Based on information gathered from the Mississippi State University Extension, Leah Heidlage assembled a chart showing that, during one grow-out phase, 1.3 million chickens in 28 poultry barns would consume over 4 million gallons of water.

“That’s almost 25 million gallons a year for six grow-out phases,” Heidlage said.

Contamination of groundwater from surface infiltration is also a concern for the P.O.W.E.R. neighbors.

“We have karst below us, here,” Leah Heidlage said. “Geohydrologic surveys were conducted for each of the properties where permits were pending. They all indicated the presence of nearby sinkholes and losing streams.”

According to hydrologists, both sinkholes and losing streams provide direct access to groundwater.

Mineshafts, too, present the opportunity for ground-

water infiltration on the Sarcoux Prairie. Lead and zinc mining operations once flourished in Jasper and Newton Counties, and remnants of those operations — in the form of boreholes and mineshafts — still exist.

One P.O.W.E.R. member, Brian Long, said that in 1942, on a property near his own, 52 test boreholes had been drilled, before two mine shafts were eventually dropped into the ground for production purposes. That property, Long says, is now the site of poultry barns.

“One barn is situated right over one of the mine shafts,” Long said.

The Class 1C broiler operations near Wentworth are considered “No-discharge operations,” as are the majority of broiler operation in southwest Missouri, for which contact with Waters of The State is prohibited. Dead birds are composted, and, along with litter (a combination of manure and bedding materials removed from barns), are kept in dry storage sheds, protected from rain and other external water sources.

Regulations for the final disposition of the dry waste, however, leave many questions unanswered.

As opposed to land-applying their own waste as fertilizer, which requires the use of a detailed Nutrient Management Standard (NMTS), growers for the Class 1C broiler operations near Wentworth indicated on permit applications that their waste would be for “Export Only.” That phrase, Leah Heidlage believes, is deliberately vague.

“Export Only” means it can be hauled anywhere off their farm — even next door — and there will be no record of where it goes

or what happens to it,” she said.

The disposition of poultry waste in northwest Arkansas has been the focal point of a 20-year lawsuit, in which the State of Oklahoma sued multiple poultry giants — including Tyson’s and George’s — for polluting the Illinois River Watershed, which runs between Arkansas and Oklahoma. The defendants recently settled out of court, and were told to find a spot for their waste where the soil wasn’t banked with phosphorus.

In Missouri, most of the litter exported from broiler operations is sold and land applied, Bull said.

According to recent permit applications, between 2,000 and 3,000 tons of litter are collected and exported annually from Class 1C broiler CAFOs, with most of it intended for land-application. Those totals have risen sharply from the year 2000, when an August 20 article in the Cassville Democrat reported that a typical poultry operation produced about 430 tons of litter per year.

Bull said when manure from a CAFO is applied to land not under the CAFO-owner’s direct control, the waste is considered a “manure transfer,” and beyond the scope of the CAFO permit and permit decision.

“The party conducting the land application is [then] responsible for ensuring its land application activities comply with all relevant laws,” Bull said.

The exportation of all waste from a CAFO is one method of manure management that meets regulatory requirements, Bull says.

Where that waste ends up, however, appears to be loosely-regulated.

According to DNR requirements, CAFO operators are required to submit an annual report to the department which includes the total amount of waste generated and land-applied or exported. If exported, the CAFO owner is instructed to include the hydrologic unit code (HUC) indicating the watershed where the waste was land-applied. (A note on the permit-application, however, indicates that the name of the receiving landowner in that watershed does not need to be included in the CAFO-owner’s annual report submitted to the DNR.)

The CAFO owner is required to maintain records on their farm for five years, with the names, addresses and watershed codes of exported manure and litter recipients. After five years, those records can be discarded, a note on the permit application states.

When asked where files could be accessed with information about the quantity of litter land-applied in various Missouri watersheds, Tim Bull replied that “the data is available but not in an easily queried or searchable format.”

Meanwhile, more CAFO poultry barns are being constructed in Barry County, where, according to the DNR’s own mapping tool, the Shoal Creek watershed, along the western edge of the county, faces Total Maximum Daily Limits, due to elevated levels of bacteria and fecal coliform from major non-point source contributors.

Pending land-application permits for poultry-processing waste will add more not-easily-traceable non-point source of water pollution to an already burdened watershed over fractured karst hydrogeology.

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Memories incoming

Beyond the weeks of school supply and clothes shopping, making sure all needs are met before school begins, there is always one event that signals the first day of a new year is just around the corner.

That event was on Thursday, the annual Stop, Drop and Go at Cassville schools, where incoming students get to meet their teachers, drop off supplies, get their schedules and lockers, and so on.

With our oldest daughter going into middle school, that open-house-style evening brought back a flood of memories from my youth and going to urban schools in Little Rock, Ark. We started the evening going to our youngest's preschool class, where her aunt is a para and she recalls all the teachers from the year prior. There was some confusion about her cubby hole moving, but I'm sure she will catch on soon. Clearly, it was spike, the class turtle, that once again stole the show, drawing the undivided attention of each preschooler who stepped in the room where his tank is located.

I honestly do not know if I have ever seen a kid as excited to go back to school as our youngest is. We keep asking her daily if she's ready for school just to hear her exclamations of excitement and how she wants to wear the new cowgirl boots she got for her birthday a couple weeks ago. She wore them to Stop, Drop and Go, and the constant compliments on the footwear made it clear we could not deny her getting to wear them on day one at the very least.

I attended two different elementary schools in Little Rock, one for second through third grades and another in fifth. I don't ever remember being half as excited as our youngest is. Then again, I never had any new cowboy boots to show off either.

I do remember in much greater detail the open houses at Dunbar Middle School and Little Rock Central High School. It took a considerable amount of time to navigate to each class and locate my locker in the 200,000-square-foot building, which was formerly the all-African American high school prior to integration in 1959. By my calculations, Dunbar is about 11 times the size of Cassville Middle School.

For that reason, I got a nice little chuckle about how close my eldest's rooms are to one another, not to mention her locker is only the second over from her homeroom classroom door. Whereas I may have had a little sympathy for being tardy due to traveling back and forth to my locker, my girl will have no excuses.

Thursday was also the first time in decades I had to operate a combination lock. I thought I recalled how to do it immediately, but even old dad had to take two cracks at getting the lock open the first time, much to all my girls' chagrin. Seems like some of that city boy in me has faded away over the years.

Like the middle school, I routinely get a chuckle at the size difference from Cassville High School and Little Rock Central. Sometimes, it was impossible to get to your locker and get to class on time, especially when going from one wing on the first floor to the other wing on the third floor — with 2,400 other students navigating the halls during a 5-minute class change.

As much as I would not trade my prep experience for anything, I can't help but compare how much easier it would have been to be at a school Cassville's size instead of Central. There's worlds of differences between the two.

It's for many of those reasons I enjoy that my kids attend a smaller school. Sure, there are cons alongside the pros, but those differences in experiences is what makes well-rounded families and individuals.

This year, I am looking forward to how much our youngest progresses in her second year of preschool, especially since she's nailing numerous sight words and has the potential to enter kindergarten next year with an exceptionally solid foundation.

I am also excited to see how my oldest will navigate the switch to an 8-class-per-day schedule, getting to determine her schedule and electives, and growing out of the age of recess. It seems like just yesterday the oldest was where the youngest is.

Time flies, they say. For us, it certainly has, and seeing kids grow and change over the years and through grades and teachers is something special.

Here's to another year and all our kids finding success in growth, whether it be in preschool or senior year. These are memories that will stick with the kids and their parents forever.

Kyle Troutman has served as editor of the Cassville Democrat since 2014 and owner/publisher since 2023. He is a four-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

New year always special

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year.

After an unusually long 110-day summer break, we are excited to welcome our students back to Cassville R-IV Schools. Hopefully, the extended summer provided plenty of opportunities for our students, staff and families to rest, relax, travel and enjoy time with family and friends.

A new school year always brings a unique mix of emotions. There are new school year jitters and a little anxiety about what lies ahead, but those feelings are accompanied by hope, excitement and optimism. Students will reconnect with friends, meet new teachers, settle into new routines and begin another year filled with opportunities to learn and grow. At the same time, fall sports and activities are getting underway, bringing an energy to our campuses that signals another school year is officially here.

While our students have been away, our staff has been working hard to prepare our schools for their return. We have also continued investing in facilities and opportunities that will benefit our students and community. One of the most exciting additions is the Wild C Research Farm, which will provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn about agriculture, research, science and the many career possibilities



MERLYN JOHNSON

connected to our region's agricultural industry. Other improvements include a new paved parking lot south of the Middle School and Primary School, new concrete projects at our soccer and softball facilities, and numerous other upgrades and improvements throughout our campuses.

We are proud to continue taking care of the facilities our community has entrusted to us while looking for practical ways to make them safer, more functional and better for our students.

Most importantly, the beginning of school reminds us that our schools are about people. They are about the relationships between students and teachers, teammates and coaches, families and staff, and the people that make up the communities with-

in our district boundaries. Those relationships are at the heart of what makes Cassville such a special place.

Thank you to our parents, families, businesses, organizations and community members for your continued support of Cassville R-IV Schools. Your investment in our students and staff makes a tremendous difference, and we never take that support for granted.

We are also looking for additional bus drivers. If you are interested in joining our transportation team, or know someone who might be, please contact Jake Kloss at the Cassville R-IV Bus Garage at 417-847-2221. Our bus drivers play an important role in safely getting our students to and from school each day, and we would love to add a few more great people to our team. As the buses begin running their routes again and our classrooms and hallways fill with students, we look forward to the possibilities that come with a fresh start.

There will certainly be challenges along the way, but we begin with hope, optimism and excitement for what the 2026-2027 school year can become.

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

COMMUNITY VOICES

The sounds of August

There is something about the sounds of August that can take a person back in time.

Long before the first school bell rings, August seems to whisper that summer is beginning to slip away. I truly believe this, in spite of it being 94 degrees at 8 p.m. on this Sunday evening as I am writing. But, if you listen closely over the roaring cicadas, you can hear the season changing.

For those of us who grew up in Cassville, August had its own familiar soundtrack. There was the hum of a lawn mower on a Saturday morning, the screen door slamming as children hurried in and out, and the laughter of neighborhood kids who knew they had only a few more weeks of freedom. There were baseballs popping into gloves, bicycles rattling down the street and the distant sound of someone calling a child's name from the front porch.

And then came the sounds that meant school was near.

New shoes squeaking across the kitchen floor. The Big Chief tablets and number 2 pencils being gathered together. Music instruments springing back into action. Parents talking



JON HORNER

about the dreaded enforcement of bedtimes again, while my cousins and buddies tried to stretch the last days of summer just a little longer.

Growing up in Cassville, the beginning of school was more than the end of summer vacation. It was a community event. The town pool would soon be closing and that meant practices for our fall events and sports were around the corner. I loved playing football at CHS, but August two-a-day practices were things that myself and my friends dreaded. My lifelong best friend, Paul Preddy, still laughs about starting each practice at 6:30 a.m. by having to lay down on the dew-covered practice field for our stretching exercises. At 6:31 a.m., every piece of clothing we were wearing was completely soaked courtesy of the good ole August morning dew.

I can still visualize walking into my Kindergarten

classroom in August 1968 and being greeted by my teacher Lou Ann Priest and her aide, Norma Lee Ledgerwood. I was both nervous and excited. When my classmate, Laura Craig, leaned over and gave me a kiss, I realized that Kindergarten was even better than advertised.

I thought, "I think I'm going to like this." My Mom and grandma Gowen picked me up after the first big day. They were so excited that I loved the day. I recited everything that had happened, except, of course, the kiss from Laura.

The buildings and people here are different now, but this time still has a way of stirring memories.

Sometimes all it takes is the sound of a school bus traveling down the road, children laughing on a playground or the first Friday-night crowd gathering for a ballgame. Suddenly, you are young again. You are carrying a new schoolbook, playing jazz for Russ Robinson and wearing No. 25 for the Wildcats.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of August. It gives us a chance to remember.

We remember the people who shared those years with us, the teachers who helped shape us, the friends

who made ordinary days memorable and the community that provided the backdrop for our childhood.

Time moves on, and Cassville changes with it. Children grow up, buildings change and familiar faces become memories. Yet every August, when the sounds of a new school year begin, the past seems to draw a little closer.

Listen carefully. You may hear a school bell.

You may hear children laughing.

And if you're fortunate, beneath those sounds you might hear something else — the echoes of your own childhood, reminding you of where you came from and of the community that helped make you who you are.

Here's to all the of area's students, teachers, support staff, and families. I hope you have a wonderful school year. And, if you are heading into Kindergarten, I hope your first day is as memorable as mine.

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



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50 years ago

Sept. 1, 1976
— EPA GRANT FINANCES MORE STUDY ON SEWER PROJECT

A sewage treatment program for the City of Cassville that is about two years away and will cost approximately three-quarters of a million dollars, got additional plan financing recently from the Environmental Protection Agency. Funding in the amount of \$18,000, the program will continue to be planned by Alligier-Martin and Associates of Joplin. Congressman Gene Taylor notified city government Friday of the grant funds. Mayor Bill LeCompte noted previous awards amounting to \$1,500 for the project had been received by the city. Taylor said EPA notified his office the funds will be used in the preparation of a facilities plan for a waste treatment plant. That process has been underway for about two years by the A-M firm. Presumed the funds would provide financing for additional engineering study and design of the proposed facility, now estimated to cost the city \$800,000. That was the last price quoted in preliminary estimates nearly a year ago. In addition to the sewer treatment facility, which would be in addition to the present lagoon, line extensions and lift station updating would be included in the project. Fortunately, if prices don't increase too rapidly, the City has funds available to pay the estimated 10% cost to local government. State and federal grants are expected to pick up the tab on remaining costs. Mayor LeCompte noted city voters last year approved a \$250,000 bond issue, which included \$80,000 for the pending program. In the bond program, remaining funds were used for a new water well, storage tank and line extensions in the south part of town and to serve FASCO Industries Cassville plant. City officials estimate the project will not be implemented until 1977 or 1978 depending on the planning and engineering progress. Included are facilities to conform to state requirements in waste water disposal. From all indications, new trunk lines would be installed in the area of the lagoon and a treatment plant installed to handle sewage prior to being discharged in the present lake. Planned in the project in addition to the new features would be inspection, probably by the use of television cameras, of present lines. The engineering firm previously told city fathers here that considerable leakage is possible in some areas.

— SCHOOL POPULATION INCREASE WITH 4,855 OPENING COUNT

Barry County school population has an increase compared to last year according to enrollment reports from the six high school and two rural districts. At the start of classes for the 1975-76 school year there were 4,806 enrolled in classes. This year opening bells attracted 4,855 students for the 1976-77 academic year. The up and down of school populations is further compared to the 4,814 figure reported by districts during the 1974 school year start. In most cases, school superintendents reported slight increases possible as students report late upon completion of summer jobs after the Labor Day weekend. Overall county enrollment figures have 1,777 in high school and 3,078 in elementary and junior high combinations. Growth in student numbers were reported by Exeter, Purdy, Cassville, Southwest and Shell Knob districts. A round-up of the high school district enrollments included the following: CASSVILLE — Superintendent Ronald Evans says the Cassville campus has 35 more students at the opening compared to the same period last year. In classes are 1,310, compared to 1,275 at the start of last year. Breakdowns have 498 enrolled in Kindergarten through fifth grade, reported Mrs. Eunice Thomas, principal. Principal Don Trotter said 507 were enrolled in high school. Principal Paul Watson had 305 listed on the books of middle school. Last year Cassville had 470 in K-5, 308 in sixth through eighth and 497 in four high school classes.



30 YEARS AGO: RIDING THE RING AT RECESS: Shannon Bond and Shelly Jones, both first grade students at Cassville, seem to be enjoying recess during their first full week of school. Although the temperatures on the playground are soaring, the students are staying cool thanks to new air conditioning in the elementary. Democrat file photo

es. This year, high school enrollment figures have 99 seniors, 162 juniors, 119 sophomores and 127 freshmen. SOUTHWEST OF WASHBURN — Southwest has an increase of three students comparing opening day enrollments of this year and last, according to Superintendent Johnnie Fite. This year the figure stands at 667. Last school year opening figures were 664. For the current year starting Monday, Southwest has 342 in Kindergarten through sixth grade and 325 in seventh through seniors. Fite noted the district has 58 in kindergarten classes, and eighth grades. PURDY — Superintendent Thomas Kurucz reported the Purdy district in the category of growing, with enrollment figures up 10 from last year. The current figure is 540 compared to 530 at the start of classes last year. Breakdowns for the Purdy enrollment has 243 in k-six and 297 in seven through 12. WHEATON — The Wheaton district is down 12 students from opening reports last year says Superintendent Joe Chambers. This year the western most district in the county has 363 students, compared to 375 last school year. Wheaton's pupil numbers are divided with 160 in eight through 12 and 203 reporting for classes in Kindergarten through seven. EXETER — Exeter district pupils, first starting in the county, are increasing said Superintendent John Black. The first day enrollment last year was 273, but a week ago Monday the starting number was 278. Superintendent Black listed 186 in Kindergarten through eight and 92 in high school. MONETT — With a 1975-76 enrollment of 1,496 as the biggest in district in the county, Monett this year reports a 1,475 figure through Dr. Ralph Scott, superintendent. For the second year, this represents a slight decrease in enrollment for the Monett system. Dr. Scott said the drop this year was 21 students. Monett enrollment has 711 in elementary, 253 in junior high and 511 senior high students. Rounding out the school enrollment census, Barry County has two remaining rural school districts holding classes, Jenkins and Shell Knob. A third, Golden, is considered a closed district by the State Department of Education and is beginning transport to Cassville this year. Jenkins, through Principal Jim Williams, reported 72 students this year. The breakdown is nine in the first, 10 each in second and third, six in fourth, 11 in fifth, six in the sixth and 10 each in seventh and eighth. The biggest growth percentage

was in the county's remaining rural district, Shell Knob. Principal Dick Revis reported a 150 pupil total at the start of classes Monday, compared to 108 last year. Revis had a pupil breakdown as follows: Kindergarten 13, first 22, second 12, third 13, fourth 12, fifth 16, sixth 20, seventh 18 and eighth 25. Of the two remaining rural districts, Shell Knob transports high school students to Cassville. Jenkins is about split between transporting to Cassville and Aurora.

40 years ago

Sept. 3, 1986
— STATE PARK AGAIN GAINS, LEADS HOLIDAY ATTENDANCE

Continuing a trend noticed over July 4, Roaring River State Park was probably the only tourist attraction in this section of the state to show an increase in visitors. Table Rock Lake figures were down, according to preliminary estimates of the Army Corps of Engineers. Corps officials said the lake public use facilities were at about 85 percent occupancy, in early figures Tuesday. A later report Wednesday said actual attendance figures from park attendants had the reservoir visitor numbers down about six percent. By comparison, Roaring River State Park had campers in overflow areas, with camping unit numbers for August up two percent, according to Bill Ash, assistant superintendent. Park visitor numbers, an estimate on traffic counters, were down slightly for the weekend, a trend that followed August. But, in the numbers that count, fishing tags, Roaring River had a 237 increase for the three day holiday, reported Charles Curry, hatchery superintendent. Last year the holiday attracted 2,643 anglers, this year 2,080 were streamside during the three days. In the same department, Curry said this week, "We're going to break Roaring River's tag sales record this year." The hatchery superintendent was talking about the 106,924 tags sold five years ago. The 1981 record year was running under 90,000 at this time of the year. As of Monday night, the park had sold 90,440 tags since the March opening. That's about 2,500 ahead of the pace during the record setting year. With sights set on breaking the record, park officials said only real problems between now and the October 31 closing could stop a new record being established. Park concessionaire Jack Nickols also could have set a new record in number of meals served during the Labor Day weekend. He said the number of meals through the restaurant was up about one-third for the holiday, compared to

last year. Accommodations in the park and on Highway 112 were full. Fosterling's report on area public use attendance had a couple nearly holding their own over the weekend, while others dropped. Included, with use area, 1986 figures first and compared to 1985 second included: Campbell Point 7,048 and 7,200; Big M 4,868 and 3,976; Eagle Rock 10,340 and 10,112; Viney 2,132 and 1,840; and Viola 3,568 and 4,472. Missouri Water Patrol personnel noted no major accidents on the reservoir during the holiday. Patrolman Steve Crain admitted there were some "fender benders, but nothing serious." Crain and Steve Payne of Shell Knob patrolled the lake during the heavy traffic time and noted boat traffic about normal for this time of the year. Water Patrol officials in Jefferson City said Table Rock experienced the heaviest boat traffic of the holiday compared to other reservoirs in the state. Cool temperatures and light showers at some points of the holidays could have reduced visitor numbers some. Overall, recreation officials in the area said the holiday could have been better so far as business was concerned, but they felt the decreases were not as great as experienced elsewhere.

30 years ago

Aug. 28, 1996
— SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HOLDS STEADY AFTER YEARS OF GROWTH

The trend toward increasing enrollment at county schools appears to have stabilized with the opening of the 1996-97

school year. Total student enrollment in Barry County stands at 6,288, as compared to 6,182 for the 1995-96 school year. According to back-to-school enrollment numbers provided by each of the seven districts in Barry County, Southwest R-V School District was the only district that showed a marked increase in students. Officials from each district stressed that enrollment numbers fluctuate at the beginning of every school year. They said student counts would stabilize after the Labor Day weekend. Southwest — Superintendent Jim Roe said the district grew at a rate of 14 percent, from 798 students in 1995-96 to 911 students this fall. Elementary experienced the greatest jump in numbers, increasing student rolls from 447 last year to 536 this year. Seventh through 12th grades have 375 students enrolled, an increase of 24 students over last year. Cassville — Cassville R-IV School District, the largest in the county, has 1,981 students enrolled for the new school year. That number reflects a 16-student increase over last year's enrollment total of 1,965. This fall, there are 910 children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grades, 475 students in sixth through eighth grades and 596 students in high school. High school and elementary show small increases in the number of students enrolled, while middle school reflects a small decline in student numbers. During the 1995-96 school year, there were 902 students enrolled in elementary, 461 students in middle school and 602 students in high school. Exeter — Exeter R-VI School District has recorded an increase in the number of students it will be serving during the 1996-97 school year. This year there are 325 students, 15 more than last year's student total of 310. School officials said there are 235 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grades and 90 in high school. Purdy — The number of students enrolled at Purdy R-II School District is virtually the same as it was last year. School administrators report there are 338 students in kindergarten through sixth grades and 258 in grades seven through 12 for a total enrollment figure of 596. That number is two students higher than last year's total enrollment of 594. The high school picked up 20 more students this year, while elementary enrollment decreased by 18. Wheaton — Wheaton R-III School District reports a decrease in student enrollment from 453 during the 1995-96 year to 436 students this fall. Back-to-school enrollment figures show there are 230 students attending class in grades kindergarten through sixth and 206 in grades seven through 12. Shell Knob — Principal Bill Hadlow reported that enrollment at the lake area district decreased this year by eight students. There are currently 230 enrolled in classes for the 1996-97 school year as compared

to a 238-student enrollment last year. Monett — Enrollment is down at Monett R-I School District for the first time since 1987. The district's first day enrollment stood at 1,792 students compared to 1,824 last year.

— WATER SAMPLES IN COUNTY FOUND "UNSATISFACTORY"

Nearly half of the water samples tested by the Barry County Health Department this summer were found to be "unsatisfactory," according to Gary Boone, environmental sanitarian. During the reporting period of June 1 through Aug. 13, there were 68 non-official water samples tested by the local health department. Of that total, 47 percent were found "unsatisfactory" due to the presence of coliform bacteria in the water. Results showed six samples with E Coli present. Any county resident who receives water from a private supply can have their water tested by the health department. Sample bottles can be picked up at the Cassville office any day of the week. Samples can be collected at home and returned to the health department on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. A fee of \$10 per sample will be charged. A test for nitrate nitrogen can also be conducted for an additional \$5. If water samples test "unsatisfactory," members of the health department staff will offer technical advice and follow-up sampling to ensure that water is safe to drink.

— COUNTY RECEIVES EMERGENCY FUNDS TO REBUILD BRIDGE

Barry County commissioners received notification on Aug. 22 that emergency funding had been approved to rebuild the bridge over Flat Creek at Stubblefield Crossing. In April, high velocity winds blew a massive oak tree onto the bridge, knocking it down into the creek. The cost to replace the bridge had been estimated at around \$300,000. The announcement about the availability of emergency funds came from Keith Brown, District 7 liaison engineer with the State Highway Department. Brown met with the commission last week to discuss county bridge projects. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said the county hopes to get project details worked out so that the Stubblefield Crossing bridge could be built next spring. In other business last week, the commission: Approved payment of \$11,469 from the emergency road and bridge fund to Kent Pope Construction Co. for Shoal Creek Bridge in the Wheaton Special Road District; Met with Randy Bartel and Jim Litchy, architects, and David Cox and Mark Kirkham, Branco Construction Co. representatives, in regard to construction of the new jail addition; Approved a request to purchase a radio for Assistant Coroner Eddie Davison; Directed Treasurer Lois Lowe to disburse \$375 to the Missouri Prosecuting Attorney and Circuit Attorneys Retirement System; and to distribute \$84,968.27 in CART, MVST and MVFI funds to county road districts.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week



Hi, I'm Pamela — a precious 2-month-old grey and black domestic longhair kitten ready to steal your heart! I'm already litter box trained, which means you can skip the messy part and jump straight to the fun. I'm an affectionate and friendly little girl who gets along wonderfully with other cats, so I'd be a perfect addition to a multi-cat home. My adoption fee is just \$75, and I promise to repay your love with purrs, cuddles, and a lifetime of companionship. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheoarkzarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647.

Contributed photo

OBITUARIES



JUDITH ANN EVES

Judith Ann Eves, 82, of Golden, Mo., passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at her home.

She was born May 6, 1944, in Parsons, Kan., to William and Mary Gladys (Brown) Hendricks.

Survivors include her three sons, Martin Widhalm and his wife, Carol, of Lincoln, Neb.; Paul Widhalm of Golden, Mo.; and Ben Widhalm of Golden, Mo.; one daughter, Christine Stillwell and her husband, Don, of Golden, Mo.; nine grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and one brother, George Hendricks and his wife, Barb, of Lincoln, Neb.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Vern Eves; one daughter, Diane Webster; and her grandson, Big Jon Taylor.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 1:00

p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2026, at White Funeral Home and Crematory.

Judith will be remembered for her love of family, her enjoyment of life's simple pleasures, and the special memories she made with her children and grandchildren.

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

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



VIDA JO FINCH

Vida Jo Finch, age 88, of Cassville, Missouri, passed away Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Aspire Senior Living Roaring River in Cassville, Missouri.

She was born March 25,

1938 near Avoca, Arkansas, the daughter of Jess and Joyce Johnson. From a very young age, Vida worked alongside her older brother doing difficult farm labor for their father to help support the family, while her mother cared for the home and raised Vida's three younger siblings.

She went to school at Rogers, Arkansas until the 12th grade. She moved with family friends to St. Louis, Missouri, where she graduated and met Walter Donald Finch. They married on September 15, 1956 in St. Louis, Missouri and were happily married for 65 years until Walter passed away on December 12, 2021. They raised three children together, Steven Finch, the oldest, is deceased (April 19, 2019), Warren Finch is surviving with his wife, Nina, and Carmen Finch, the youngest, she is also deceased (May 18, 2024).

Vida has three surviving siblings, Dale Johnson, Jack Johnson, and Margaret Jump, and one deceased sibling, Sam Johnson. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Ronnie, Christy, and Joe, and seven great grandchildren, Jared, Nathan, Xavier, Riley, Kaylin, AnnLynn, and Luca Donald.

Vida developed an interest in drawing at an early age and continued to nurture her artistic talents throughout her life. She expressed her creativity through drawing, painting, sculpting, and carving, leaving behind countless examples of her work. Her talent was recognized by others as well, earning her awards and inspiring people to seek out and cherish pieces of her art.

In her later years, Vida turned her attention to painting murals, often working alongside her sister, Margaret Jump. Their collaboration allowed Vida to share her love of art while creating lasting works that reflected her creativity, dedication, and artistic spirit.

Graveside services were held at 10:00 A.M. Friday, August 21, 2026 at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Garfield, Arkansas, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Tony Ball conducted the services.

The family received friends from 4:00 until 5:00 P.M. Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Walnut Hill Cemetery in memory of

Vida.

PAID OBITUARY

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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

FORREST ARTHUR "FROSTY" GARLAND

Forrest Arthur "Frosty" Garland, age 85, of Cassville, Missouri passed away Monday, August 17, 2026 at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield, Missouri.

He was born January 25, 1941 in Viola, Missouri, the son of Joseph and Bernice (Willyard) Garland. On June 24, 1995 in Jenkins, Missouri he was united in marriage to Marty Hall, who survives. Also surviving are his son, Joe Garland and wife Melissa of Cassville, Missouri; daughter, Diana Soole and husband James of Exeter, Missouri; brothers, Sanford Garland and wife Arlene and Cliff Garland; sisters, Mary Ann Reger and Olive Houston and six grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Gilbert; sister, Emma Brewer and grandson David Soole.

Frosty lived his entire life in Barry County, Missouri, attending school in Cassville and graduating from Cassville High School. He owned and operated Frosty's Garage for many years while also raising cattle and crop farming. Frosty enjoyed playing music and singing, hunting, guns, and spending time outdoors. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church. Frosty will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Graveside services were held at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri and a memorial service was held at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, August 22, 2026 at Victory Baptist Church in Cassville, both are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in

Cassville. Pastor Russell Bishop, Pastor Wyatt Clevenger, and Pastor Trent Huse conducted the services.

The family received friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Friday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Oak Ridge Cemetery in memory of Frosty.

PAID OBITUARY

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



SCOTT RAMAEKER

Scott Ramaeker, age 48, of Purdy, Missouri, passed away on Friday, August 21, 2026, at Freeman Hospital in Neosho, Missouri.

Scott was born on March 12, 1978, in Houston, Missouri, to Jim and Carolyn (Racely) Ramaeker. He graduated from high school in Mountain Grove, Missouri, in 1996. In 2003, Scott married the love of his life, Michelle Leachman. Together, they were blessed with three beautiful children, two daughters and one son.

Scott was a true outdoorsman who loved life and every adventure it had to offer. He enjoyed hunting, golfing, jeeping, back-road adventures, spending time at the creek, and simply being outdoors. One of his greatest joys was coaching his children's sports and being there to cheer them on. Scott never met a stranger and was known for being the life of the party, bringing laughter and joy wherever he went.

Scott had a servant's heart and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He especially enjoyed helping whenever he could at his church. He loved spending time with the people he cared about, but above all else, his children were the light of his world. His family meant everything to him, and the love

he had for them was evident in all that he did.

Scott will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His adventurous spirit, contagious laughter, generous heart, and unwavering love for his family will remain forever in the hearts of those who loved him.

Scott is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Michelle Ramaeker; two daughters, Elly and Addy Ramaeker; and one son, Dax Ramaeker.

He is also survived by his parents, Jim and Carolyn Ramaeker of Mountain Grove, Missouri; two brothers, Jason Ramaeker and his wife, Jennifer, of Lone Jack, Missouri, and Kevin Ramaeker of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; one sister, Michelle Eilenstine and her husband, Loren, of Mountain Grove, Missouri; four sisters-in-law, Patsy Godsey and her husband, Deryk, of Seligman, Missouri, Doniel Arnett and her husband, Ryan, of Cassville, Missouri, Ashley Selee and her husband, Austin, of Seligman, Missouri, and Chrissy Taylor and her husband, Lee, of Fort Worth, Texas; father-in-law, Jeff Leachman; and mother-in-law, Glenda Leachman of Seligman, Missouri.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, David and Virginia Ramaeker, and Clay and Elma Racely; one uncle and two aunts.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at White Funeral Home and Crematory, with Pastor James Schnackenberg officiating. Visitation will be held Wednesday, August 26, 2026, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at White Funeral Home and Crematory. Interment will follow the funeral service at St. John's Lutheran Church Stones Prairie Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Scott to benefit his children and may be entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory.

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

PAID OBITUARY

White Funeral Home and Crematory
Online condolences and webcasting of the funeral services may be found at www.whitefuneralhome.org
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DAVISON
Angela Lynn
Mar. 23, 1988
Oct. 27, 2008
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DNR selects firm to deliver Home Energy Rebates Program

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority and BDO Government Services to deliver the Home Owner

Managing Energy Savings Program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program to Missouri citizens.

The department and the authority will work with BDO to plan and implement over \$151 million in formula funding that will provide energy-saving rebates to Missouri consumers. The department selected BDO because of its ability to deliver complex federal programs while complying with all associated requirements.

"I'm pleased to announce

this important milestone in moving toward leveraging the rebate funds to benefit Missourians," said Kurt Schaefer, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. "These programs will help us keep energy affordable and reliable across the state. We will work with BDO to make rebate funds available in an expedited and responsible manner."

The Home Owner Managing Energy Savings Rebate Program will support whole-home energy efficiency upgrades based

on modeled energy savings. The High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program will support qualified projects (such as heat pumps) in low-to-moderate income households. Both programs are part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Rebates Program.

The department submitted its initial funding application to the U.S. Department of Energy in November 2024 and is currently waiting for federal approval and funding. The department will provide more information on both rebate programs' availability as they move toward launch.

To learn more about the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of Energy and stay engaged on the status of home energy rebates programs in Missouri, visit <https://dnr.mo.gov/energy>.

The Missouri General Assembly established the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority (<https://eiera.mo.gov/about-us/>) in 1972 under Missouri Revised Statutes, section 260.010, RSMo. The authority is a quasi-governmental environmental finance agency administratively assigned to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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A: 3, 1, 4

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Q: What do you get when you cross a pastry and a snake?

A: A pie-thon.

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Q: What do you call a fish without an eye?

A: A fish.

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

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- a number can only appear once per row
- a number can only appear once per column
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4	2	9	5	1	8
1	8	5	2	7	9
8	1	7	9	5	2
9	5	2	7	8	1
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5	9	1	8	2	7

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Training for the unexpected: BEC conducts mock mayday drill

Emotional event important for ongoing training for staff

According to Barry Electric, safety isn't just a policy — it's a promise the cooperative makes every day. Recently, that promise was put to the test during a mock mayday training exercise designed to challenge employees to respond to a simulated workplace emergency. The realistic drill placed crews in a high-pressure scenario, requiring them to rely on their training, communication skills and rescue procedures just as they would during an actual emergency.

While employees understand the importance of safety training, a Barry Electric press release said, seeing a rescue scenario unfold in real time served as a powerful reminder of why those preparations matter.

"I had the privilege of videoing the exercise up close, and to be honest, it was emotional," said Kiley Stringer, public relations and marketing coordinator. "Even though everyone knew it was a drill, it felt very real. Watching your coworkers respond to a simulated emergency makes you think about the people behind the hard hats."

"These aren't just employees. They're our friends, neighbors, parents, spouses, and family members. It really hit home how quickly lives can change and why every bit of training matters. I found myself fighting back tears several times because the reality of what could happen felt so heavy in that moment."

The drill brought together multiple Barry Electric departments as well as community emergency response partners, providing an opportunity to evaluate communication, coordination, and decision-making during a realistic emergency scenario.

"This training helped instill confidence in our employees that they know what to do in an emergency," said Jennifer McBroom, CEO. "To me, that was the difference today. It's one thing to sit



through a class and listen to what you should do, but it's another to be tossed into as real a scenario as we can create.

"That's a huge difference and why today mattered. It gives us confidence knowing our co-workers can respond well in an emergency when needed, and I think that makes us a better team."

More than anything, the training reinforced the safety culture and cooperative spirit that defines Barry Electric, the release said.

"Looking out for one another is at the heart of what we do," it said. "Whether responding to outages, serving members, or preparing for emergencies, our employees understand that safety is a shared responsibility."

Barry Electric extended its appreciation to Matt Benzen, of Mercy Hospital, whose coordination and support helped make the exercise possible, as well as Mercy Hospital and the Mercy Life Line flight crew, the South Barry County Ambulance District, and

the Barry County E-911 Center for their partnership and participation in this important training exercise.

"Their support helped create a realistic learning opportunity and demonstrated the strong relationships that help keep our communities safe," the release said.

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Pard Lowe is pictured with remnants of Ozark Chinquapin he picked up off the forest floor on his farm. Terra Fondriest/ Special to the Cassville Democrat



Steve Bost president and founder of the ozark Chinquapin Foundation presents Pard Lowe his plaque of appreciation. Terra Fondriest/Special to the Cassville Democrat

Ozark Chinquapin Foundation holds 2026 Public Meeting

Lowe honored for efforts to protect Ozark chinquapin trees

The Ozark Chinquapin Foundation held its 2026 Public at Roaring River State Park on Aug. 8.

Before the chestnut blight, this region was historically home to an abundant and widespread population of Ozark chinquapin trees, and Roaring River State Park is home to the Ozark Chinquapin Nature Center.

The annual meeting brought together those interested in the restoration of the Ozark chinquapin to learn about the latest research, discoveries and accomplishments in the effort to bring the native tree back to the Ozarks.

As part of the meeting, the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation honored Pard Lowe for his dedication and contributions to the organization and to the preservation of the Ozark chinquapin.

Lowe has played an instrumental role in helping make discoveries and protect Ozark chinquapin trees throughout Barry County, including areas around Cassville, Roaring River State Park and the Mark Twain National Forest.

Steve Bost, president and founder of the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation, presented Lowe with a plaque made from Ozark chinquapin wood in recognition of his "outstanding work saving and restoring the Ozark Chinquapin Tree."

The weekend concluded with a guided hike along the Firetower Trail at Roaring River State Park, where participants had the opportunity to see Ozark chinquapin trees growing in their natural surroundings.

The event highlighted both the rich history of the Ozark chinquapin in the region and the ongoing efforts of local volunteers, researchers and supporters to ensure the species has a future in the Ozarks.

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STRONG CORE RETURNS FROM FINAL FOUR RUN



Cassville's Briley Artherton slides into second base during the district championship game against Seneca last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Lady Wildcats softball looking to build on program momentum

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

After a memorable and historic season that built excitement around the Cassville softball program, Coach Jordan Savage said the Lady Wildcats enter this fall's campaign with momentum, experience and a determination to keep improving.

Cassville returns a strong core of players from last year's team, while also adding several newcomers to create what Savage believes could be one of the program's deepest rosters in recent seasons.

"I believe we have a lot of positive momentum heading into this season," Savage said. "The girls have been excited and have worked hard this off-season. However, while we are proud of what we did last season, we understand that this is a new year and we have things to improve on."

Savage said the players have balanced celebrating last season's accomplishments with maintaining a focus on daily improvement.

"I believe the girls have done a good job of appreciating the year we had while also working hard to get better every day this summer," he said.

A key part of Cassville's success will be its pitching staff, which will be led by senior Tomi Blankenship and junior Madi Yockey. Both pitchers have spent the offseason preparing for expanded roles in the circle.

"Tomi and Madi have both worked extremely hard while looking forward to this opportunity to lead our pitching staff," Savage said. "I expect them

LADY WILDCATS SOFTBALL

What: Season begins Aug. 31 at Glendale; home opener on Sept. 1 against Logan-Rogersville
Returning: Eight players, including pair of pitchers
More: Coach happy with how batting has progressed over summer

both to have great years for us."

Cassville will also add depth in the circle with newcomers Scoti Blankenship and Natalie Thompson expected to contribute innings.

The Lady Wildcats will have to overcome one significant loss, as junior Lili Naugle will miss the season after undergoing offseason surgery.

"Lili has been a great player for us the past two seasons, and we can't wait until she returns to our lineup," Savage said.

Offensively, Savage said Cassville has the potential to be more balanced and consistent throughout the lineup. He said the team placed an emphasis during the offseason on improving swings and becoming tougher from top to bottom.

"I have been extremely pleased with how our swings have looked this summer and how much work our girls have put in toward the offensive side," Savage said. "A big focus for us was just to become more consistent at the plate throughout the lineup."

While summer workouts provide optimism, Savage said game situations will be the true test.

"I believe our lineup will be a tough out and have the ability to score runs in multiple ways," he said.

Cassville returns a veteran nucleus that includes Tomi Blankenship, Yockey, Bri Still, Alex Holycross, Briley Artherton, Addy Ramaeker, Kynzleigh Scott and Harlee Carter.

Joining that group are newcomers Lynkin Carter, Ava Gates, Scoti Blankenship, Thompson, Jade Easley, Madi Gaches, Jolene Stone, Madi Cook, Allie Norris and Kai Hinson.

The competition for playing time has already created a more competitive environment in practice.

"I believe we will have a deep team that will look to compete every day in practice for spots, which should only help us when our season kicks off," Savage said.

Defensively, Cassville expects to remain one of the stronger teams in the area. Savage pointed to the team's softball knowledge and communication as major strengths.

"Defensively, I expect us to continue to be very sound and improve upon what we have done the last few years," he said. "I believe we have some girls with a high softball IQ that are very good at communicating and know how to handle different situations."

Savage said his expectations for the season remain consistent year after year, focusing on daily growth while also keeping the game enjoyable for players.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

Veterans lead Lady Wildcats into new season at the net



Cassville's Sammi Stockton serves the ball during a home bout with Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Coach confident in team's abilities, cohesion

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville volleyball enters the 2026 season with a veteran core, a growing program and expectations of making a deeper postseason run.

Coach Paige Huddleston said the program has continued to build a strong foundation while developing greater depth throughout its roster. That depth could make practices more competitive and strengthen the Lady Wildcats from the top down.

"Our program stands on a strong foundation but is in a state of constant development and growth," Huddleston said. "We have talent deep into our roster this season with our veteran players in pivotal roles on the floor."

Cassville returns four seniors with extensive varsity experience, led by setter Taylor Kennedy, outside hitter Audrey Kennedy, libero Kami Stough and right-side/middle hitter Keely Bailey.

Taylor Kennedy returns for her fourth season as a varsity setter after earning All-District and All-Conference honors. She directed the Lady Wildcats in a 5-1 offense last season and will again be counted on to control the floor.

"Taylor is calm in the chaos of the game," Huddleston said. "Her confidence has grown significantly in the past few seasons, and we will look to her to lead this experienced group."

Audrey Kennedy also enters her fourth season as a varsity starter. The All-District and All-Conference selection has established herself as a six-rotation player capable of contributing in every phase.

"She is a true all-around player balancing an aggressive serving game with high level defense and relentless attacking," Huddleston said.

Stough moves into the libero role after spending the past two seasons making strides as a defensive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Taylor Kennedy keeps a ball in play during a home contest against Mt. Vernon last season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Football

8/28	Monett	Home	7:00 pm
9/4	Aurora	Away	7:00 pm
9/11	Seneca	Home	7:00 pm
9/18	McDonald County	Away	7:00 pm
9/25	East Newton	Away	7:00 pm
10/2	Lamar	Home	7:00 pm
10/9	Miller Career Academy	Home	7:00 pm
10/17	Mt. Vernon	Away	1:00 pm
10/23	Nevada	Away	7:00 pm

Softball

8/28-29 Lead-Off Classic (in Morrisville)				Neutral V		
8/31	Glendale	Away	V, JV	4:30 pm		
9/1	Logan-Rogersville	Home	V, JV	4:30 pm		
9/3	Marshfield	Away	V, JV	4:30 pm		
9/7	Carl Junction	Home	V, JV	4:30 pm		
9/8	McDonald County	Home	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/10	Nevada	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/14	Carthage	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/15	Seneca	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/17	Monett	Home	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/18-19 Branson Festival				Neutral V		
9/21	Neosho	Away	JV	4:30 pm		
9/22	Aurora	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm		
9/24	McDonald County	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm		

Cross Country

9/3	Aurora	Away	4:00 pm
9/10	Seneca	Away	4:00 pm
9/15	Monett	Away	4:00 pm
9/17	Willard	Away	4:00 pm
9/29	Lamar	Away	4:00 pm
10/6	Cassville	Home	4:00 pm
10/13	Hollister	Away	4:00 pm
10/20	Big 8 Championships (in Seneca)	Away	
10/24	Reeds Spring	Away	4:00 pm

Girls Golf

9/2	Cassville Match	Home
9/3	Mt. Vernon	Away
9/8	Neosho Tournament	Away
9/14	Carl Junction Tournament	Away
9/16	Mt Vernon Match	Away
9/21	7th Annual Carthage Invitational	Away
9/24	Cassville Girls Golf Tournament	Home
9/30	Clever Tournament	Away
10/1	Monett Match	Away
10/5	Big 8 Conference Tournament (in Carthage)	Away

Boys Soccer

8/27-29	Webb City Kickoff Classic	Away	
9/3	Bolivar	Home	5:00 pm
9/8-12	Warrior Classic	Neutral	
9/14	Parkview	Away	5:00 pm
9/15	Aurora	Home	5:00 pm
9/21	Crocker	Neutral	5:00 pm
9/22	Monett	Home	5:00 pm
9/26	Greenwood Classic	Away	
9/29	McDonald County	Away	5:00 pm
10/1	New Heights Christian	Away	5:00 pm
10/5	Central	Home	5:00 pm
10/6	Aurora	Away	5:00 pm
10/8	Logan-Rogersville	Away	5:00 pm
10/13	Monett	Away	5:00 pm
10/15	Carl Junction	Away	5:00 pm
10/20	McDonald County	Home	5:00 pm
10/22	Greenwood	Home	5:00 pm
10/26	Clinton (in Springfield)	Neutral	5:00 pm

Volleyball

9/1	Neosho	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
9/3	Sarcoxie	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
9/8	Clever	Away	V, JV, Fr	5:00 pm
9/10	Hillcrest	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
9/12	Aurora JV Inv.	Away	JV	
9/14	Berryville	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm
9/15	Aurora	Home	V, JV, Fr	5:00 pm
9/17	Seneca	Home	V, JV, Fr	5:00 pm
9/19	Buffalo Lady Bison Inv.	Neutral V		
9/21	Diamond	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
9/22	Reeds Spring	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
9/24	Nevada	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

aent's name, business address, and phone number is: TOBIN R DUNN, 620 W REPUBLIC RD SUITE 104, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807, (417) 851-5888

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: December 2, 2025

Date of first publication: August 19, 2026

Date of second publication: August 26, 2026

Date of third publication: September 2, 2026

Date of fourth publication: September 9, 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 08/12/26 32-35

TRUSTEE'S SALES

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 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 FOLLOWING 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 in-formation 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

1st insertion 07/01/26 25-33

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

A default has accrued on a certain note secured by a deed of trust executed by, GEORGIA L. CHRISTENSEN dated 6/29/2010 and recorded on 7/6/2010 in BOOK 10 PAGE 3216, in the Recorder's office for Barry County, Missouri. The successor trustee will on September 8, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, more particularly at 12:00 PM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Cassville, Missouri sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only), the following real estate:

LOT SEVENTEEN (17) IN BLOCK EIGHT (8) IN ORIGINAL TOWN OF MONETT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, SALZER'S SUBDIVISION.

for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

CSM Foreclosure Trustee Corp.

Successor Trustee (800) 652-4080

4x

08/12/2026, 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026

CSM File 26-26-01124

NOTE: This office is a debt collector.

1st insertion 08/12/26 31-34

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

A default has accrued on a certain note secured by a deed of trust executed by, ROBERT R. SKINNER dated 1/12/2022 and recorded on 1/19/2022 in INSTRUMENT NUMBER 202200000965, in the Recorder's office for Stone County, Missouri. The successor trustee will on September 4, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, more particularly at 12:00 PM, at the North Front Door of the Stone County Courthouse, 108 E. 4th Street, Galena, Missouri sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only), the following real estate:

ALL OF LOT FIFTY-FIVE (55), SWISS VILLA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, IN PLAT BOOK 6 PAGE 3, STONE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI.

for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness and the costs of executing this trust.

CSM Foreclosure Trustee Corp.

Successor Trustee (800) 652-4080

4x

08/12/2026, 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026

CSM File 26-26-00971

NOTE: This office is a debt collector.

1st insertion 08/12/26 31-34

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Raymond Lewis Buchanan, Jr., dated March 5, 2021, and recorded on March 8, 2021, Document No. 202101424, in Book No. 21, at Page 1424 and re-recorded on March 10, 2021, Document No. 202101530, in Book No. 21,

at Page 1501 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on September 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

All of Lots 54 and 55, Turkey mountain Estates East 2nd Subdivision, In Barry County, Missouri, commonly known as 23125 Walnut Ln, Shell Knob, MO, 65747

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.

SouthLaw, P.C. Successor Trustee

First Publication: August 26, 2026.

For more information, visit www.southlaw.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (Casefile No. 260468-1098568).

1st insertion 08/26/26 33-36

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of a debt secured by a Deed of Trust executed by 2 Wiseman Enterprises, LLC, a Missouri limited liability company, dated October 9, 2025, and recorded on October 16, 2025, in the office of the Stone County Recorder of Deeds as Instrument Number 202500010975, and describing the following real property:

ALL OF LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK A, UNIT NO. 1, TURNER'S ESTATE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, PLAT

BOOK 3, PAGE 65, STONE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI;

SUBJECT TO EASEMENT DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A PART OF LOT 4, BLOCK A, TURNER'S ESTATES UNIT NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 65, STONE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 4, BLOCK A; THENCE SOUTH 68°09'35" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 4 A DISTANCE OF 114.14 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF A BUILDING BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 68°09'35" WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 3.00 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST EDGE OF AN EXISTING BUILDING; THENCE NORTH 19°32'38" WEST ALONG SAID BUILDING TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BUILDING; THENCE NORTH 71°21'17" EAST ALONG SAID BUILDING 3.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; CONTAINING .25 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS.

at the request of the legal holder of the note who has elected to declare the entire indebtedness due and payable, and in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Trust, the undersigned Trustee will on Friday, September 18, 2026, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., particularly at 10:00 a.m., outside the north door of the old Stone County Courthouse, 108 E. 4th Street, Galena, Missouri, 65656 sell the property at public venue to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said debts and costs.

Cody A. Fenton, Successor Trustee

Fenton & Grimwood, Attorneys at Law, LLC

500 W. Main St., Suite 401

Branson, MO 65616

(417) 335-3550

1st insertion 8/26/26 33-36

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Cassville's Tomi Blankenship connects on a pitch during a home contest against Marshfield last season. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Addy Ramaecker makes the tag at home plate in a game against Marshfield last season. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Softball: Home opener on Tuesday against Logan-Rogersville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"My expectations for this season are the same as they have been," he said. "I expect us to work each day in practice to get better and improve both individually and as a team while also not losing sight of the fact that this game is supposed to be fun and something that is meant to be enjoyed."

He said creating an environment where players can be themselves while pursu-

ing team goals is an important part of the program's culture.

"I try to allow every girl to be themselves while also understanding we have team goals that should be the focus of our work each day," Savage said.

Now entering another season in charge of the Lady Wildcats, Savage reflected on his journey into softball coaching. A former base-

ball player and coach, he said learning the differences between the two sports helped shape his coaching philosophy.

"As a former baseball player and baseball coach my transition into softball at the start of my career was not always the easiest," Savage said. "While on the outside it may look similar, they truly are two completely different games and

call for different situations and ways to play the game."

Savage credited time spent at East Newton and McDonald County for helping him grow as a coach and teacher.

"I can't thank those people enough that impacted the way I approach coaching and teaching," he said.

With a veteran core, developing depth and strong competition for

playing time, the Lady Wildcats believe they have the pieces to build on last season's success. The challenge now, Savage said, is to continue improving one day at a time while embracing the opportunities that come with a new season.

Cassville's regular season begins on Aug. 31 on the road against Glendale. The home opener is Sept. 1 against Logan-Rogersville.

Cassville Women’s Invitational well-attended



Janie Watson, of Cassville, sends a tee shot toward the green during action at the Cassville Women's Invitational at the Cassville Golf Club on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Linda Hyde, right, of Springfield, sends a shot toward the pin while her teammate, Kim Mullen, of Bella Vista, Ark., looks on. The pair played in the Cassville Women's Invitational at the Cassville Golf Club on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cindy Benson, of Plattsmouth, Neb., tees off on Hole No. 4 during the Cassville Women's Invitational at the Cassville Golf Club on Thursday. Around 100 women participated in the annual tournament, which consisted of five total flights. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Shasta Sanders, left, putts while teammate Kate Resz looks on during the Cassville Women's Invitational at the Cassville Golf Club on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Susie Jacobs plays an approach shot on Hole No. 2, coming within feet of the pin, at the Cassville Women's Invitational at the Cassville Golf Club on Thursday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Volleyball: Team has Lamar matchup circled because of atmosphere

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

specialist.

“She has put in a lot of hard work in the off season to sharpen her defense and elevate her game,” Huddleston said.

Bailey brings another intriguing piece to the veteran group. Injuries have limited her since her freshman season, but she has worked during the off-season to return to competition. Huddleston said Bailey could make an impact as both a blocker and hitter on the right side.

Junior middle hitter Sammi Stockton rounds out the returning varsity group. Although Huddleston said she does not fit the traditional mold of a tall middle hitter, Stockton’s intelligence and work ethic allow her to create problems at the net.

“Sammi makes her own waves with her grit and unyielding hard work,” Huddleston said.

Cassville also has several younger players competing for expanded varsity roles.

Junior outside hitters Abbi Yarnall and Isabel Castleberry both saw varsity action last season after spending time on the junior varsity squad. Huddleston said both could take on more consistent roles on the outside as their confidence and consistency continue to develop.

Yarnall brings energy to the floor, while Castleberry has a powerful swing that could become an important offensive weapon as she becomes more consistent, Huddleston said.

Sophomore Kristel Seseñas could contribute as a defensive specialist after serving as a JV setter and varsity defensive specialist last season.

Freshman setter Reagan Truman also enters the season prepared to compete for varsity playing time. Huddleston said Truman could see time either as a setter or defensive specialist, depending on the combinations Cassville uses on the floor.

The Lady Wildcats’ biggest strength, according to Huddleston, may not be any individual skill, but rather, the chemistry that comes from a group that has played together for multiple seasons.

“Our team mentality and cohesion as a group,” Huddleston said. “This group of seniors leads our gym with a heavy emphasis on team mentality and an

urgency of playing all out for those around them.”

That familiarity could be particularly valuable in close matches. Huddleston said the players have established relationships on the court and understand how to play for one another.

At the same time, Cassville will need to become more aggressive if it hopes to reach its postseason goals.

“We have to be more aggressive and be willing to take some risks,” Huddleston said. “We have talent and experience in all positions, so I think we will have to take some calculated risks, particularly in the tough matches.”

Huddleston wants the Lady Wildcats to become more aggressive during transition and also take advantage of opportunities when they are in system. The schedule is designed to provide opportunities to do just that.

Cassville will face larger programs such as Neosho and Hillcrest, along with consistently competitive teams, including Clever and Diamond, during its

non-conference schedule. Huddleston said playing difficult opponents early should prepare the Lady Wildcats for conference and postseason competition.

The Sept. 29 home match against Lamar is one game Huddleston has circled. While she said every conference match provides an opportunity for a strong home crowd to give Cassville an advantage, the Lamar match carries additional appeal because of the atmosphere created by Lamar’s student section when the Lady Wildcats travel there.

“I would love to pack our stands and make a resounding presence as fans when we battle it out,” Huddleston said.

Beyond the individual wins and losses, Huddleston said the program’s growth is evident in its numbers and depth. The increased participation has created more competition throughout the gym, which she believes will benefit the entire program.

The Lady Wildcats’

goals remain centered on continued improvement and making a deeper postseason run than in previous seasons.

“We always expect to get better as the season progresses and really show confidence going into the postseason,” Huddleston said. “Because of the varsity experience in our returning players, they have high expectations and want to go farther in the post season than previous years.”

Huddleston also pointed to a characteristic she believes distinguishes this year’s group — its faith and humility.

“Every team has talent, experience and hard work, but this group particularly has a profound faith; in each other, in us as coaches, and in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” Huddleston said.

She said the players’ willingness to put the team ahead of themselves has made an impression

beyond the volleyball court.

As younger players push the veteran group in practice and the seniors take on greater leadership responsibilities, Huddleston expects the competition to continue raising the program’s level.

“It’s going to be a fun season with some of the

young talent coming up and pushing our older girls,” Huddleston said. “Our program continues to grow and we just want to keep chasing progress.”

Cassville’s first regular-season contest is on the road at Neosho on Sept. 1. The home opener is on Sept. 10 against Hillcrest.



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WILDCAT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

 Clay Williamson	 Kendal Allison
 Estrella Garcia	 Reagan Doucet



CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER

Weekly Menu

WEEK OF AUG. 31 - SEPT. 4, 2026

MONDAY AUGUST 31	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4
Greek Chicken Roasted Potatoes Tossed Salad Garlic Breadstick Zebra Cake	Chicken Parmesan Whole Grain Pasta Italian Veggies Garlic Breadstick Italian Cream Cake	Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Green Beans Biscuit German Chocolate Cake	Pork Carnitas Tacos w/ Fixings* Cilantro Lime Coleslaw Refried Beans Cinnamon-Sugar Sopapilla	Grill Day! Hamburgers or Hot Dogs Bruschetta Pasta Salad Cucumber Salad Watermelon Salad Apple Cobbler



Salad Bar

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and Friday

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PLATE \$4.00



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



*On days pork is served, and alternate is available upon request