



MISSOURI'S BEST SMALL-TOWN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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\$1.25



MASTER GARDENERS TO HOST FALL WORKSHOP — PAGE 9A

<<< WILDCATS BLANK AURORA, 44-0
Due to Labor Day deadline, football recap can be found on page 10A

CASSVILLE Democrat

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

WATER SYSTEMS

What: Neosho water and wastewater system sold to private company
Cassville: Intends to continue local ownership
Downside: Cassville does not currently have the rate structure in place to support the needed improvements to the city's water system

Aging water systems present challenges

Asbill: Rate structure does not support needed improvements

BY SHEILA HARRIS
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) recently approved the sale of the City of Neosho's water and wastewater systems to Missouri American Water (MAW) for \$34.5 million, with the completed sale announced by MAW on Sept. 3.

A subsidiary of the publicly-traded American Water Works Company, Missouri American Water operates public water and wastewater systems across Missouri, as well as in other states. As a shareholder-owned utility corporation serving the public, they are subject to the regulations of the PSC.

A City of Neosho press release stated that the City's water infrastructure had been in place for over 80 years, and required "substantial upgrades and improvements," that would "cost tens of millions of dollars, require dramatic rate increases and/or the approval of bond measures with additional taxes and take decades" to complete.

Neosho's situation is not uncommon, according to Richard Asbill, Cassville city administrator. "Most rural communities that operate their own water and wastewater systems face similar challenges with aging infrastructure and coming up with the funds to make upgrades," he said.

According to a Sept. 3 article in The Joplin Globe, Neosho "reported that the water lines [there] leak 50% or more of the water that is filtered before it reaches any water customer."

Asbill explained that leaks are unavoidable as public water systems age, and that Cassville has its fair share.

"If you pump 100,000 gallons of water from wells, but only 88,000 gallons are going through meters, you have to start doing some evaluating," Asbill said. "Did the loss occur in a month, or over a year? Is the loss tied to one major leak, or to leakage throughout the overall infrastructure?"

Asbill and Mike Hagins, Cassville public works director who manages the water and wastewater system, explained that Cassville's karst topography provides its own challenges.

"Water leaks in Cassville might not show up on the surface of the ground," Asbill said. "Water might drain directly into the ground

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EXETER EXPANSION COMPLETE



Brylee Harger, a junior at Exeter, works with the welding equipment in the new shop room at the district. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

New areas provide career opportunities, added facilities

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A project years in the making has given Exeter students new spaces for weightlifting, agricultural education, career exploration and band, also providing the district facilities designed to serve students long into

the future.

Exeter Superintendent Tim Jordan said the project grew out of conversations that began about a decade ago regarding the district's long-term needs.

"The idea was we really needed a place where our kids could lift weights in a safe place instead of travel-

ing across campus to go do that outside in a building," Jordan said.

At the same time, Exeter's band and music programs were growing, while the agriculture department was operating in an aging facility.

"The old ag shop and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

TRI-STATE MARKETING & TOURISM ALLIANCE

What: New organization aimed at promoting tourism in tri-state area
Who: Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce joins Alliance
More: Quarterly magazine aims to show residents what things they can do in their own backyards

Cassville joins regional tourism alliance

Effort aims to promote small communities in Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce is joining more than a dozen chambers, Main Streets and communities across three states in a new effort to promote regional tourism and encourage residents to explore destinations closer to home.

The Tri-State Marketing & Tourism Alliance includes communities across southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma. The alliance is designed to give smaller communities a collective marketing reach that would be difficult for any one chamber or community to achieve independently.

Morgan Williams, Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce director, said the Alliance was presented to her by John Newby, president and CEO of the McDonald County Chamber of Commerce.

"He was very excited and said that there was a potential to work with smaller communities, much like ourselves, McDonald County, and a way to partner so that we can collectively reach a greater good versus the smaller ones getting lost in the mix," Williams said.

According to Newby, the alliance currently represents more than 5,000 businesses, hundreds of thousands of social media followers and more than 400,000 residents across the three states.

The region stretches from Pryor, Okla., to the west, as far north as Joplin and Springfield, the Branson area to the east and roughly Fayetteville, Ark., to the south. Participating communi-

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Purdy school board reviews tax levy, repairs

Teacher hired, lunch prices raised a dime

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

Purdy school board members completed preparations for the new school year, including a review of troublesome facility issues, at its Aug. 13 meeting.

Board members approved the annual tax levy for the upcoming tax cycle. The district saw real estate values grow by almost \$270,000, while personal property increased by more than \$307,000. New construction added \$670,000 in value to the assessment. That calculated out to \$17,431 in new revenue and \$18,427 more from new construction and improvements. Superintendent Travis Graham said he expected valuations to rise 7 to 10 percent next year,

due to reassessment.

The total levy for the district came to \$3,5219 per \$100 of assessed property. That breaks down to \$2.75 as the state minimum levy for general operations and \$.7719 for retiring debt.

Facility issues

Moving into regular business, Graham updated the board on repairs following the April hailstorm. The Missouri United School Insurance Council (MUSIC) authorized \$600,000 for repairs to the thermoplastic polyolefin roofing (TPO) membrane roofs, those over the elementary office, the elementary addition, the central office area, and the entire middle school. The FEMA building and the gym were not identified as compromised.

Graham reported new playground equipment, the last piece purchased with a grant from the

federal Education Stabilization Fund for COVID relief, has been in storage. The maintenance crew planned to have it assembled and in place by the start of classes.

The two heating and cooling units in the gym have been a running issue. Graham reported diagnostics determined the newest unit, still under warranty, had completely failed, putting all of the load on the three-year-old unit. Crews were working on resolving issues with the control board, after which the failed unit would be addressed. Another unit over the middle school had a rusted-out heater coil that had been repaired. Another over a middle school band room failed and had been replaced for \$3,000.

Board action

Completing preparations for the opening of classes, the board

hired David Jack as a new high school science teacher. The substitute teacher list was updated.

Meal prices, falling in line with standards set by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the US Department of Agriculture, rose from \$2.40 to \$2.50 for student lunches. Remaining meals stayed the same.

Graham briefed the board on in-service sessions for faculty on Aug. 17 to 20, and the intruder training drill on Aug. 10, done with the Barry County Sheriff's office.

On Gov Mike Kehoe's plans

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COVERING BARRY COUNTY, MO., LIKE THE MORNING DEW SINCE 1871.

LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

12 Pioneer Families reunion Sept. 20

The 92nd annual reunion of the 12 Pioneer Families of Southwest Missouri and the surrounding areas will be held on Sept. 20 at the Monett City Park Casino, located at 101 S. Lincoln Ave. in Monett's South Park. Descendants and persons interested in local history are welcome. Doors open at 11 a.m. The potluck lunch begins at 1 p.m. and the family meeting commences at 2 p.m. Additional information is available by emailing 12pioneerfamilies@gmail.com.

Capps Creek Road District to meet

The Capps Creek Special Road District will meet in regular session on Sept. 17 at noon at the home of Garry and Pam Bartkoski, located at 5086 Farm Road 2057 in Monett. The public is welcome to attend.

Barry County Museum changes hours

Effective immediately, the hours at the Barry County Museum have changed. The Museum is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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@barry-countyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Today (Wednesday), Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m. ("Snow Globe" by Soyoung Park); Thursday, Kids' Craft: Beaded Pets, 3:30 p.m. (registration required); Friday, CHS Kickoff at the Library, 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m.; Monday, Adult Paint Night, 5:30 p.m. (registration and \$5 fee required); Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Storytime, 10 a.m., Scrapbook, 5 p.m.

Old Church Gallery Farmers Market open

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

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

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.

Backpack program receives \$6,600 donation



The Cassville Backpack Program recently accepted a \$6,600 donation from the Pythagoras Lodge No. 383 and Masonic Home in Cassville. The program helps students dealing with food insecurity by sending home nonperishable food items home with students for weekend or school breaks. The program serves the primary, intermediate and middle schools, and it is supported by local food drives, donations and grants. From left: Mary Willy, intermediate school counselor; Becca Beagle, middle school counselor; Dan Philbrick, master of the Cassville Masonic Lodge; Ken Latschar, junior warden; and William King, Lodge treasurer. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Alliance: People still like printed products in hand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ties currently have populations of fewer than 50,000.

Williams said the goal is to encourage people to find vacation and recreational opportunities within the region rather than traveling farther away.

"The whole goal is to offer a vacation spot in your backyard," she said. "Keep our tourism and our sales tax dollars local to benefit the counties that we live in and that we're trying to grow and keep thriving."

For Cassville, Williams said Roaring River State Park provides an obvious tourism draw, while other communities in the alliance offer attractions she was previously unfamiliar with despite being less than an hour away.

"There's things that go on over there that I had no idea about, and they're less than an hour's drive from us, and vice versa," Williams said. "So, even in northwest Arkansas, and even in Oklahoma, there's a lot of people there that some of them surprisingly have never heard of Roaring River."

The alliance's first project will be Ozarks 411, a print and digital magazine focused on tourism and regional lifestyle.

Williams said approximately 15,000 copies will be produced each quarter, for a total of about 60,000 copies annually distributed throughout the region. The publication will include community events, attractions and things to do throughout the participating communities.

"It's a tourism guide," Williams said. "We'll be able to promote local stuff like our community events, but also things to do in the area, like the lake and the river."

The effort also will include a Facebook page and website to supplement

the print publication.

Newby said the alliance is intended to provide businesses with access to a three-state audience without requiring them to negotiate separate advertising agreements with numerous communities.

"Together, we're impossible to ignore," Newby said. "That's the whole idea: the sum of this group is far greater than the total of its individual parts, and the reach we are building together simply doesn't exist anywhere else in the region."

Williams said participating chambers will handle their own advertising commitments. She said the arrangement is intended to remain affordable for smaller businesses.

Newby said businesses that belong to a participating chamber can purchase a full-page advertisement in Ozarks 411 for hundreds of dollars, rather than the thousands of dollars often associated with similar regional advertising opportunities.

Williams said Cassville's participation will likely include a community calendar of events and a sponsorship opportunity, although final details have yet to be determined.

The alliance also is intended to encourage tourism between neighboring communities, with visitors traveling to one community potentially discovering other destinations during their trips.

Williams said McDonald County recently released a bike trail map showing routes and alternatives extending from Northwest Arkansas through McDonald County and as far east as Cassville.

"While it's not the traditional bike trails that you think of in Northwest Arkansas, it offers bicyclists

dirt roads, different alternatives to be able to extend their trip even further," she said.

Williams said the regional approach also fits with another tourism project she is developing with Mount Vernon, Aurora and Monett.

The group is creating a smaller regional tourism effort called Explore the Four, which will include its own website and social media presence.

"I was working on that with those three, and then this came about, and I was like, 'Well, OK, we'll do all the things,'" Williams said.

Newby said the Alliance grew out of conversations among chamber and Main Street leaders who recognized the challenges smaller communities face when competing for attention with larger regional destinations.

The founding participants include the Cassville Chamber, Berryville Chamber, Bella Vista Business Association, Centerton Chamber, Decatur Chamber, Gentry Chamber, Gravette Chamber, Grove Chamber, Hollister Chamber, Miami Visitors and Convention Bureau, Monett Chamber, Mount Vernon, McDonald County Chamber, Rea Ridge and Pryor Chamber, among others.

Newby said nearly 40 communities have expressed interest, although the Alliance will not count communities toward its total reach until their numbers are confirmed.

Williams said she is particularly interested in the opportunity to promote Cassville and the surrounding area to people who may not otherwise consider it a tourism destination.

"It's exciting," she said. "I think it's a great way to be able to reach multiple peo-

ple in Southwest Missouri, Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Oklahoma."

The effort also looks as local communities look for additional ways to promote themselves following the closure of the Barry County Advertiser, Williams said.

She said the continued availability of print material remains important, noting the Cassville Chamber recently brought back its visitors' guide after several years without one.

"A lot of people like to still have print in hand," she said. "We recently brought back our visitors' guide after not having one for a few years, and that seems to have gone over really well and been a big hit."

Newby said the Alliance is intended to give smaller communities and businesses a larger collective voice while keeping tourism dollars circulating within the region.

"With retail struggling and AI and robotics taking jobs, tourism and lifestyle are one of the remaining economic engines left for our communities," Newby said. "By working together instead of in isolation, we can send visitors, and their dollars, flowing between our communities in a way none of us could generate alone."

Williams said the alliance gives Cassville another avenue to showcase what the community and surrounding area have to offer while also building relationships with neighboring communities. The initiative is built around the idea that communities can benefit by promoting one another rather than competing for the same visitors.

"We're not here to compete with anyone," Newby said. "We're here to prove what's possible when communities stop doing it alone."

CORRECTIONS

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

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Purdy FFA Chapter Helps Pack 252,564 Meals at State Fair

2026 Drive to Feed Kids Honors America’s 250th

Members of the Purdy FFA Chapter joined more than 782 FFA members from 95 Missouri FFA Chapters and agricultural leaders to pack meals, a capstone celebration through service of the Missouri Farmers Care Foundation’s (MFCF) 2026 Drive to Feed Kids (Drive). The Missouri FFA Day of Service spanned Aug. 17-18 at the Missouri State Fair. Members packed 252,564 meals to feed food insecure Missouri families.

This year’s event is a celebration for Missouri FFA, too, marking the organization’s tenth annual Day of Service. The generous support of ADM, Brownfield Ag News, Missouri Farmers Care and partners across Missouri agriculture sustain the Drive, an annual year-round effort to stand in the gap for the one in five Missouri children facing food insecurity.

“Reaching 250,000 meals is an incredible way to celebrate 10 years of Missouri FFA’s Day of Service,” says Ashley McCarty, executive director of Missouri Farmers Care Foundation. “For a decade, FFA members have modeled ‘living to serve’, turning one day of action into a lasting impact for Missouri families. This year’s effort is especially meaningful as we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary and see the next generation of agricultural leaders put service into action. We are grateful to the students, volunteers and partners across Missouri agriculture who



continue to make this tradition possible.”

The Drive culminated on Aug. 22, with an announcement of the 825,196 meals Missouri agriculture provided to Feeding Missouri food banks during the 2026 Drive. The meals were distributed through Feeding Missouri to the state’s six regional food banks and which serve more than 1,500 food pantries.

In addition to the meal packing event, non-perishable and monetary donations collected on \$2 Tuesday equaled nearly 56,000 meals donated by fairgoers. Through the Drive’s Hogs for Hunger initiative, 4-H and FFA members committed 50 pigs, which will provide over 36,000 servings of high-protein pork to regional food banks.

“Living to Serve, as stated in the FFA motto, is truly

embodied by FFA members during the Food Insecurity Day at the Missouri State Fair,” said Allyson Burns, 2026-27 Missouri FFA State Vice President. “This event allows ag industry leaders and FFA members to make a difference in their local communities.”

Missouri FFA State President Ellie Samek added, “This day provides members from across the state an opportunity to fight food insecurity and highlights our association’s commitment to serving others.”

The Missouri Farmers Care Foundation Drive to Feed Kids is made possible through the generous support of Missouri agriculture and business partners, including: ADM, Brownfield Ag News, American Family Insurance, Missouri FQHC Rural Health

Network, Show-Me America 250, Nutra-Blend, MFA Incorporated, FCS Financial, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council, The Poultry Federation, Jerry Litton Family Memorial Foundation, Smithfield Foods, Missouri Farm Bureau, Martin Rice, Missouri FFA Foundation, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, Hunter’s Moon Run N Gun, Home State Health, Missouri’s Electric Cooperatives, PivotBio, Beck’s Hybrids, Missouri 4-H Foundation, Missouri Pork, and the Missouri State Fair Foundation.

Missouri Farmers Care is a joint effort by Missouri’s agriculture community to stand together for the men and women who provide the food and jobs on which our communities depend. The coalition of more than 40 leading Missouri agricultural groups promotes the growth of Missouri agriculture and rural communities through coordinated communication, education and advocacy.

Missouri Farmers Care Foundation enables Missourians to understand the influence and importance of agriculture in their daily lives by serving as the centralized hub of the unified educational programs, awards, and hunger relief efforts of Missouri’s agricultural community.

Drive To Feed Kids is more than just a food drive. Launched in 2017, the Drive to Feed Kids builds collaborative partnerships among nonprofits, farmers, and agribusinesses committed to addressing food insecurity across the state. To learn more, including how to get involved in 2027, visit <https://mofarmerscare.com/drive/>.

Barry County Health Corner



Show Me Healthy Women offers free screenings

Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings for Missouri women who meet age, income and insurance guidelines.

SMHW began in 1992, and is Missouri’s implementation of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). SMHW is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several national, regional and local partner organizations. There are provider locations throughout the state, including local public health agencies, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, private physician offices and not for profit health centers.

Screening Services Provided: Clinical breast exams (CBE), Screening mammograms for women age 50-64, Screening mammograms for women 40-49 using donated funds (if available), Pap tests, and Pelvic exams.

Diagnostic Services Provided: Specialist consultation (breast and cervical), Diagnostic mammograms, Ultrasound, Fine needle aspiration, Cold knife conization (diagnostic purposes), Breast biopsies, Loop electrode biopsy (LEEP), and Colposcopy (with or without biopsy).

Cervical Cancer Screenings for Women who have had a Hysterectomy: Due to cervical cancer or dysplasia are eligible for CBE, pelvic examination and Pap test, or due to any reason other than cervical cancer or dysplasia are eligible for one Pap test and pelvic examination to determine the absence or presence of the cervix, or due to conditions other than cervical cancer or dysplasia and the cervix is absent are eligible for a CBE.

Age Guidelines: Women Age 21-64 are eligible for cervical cancer screening services, clinical breast exam (CBE) and diagnostic follow-up for abnormal results. Women Age 40-64 are eligible for breast and cervical cancer screening services, clinical breast exam (CBE) and diagnostic follow-up for abnormal results. Women Over Age 64 who do not have Medicare Part B may also receive services through the program.

Income Guidelines: Clients must have a household income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines. Adjusted gross income on tax return or net amount on pay stub determines income eligibility.

Women with MO HealthNet, Medicare Part B or HMO health coverage are not eligible for SMHW.

Anyone with questions or wanting to schedule an appointment may call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114. The Department is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Purdy: Schools to get \$28,000 grant through bank

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

to give every school district a letter grade in the coming year in addition to the Annual Performance Review from DESE, Graham said DESE issued parameters on what to evaluate and how to prepare. He noted DESE wants to pull progress results from Renaissance, while the district uses the STAR assessments for grades 7 and 8. He was

unsure as yet what evaluation tool will be used for the high school and if that requires a change for the district.

Graham reported First State Bank of the Ozarks had secured a \$28,000 grant for the district through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa, one of several the bank arranged for its service area. The bank made

a \$7,0000 contribution toward the grant. Funds can be used to support student organizations and extracurricular programs through equipment, supplies, competition fees, travel and other resources.

Graham said the district “very much appreciates” the support. Funds could be used to offset the activities account. He extended special thanks to Randy

Henderson, bank president and former Purdy school board president, for his efforts on the district’s behalf.

“This is the first time the state of Missouri has qualified for this grant,” Graham said. “It could be a three- or four-year rotation before we could get another.”

The next board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 17.

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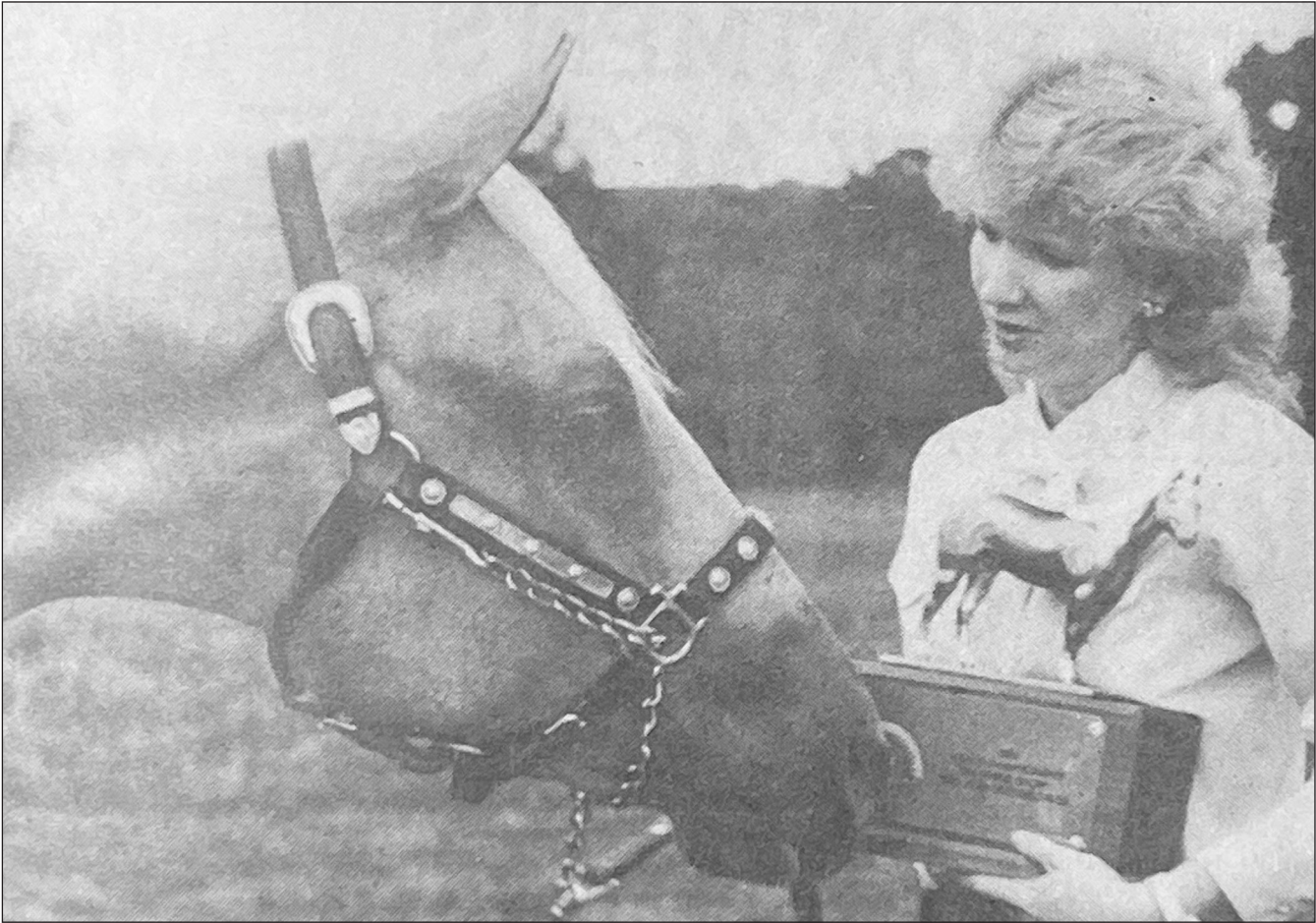
50 years ago

Sept. 15, 1976
— **TABLE ROCK OVER MILLION VISITORS AHEAD OF 1975**

To say that Table Rock Reservoir is headed toward a banner visitor year is not a bit premature. Richard Groves, project director for the Army Corps of Engineers, told the Democrat this week the reservoir was running 1,426,000 visitors ahead of last year at the end of July. Groves said figures that would include August and the Labor Day weekend had not come out of computer banks at the Little Rock, Ark., district office. However, he said figures through the end of July had total visitor numbers standing at 4,128,000. At this same point of the year in 1975 the figure was 3,702,000. The year previous January through July visitors numbered 3,448,000. Initial figures for Labor Day did indicate that approximately 350,000 people were on public use facilities around the reservoir during the four-day holiday. The 1976 figures for this particular area reflected about the same growth as those of the entire lake according to Groves. He listed the area's six public use areas and their visitor numbers, again at the end of July, as follows: Campbell Point 55,714, Viola 44,508, Eagle Rock 95,928, Big M 32,420, Viney Creek 24,746 and Kings River 5,037. Groves said the Branson office had no figures available on Table Rock standing with other regional reservoirs. In years past the lake has led the Dallas, Texas, region in attracting visitors in the area labeled as southwest by the corps. For instance last year the reservoir attracted a total of 6,188,100 visitors. The previous year the lake was atop regional figures with a 5.6 million visitation standing. None of the engineer figures include facilities on private property around the lake. Resorts and private camping facilities have been experiencing summer crowds in record numbers. Sharing in the increases at the Barry County communities of Shell Knob, Viola, Golden, Mano and Eagle Rock. Early spring decreases in visitor numbers due to weather conditions were apparently wiped out with growth factors commencing in June and continuing through Labor Day. Resort and boat dock facilities now are watching trends that indicate a healthy growth in visitor numbers during the early fall. Factors usually attracting people to the clear water areas of south Barry County during the fall include better fishing trends and the Flaming Fall Review, predicted for the second and third week of October.

— **10,500 SWINE FLU DOSES ON ORDER FOR BARRY COUNTY**

Sometime after the first of October, 10,500 doses of swine flu vaccine will be arriving in Barry County. Then, around October 26-27, clinics will be established for the administering of the vaccine to those 18 years and older in the county. Barry County Health Unit officials this week announced the established schedule as it exists at present. Mrs. Edith Purdom, administering nurse at the unit, said clinic locations had not been established but would be announced soon. A meeting next Wednesday night at the health unit will bring Dr. O. A. Griffin, District Five health officer from Springfield to meet with physicians and hospital administrators in the area. In his program, Dr. Griffin will present slides and material on the federal program. Mrs. Purdom says that session will plan distribution and administration of the vaccine. Mrs. Pat Tichenor, clerk at the unit, said this week there was wide interest in the county concerning the program, set by the federal government to avoid expected outbreaks of flu this winter. Officials recently noted that an outbreak in 1918 resulted in 84 deaths in Barry County and 87 in Lawrence. Unit officials said the vaccine request from Barry County included 8,000 doses of regular serum and 2,500 for those 65 years of age and older.



40 YEARS AGO: THAT'S THE TROPHY WE WON — Chipper, two-year-old Palomino gelding, looks at his world class trophy, held by owner Dana Kammerlohr. The horse won the top world honor in hisclass last week in Indianapolis, Indiana. He added three other wins this last weekend in Tulsa for good measure. Gold Tailwind, his real name, was in only his fifth weekend of showings while topping his class in the Indiana events. Democrat file photo

The supply will be used to provide needs for both clinics and those desiring to have the vaccine administered by their private physician. Original shipments are expected October 4 by the State Division of Health which in turn will distribute requirements to district offices. Distribution of the vaccine has been entangled in legal requirements as to who will be responsible for liability. The federal government, which is providing the program at no cost, is also covering the manufacturers and physicians who participate in established clinics. Mrs. Tichenor said medical people in the county were in the process of determining their individual needs. Programs have not been established for giving the vaccine to persons under 18 years of age. Officials believe arrangements will be announced soon for this age group. In advance of the program, persons with ailments or those uncertain about their ability to take the vaccine are being requested to consult with their physician prior to participating in the program. Those allergic to eggs are especially urged to take this precaution. Mrs. Tichenor said daily phone inquiries regarding the time and location of clinics were being answered with the statement, "adequate notice will be given news media of clinic locations and instructions. That's all we can say at the present time."

40 years ago

Sept. 17, 1986
— **131 FASCO EMPLOYEES GET SERVICE AWARDS AT BANQUET**

Cassville's largest industry feted 131 employees Tuesday night in the second annual Service Awards Banquet. FASCO Industries Inc., a subsidiary of Hawker Siddeley Co. of London, England, acknowledged 20- and 10-year employees. Also honored were members of the Founders Club. Corporate officials here for the event included James F. Callahan, chairman of the board of directors from Boca Raton, Florida; Rod Karpen, senior vice-president from St. Louis offices; and Jack Golen, vice-presi-

dent human resources, from the Chicago, Illinois offices. Following a buffet dinner at the Cassville schools facility, the program included a welcome by Steve Buchheit, personnel manager. The invocation was by Rodney Hughes of the plant's quality circles. Comments and introductions came from Morris Castleberry, vice-president and plant manager. Callahan was the principal speaker, and then was assisted by Castleberry in presenting 20-year awards to six persons. Included were Dewey Nelson, Garland Parker, Darrell Pueppke, Charles Shore, Dale Stewart and Jerry Workman, all FASCO employees prior to the firm installing a plant here in 1975. Receiving 10-year recognition in the program, most of whom began FASCO employment with the start-up in Cassville were: Kathy Andrews, Ken Balmas, Mike Bateman, Jackie Bowman, Rose Bowman, Delores Box, Retha Brattin, Donna Brennan, Bert Brown, Jeanetta Brown, Keith Brown, Sue Brown, Susan Buntin, Virginia Buntin, Bernice Burnette, Leta Burnette, Mary Ann Clark, Bob Cole, Cheryl Dale, Ronnie Coleman, Jim Cook, Kervin Cook, Minnie Cornell, Alvin Cornman, Kim Craig, Janice Crawford, Bud Creason, Dennis Dake, Brenda Darneal, Donald Decker, Lorene Dotson, Marsha Gager, Karen Garrett, and Mildred Garrett. Kimie Gautney, Devilla Gunter, Evelyn Haddock, Gaylord Hadlow, Georgina Harris, Jerry Heiniger, Jean Henson, Melba Henson, Connie Higgs, Ruth Horton, Rodney Hughes, Leo Intessimone, Bill Jones, Clara Laizure, Jerry Laney, Linda Laverty, Dennis Ledgerwood, Steve Love, Jeannie Lucas, Les Lyons, Darlene Malarkey, Gary Martin, Darlene McCracken, Judy McNabb, Danny Miller, Debbie Miller, Gerry Miller, Danny Morgan, Johnny Morgan, Mike Morris, Ernie Newman, Dollie Owens, Sue Owens, Steve Pendergraft and Linda Petty. Roberta Pierce, Leonard Pittman, Clara Pointer, Lennie

Potter, Ruth Preddy, Jerry Ray, Steve Reed, Mary Ann Renfrow, David Rose, Dorothy Sams, Carol Schieler, Ned Senter, David Shelley, Marie Shelley, Connie Shuey, Louise Skelton, Allen Sparks, Betty Stansberry, Henry Staub, Lou Stewart, Diane Stillions, Lauren Stockton, Betty Jo Stringer, Cathy Terry, Mary Terry, Eudora Tillman, Doyle Tucker, Brenda Turner, Karen Walker, Les Watson, Lonnie Weston, Linda L. Williams, Olieva Wolf and Mava Writer. Founders Club recognitions from Morry Golden, president, went to: Cub Bair, Jim Basye, Buchheit, Castleberry, Myrtle Clifton, Bill Craft, Goldin, Leland Hodges, Elaine Horner, Imogene Hurt, Jim Lindsey, Margaret Luney, Jewell Robbins, Don Stockton, Nelson, Parker, Pueppke, Shore, Stewart and Workman.

— **CHIPPER'S BEST IN USA**

A two-year-old Palomino gelding, Chipper, is the 1986 Palomino Horse Breeder's Association world champion for 1986. Chipper, whose real name is Gold Tailwind, is owned by Mrs. Dana Kammerlohr of Cassville. And, he had further area background. He came from the Arthur Davidson Quarter Horse Farm at Monett. Chipper's accomplishment didn't come easy. He had to get his act together in four weekends of showings before the world show in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 11. But, he did it quite nicely, qualifying for the world showing the first weekend round. Mrs. Kammerlohr, who got her start in horse backgrounds as a member of the Rough Rider 4-H Club in Cassville, "many years ago," said the gelding was conditioned for showing by Roger Coday of Collinsville, Oklahoma. The owner, who was accompanied on the trip by her mother, Mrs. Tommie Tomblin, shares another love of animals. Her husband is Cassville veterinarian Dr. M. A. Kammerlohr,

Jr. They both agree the nicknames of Chip Chipper have no. Judging in the world class event was in halter and conformation. According to literature, the judges named Chipper to the honor because he was the best horse out of the class that typifies the ideal animal. The September 11 event wasn't enough for the horse and promoters. Over this past weekend they were in Tulsa for the Rogers County Fair. There entered, Chipper walked away with first in amateur 1984 gelding, first in open 1984 gelding and reserve champion amateur gelding. Mrs. Kammerlohr dedicated the win to her late father, Cassville jeweler Wayne Tomblin. "Mom and dad always encouraged me in my interest in accomplishment," she said.

30 years ago

Sept. 11, 1996
— **ROARING RIVER SPRING'S FLOW REDUCED DUE TO DRY WEATHER**

If you take a drive through Roaring River, you will need to take a second look, or even a third. Water levels are at the lowest they have been in years. This is due to this summer's below average rainfall. The spring is currently putting out one-third the normal amount of water per day. According to Jerry Dean, hatchery supervisor, the average water flow from the spring is 20.4 million gallons a day. The hatchery requires 11 million gallons a day to operate. Currently the spring is putting out just seven million gallons a day, and the hatchery is pumping the additional four million gallons required from the river back into the spring. The twin waterfalls are not running and haven't been for weeks. Dean said the last time the water level was as low as it is now was during one winter in the early 80s. The hatchery had to ship fish to the Chesapeake Hatchery. Dean also stated that 10 of the 40 raceways have been shut down due to the spring's low water level. "We need 19,000 trout to finish out

the 1996 fishing season," stated Dean. "The Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery is keeping those fish for us and shipping them to the hatchery as needed." "We haven't had to move out any fish yet," Dean said. "We can shut off more raceways as needed. The trout are not in danger." Dean is hoping for some much needed rain. "I'm hoping we get some rain this fall. I'm not yet sure how we will handle it this winter, if we're still low," Dean said. "We could raise what fish we can here at the hatchery, and trade back and forth with the other hatcheries for the rest." Dean said low water conditions are a situation hatcheries have to face from time to time. "Some years we've sent as many as 20,000 trout to Taneycomo at the end of the season," stated Dean. "Somehow it works out each year." Dean is somewhat concerned about the upcoming winter. He is hoping that the water level is back to normal in preparation for opening day on March 1, 1997. The water is very low, but it is still clear. The trout tag sales have not been affected by the drought experienced at Roaring River. Tag sales have remained normal compared to last year, Dean reported.

— **WASHBURN CITY WATER PROBLEMS COULD CARRY A \$10,000 PRICE TAG**

Well problems at Washburn could stick the city with a \$10,000 bill to repair the 32-year-old system. City Clerk Mary Roller said air is getting into the lines at the well, causing the water to take on a cloudy appearance. "It looks like Alka Seltzer bubbles in the water," Roller said. The problem could be caused by bad check valves, a hole in the well pipe or the fact that the well is not recovering because people are using a lot of water due to the dry weather, Roller said. City officials have decided to pull the well pump and replace 735 feet of obsolete two-and-a-half-inch pipe with new three-inch pipe. They also will replace the check valves and put a new seal on the well. When labor cost is added to materials, Roller said the city could expect to spend at least \$10,000 on the project. The city hopes to pull the well pump on Friday. Before they shut down the system, Roller said the city will pump the 50,000-gallon tower full of water. While the pump is down, city residents are urged to conserve water. At present, the city has discontinued its bulk water sales to outside customers. The well specialist hired to do the repairs said it should take him 14 hours to fix the system unless major problems are uncovered. If the pump must be shut off for a prolonged period of time, the city of Seligman is prepared to supply Washburn with water at no charge. Because the mayor and aldermen must be available to oversee repairs to the well, the city council meeting has been postponed from Sept. 12 to Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Tristan! I'm a spirited 4-month-old black and red terrier with a whole lot of personality packed into my pint-sized 6.5-pound frame. I'm adventurous and friendly, and I'm already proving to be a great buddy for cats — so I'll fit perfectly into homes with feline friends. My adoption fee is \$150, and I'm ready to bring fun and energy to your family. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheoazarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



FREE VACCINE CLINIC

Hosted by Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary
www.havenoftheoazarks.org

Date: **September 19, 2026**
Time: **9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**
Location: 9617 Farm Road 2190, Washburn, MO
Limit: 2 pets per vehicle
No appointments - in the wait line (must be in line by 10:45 AM)
Limited to 50 pets
Pets must be friendly!

Vaccines Offered:
• 1-Year Rabies (cats & dogs)
• DHPP (dogs)
• FVRCP (cats)



DUFFIELD Breaking down barriers to provide access to care for all pets.
Thank you to BIRDELL, Pet Foundation & The Oates & Oates Foundation for making this pet wellness day possible.

Upon Arrival:

Dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier

Cats must be in a carrier

ONE pet per carrier

OBITUARIES



DAVID LLOYD “DAVE” KREEGER

David Lloyd “Dave” Kreeger, age 66, of Exeter, Missouri passed away Thursday, September 3, 2026 at his home.

He was born July 5, 1960 in Kansas City, Kansas, the son of J. Lloyd and Sadie (Sanders) Kreeger. On September 22, 1984 in Miami, Oklahoma he was united in marriage to Patricia “Pat” Resz, who survives. Also surviving are his sons, Tommy Ray and wife Sharon, of Exeter, Missouri, and Shawn Garrison and wife Melissa of Exeter, Missouri; brother, Steve Kreeger and wife Gayla of Galena, Kansas; sisters, Cherie Kafton and husband Loren of Joplin, Missouri, and Susan Parrott of Lakeside, California; grandchildren, Robert Seekamp and wife Amber of

Cassville, Missouri, Briana Hatfield and husband Ryan of Exeter, Missouri, and Sarah Thompson and husband Alex of Belton, Missouri; 11 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; daughter, Luella Seekamp; son, Bobby Ray; grandson, Dylan Ray, and granddaughter, Amanda Seekamp.

Dave grew up and attended school in Baxter Springs, Kansas. He made his home in the Exeter area for the past 43 years after moving here from Kansas.

Dave was a familiar and friendly face in the community. He owned and operated Dave’s Café in Cassville for 15 years before leasing the Dock-N-Eat restaurant at Big M Marina in Cassville for six years.

Dave enjoyed going to the YMCA in Monett, walking, woodworking, working outdoors, spending time with his dogs and cats and taking care of his chickens. He was an avid collector of Coca-Cola memorabilia and anything related to eagles. Above all, Dave treasured time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren, who brought him great joy. Dave attended Victory Baptist Church and will be dearly missed by all

who knew and loved him.

Services were held at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Russell Bishop conducted the services. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter, Missouri.

The family received friends from 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Tuesday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Haven of the Ozarks in memory of Dave.

PAID OBITUARY

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141

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



NEIL CURTIS ROLLER

Neil Curtis Roller, 48, of Monett Missouri, died on Sunday, August 30, 2026, after a catastrophic stroke. He was born on October 19, 1977, in Monett, Missouri to Curtis and Pam Roller and lived his childhood years in Purdy. He graduated from Purdy High School in 1996. In February of 2004, he met his future wife, Sarah Weber, through mutual friends. They married on October 11, 2014. On March 9, 2018, he became a father to their daughter, Katherine Ruth Roller. Neil worked at Jack

Henry doing things that none of his family really understood. His official job title was CPS Technical Install Support Engineer, Senior (whatever that means). In layman’s terms, he did something with ATMs.

Neil was a helper. No matter who needed help or what they needed, he was there to help. Family, friends, and colleagues turned to him for help, advice, and support. He was never too busy to drop everything and help. Neil was a genius at fixing things. He would break things for the sole purpose of putting them back together. He hated sitting still and was always in search of a project.

The thing that Neil was best at was being a Dad. He was the fun parent, the goofy parent, the rambunctious parent. Whether it was making doughnuts, playing video games, fixing things, 3D printing stuff that always made Sarah say “why are you 3D printing random things?”, or wrestling on the couch, Neil and Katherine were inseparable. There was always room on Neil’s shoulders for Katherine.

As a final act of selflessness, Neil registered to be an organ donor. That was his dream and that is who he was: a helper and a hero. His family did not get their miracle, but many other families got their miracle because of him.

Neil is survived by his wife, Sarah Roller, his daughter, Katherine Roller, his parents, Pam and Curtis Roller, his sister Jennifer Robbins and her husband Cecil, his brother Erik Roller, and his nieces and nephews, Colby Robbins, Bayleigh Robbins, Bentley Stephens, Madison Robbins, Karey Anderson, Oren Roller, Luna Roller, and Aries Roller. Neil is

a father, husband, son, brother, and friend that can never be replaced. He is his family’s hero and will be greatly missed.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at the First United Methodist Church. Reverend Mitch Jarvis officiated. Interment was held at Oakdale Cemetery, Monett. The family received friends at the church from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening. Memorial contributions have been requested to Katherine Roller Educational Fund in care of the funeral home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, MO.

PAID OBITUARY

McQUEEN FUNERAL HOME
Wheaton, Missouri
417-652-7268

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PATSY RUTH “PAT” SAVAGE

Patsy Ruth “Pat” Savage, age 80, of Exeter, Missouri passed away Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield, Missouri.

She was born November 7, 1945, in Newton County, Missouri, the daughter of Ted and Margie (Stephenson) Bradford.

On August 25, 1962, in Cassville, Missouri she was united in marriage to James Savage, who survives. Also surviving are her son, Jim Savage and wife Rhonda of Exeter, Missouri; sisters, Janie Bateman and husband Don of Rogers, Arkansas, and Barbara Bradford of Kansas City, Missouri; four grandchildren, Kendale Ellis and husband Jordan, Jordan Savage and wife Brianna, Cody Cantwell and wife Lauren, and Chase Cantwell and wife Addison, and eight great grandchildren, Ryder, Remy, June, Lena, William, Jasper, Konrad, and Scottie.

Preceding her in death were her parents; daughter, Loretta “Lori” Cantwell; sister, Linda Beavers, and brother, Bob Bradford.

Pat grew up and attended school in Wheaton, Missouri, and was a lifelong resident of Barry County. She enjoyed being a homemaker and the simple pleasures in life, including watching the St. Louis Cardinals play baseball and attending bluegrass festivals.

Pat was a member of Ridgley Church of Christ in Ridgley, Missouri, her faith was an important part of her life. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Services were held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, September 5, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Gary Cook and Denny LeMaster conducted the services. Burial was at Rocky Comfort Cemetery in Rocky Comfort, Missouri.

PAID OBITUARY

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Cassville woman gains mental health insights at Women’s Conference

Cathy Esler, Cassville Ward Relief Society member, attended the August 29th Women’s Conference of the Monett Missouri Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints held at the Monett Stake Center.

The Relief Society is a global women’s organization with more than eight million members with chapters throughout the world that focus on relieving those in need, building faith in Jesus Christ, and helping families. Among Relief Society’s efforts are

emotional and mental health resources to provide emotional resilience and positive thinking patterns for women.

"In the 'How to be a Peacemaker' class, I learned that peacemakers build bridges using love, acceptance, listening, understanding, communication, empathy, and finding common ground," Elser said. "In the 'Christ-like Pace' class, I learned that we need to simplify our pace by becoming efficient and doing the important things first. Jesus put the children

first. When we don’t get everything done, we don’t need to worry because we have the important things done. I also learned that being slow to respond is important. Think things through and manage ourselves. We need to also manage our spirits. Jesus did that by praying to His Father."

Elser said in the “Finding Calm in the Tempest” class, she learned to stop trying to solve the unsolvable problems and to change her perspective.

"When Mr. Johnson

mentioned healthy distractions, I thought of the woman who was caught in adultery and was thrown at Jesus’ feet," she said. "Jesus just squatted down and began writing in the sand."

Besides gaining valuable mental health information, Esler and the women at the conference also enjoyed a meal of BBQ chicken, mixed vegetables, salad, three kinds of rice, grapes and oranges, all of which was prepared under the supervision of Sam Bennion, of Granby, and other priesthood holders.

Water: Leaks may not show up on the surface

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

through cracks in the bedrock and run right into Flat Creek.”

Because of Cassville’s terrain, each of the City’s five wells are situated at different elevations, which presents challenges with balancing water pressure.

“Most of our wells are

interconnected, to provide back-up if a pump goes down and to balance water pressure,” Mike Hagins said. “We still need to run a connecting water line between Pump 3 and Pump 4 [located near Walmart and the 911 Center].”

According to Asbill, that project, along with needed general infrastructure improvements, will carry a price tag of several million dollars.

Asbill says he doesn’t judge the City of Neosho for selling their water and wastewater systems to a private corporation.

“Selling water infrastructure has its advantages,” he said. “And, it can even be considered beneficial to the residents. Corporations can come up with funds for improvements more quickly, and thus make upgrades more quickly, whereas the wheels turn slowly with city council decisions and expenditures.”

“The sale of the water system to a private corporation, might, at first, feel like a cash windfall to a city that has bills to pay, but there can be drawbacks.”

Asbill cites the scenario of a city finding itself in the position of having to pay the very company they sold to, for the water they use for public purposes.

Another drawback, Asbill said, could be the unpredictable future rate hikes private corporations will charge to

cover their initial investments.

“Unlike a corporation made up of private investors who are expecting a certain profit-margin as a return on their investments, your local city council members are directly accessible to residents and can offer transparency that isn’t always available with distant corporations,” he said.

For natives of Barry County, where public water and wastewater systems are locally owned and operated, the idea of investor-owned public water systems, with publicly-traded stock, may seem like a foreign concept. However, Heather Peters, Water Pollution Section Chief with the DNR, says that private ownership of public water and wastewater utilities is not a new development.

“For drinking water systems [in Missouri], 1,061 are publicly owned, and 1,761 are privately owned,” Peters said. “For wastewater systems, 770 are publicly owned and 1,812 are privately owned.”

Peters stated that Missouri American Water Company owns 46 water systems and 65 wastewater systems in Missouri.

According to Peters, examples of other private companies that own water systems include Missouri Water Association Inc., with 30 systems; Confluence Rivers Utility Operating

Company, Inc, with 27 systems; Liberty Utilities, with 21 systems; and Ozarks Clean Water Co., with 15 systems.

Other privately-owned, public wastewater systems include Lake Area Waste Water Association, Inc., with 85 systems; Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company, Inc., with 74 systems; and Liberty Utilities (Missouri Water) LLC, with eight systems, Peters says.

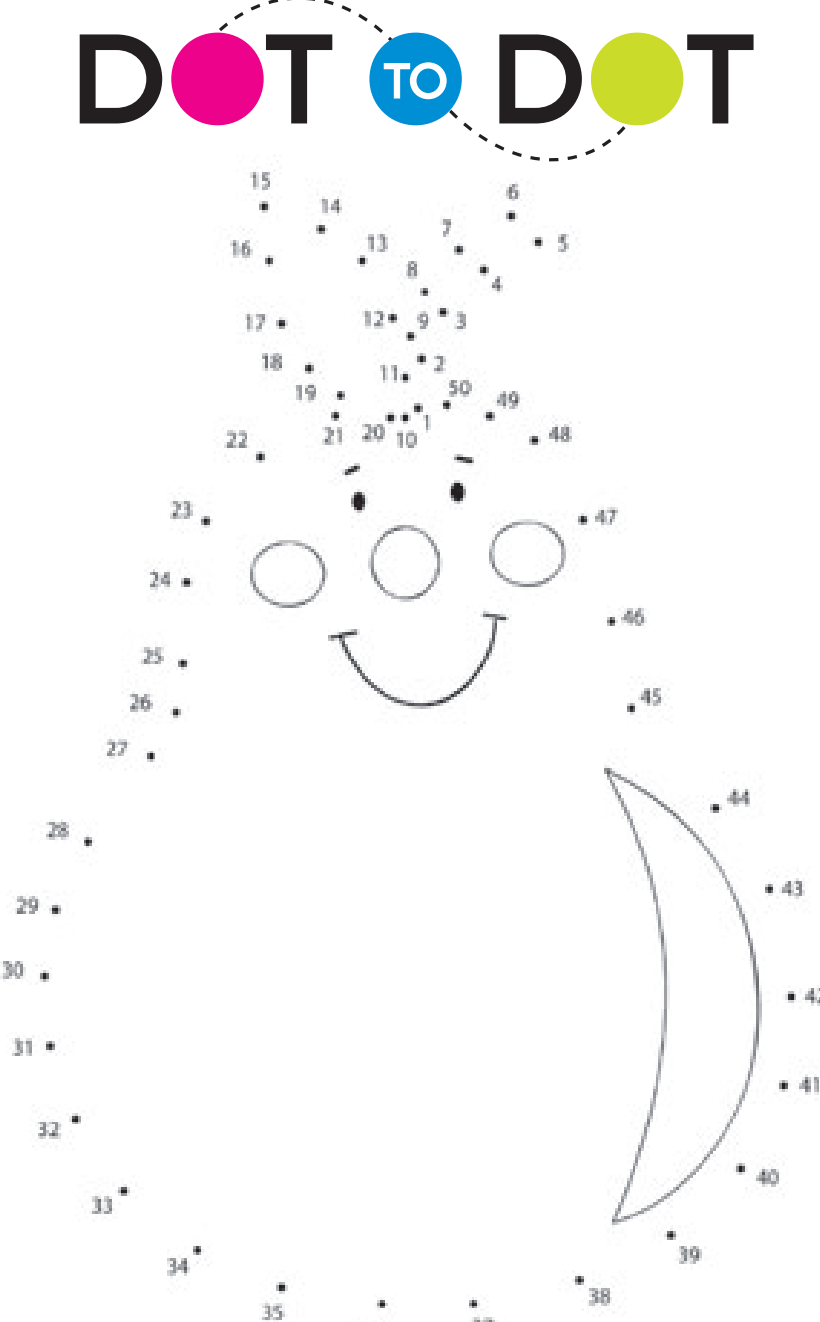
“Privatization of public systems can be seen in pretty much all types of drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment systems — large and small, urban and rural,” Peters said. “Most of the time, it is because a private company that owns many facilities may have resources that an individual municipal system may struggle to meet.”

Asbill said Cassville does not currently have the rate structure in place to support the needed improvements to the city’s water system.

“We’re not marketing our infrastructure,” Asbill said. “We’re comfortable owning our water and sewer systems, but we do have maintenance and upgrade needs, so we’re evaluating rate increases to cover those unavoidable expenses.”

Asbill said options will be discussed in upcoming Cassville city council meetings. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at 4 p.m.

DOT TO DOT





KIDS' COLUMNS

A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

JUST kidding

Q:

What do you call a book that's about the brain?

A: A mind reader.



JUST kidding

Q:

What word looks the same backwards and upside down?

A: SWIMS



JUST kidding

Q:

What happened to the wooden car with the wooden engine?

A: It wooden go.



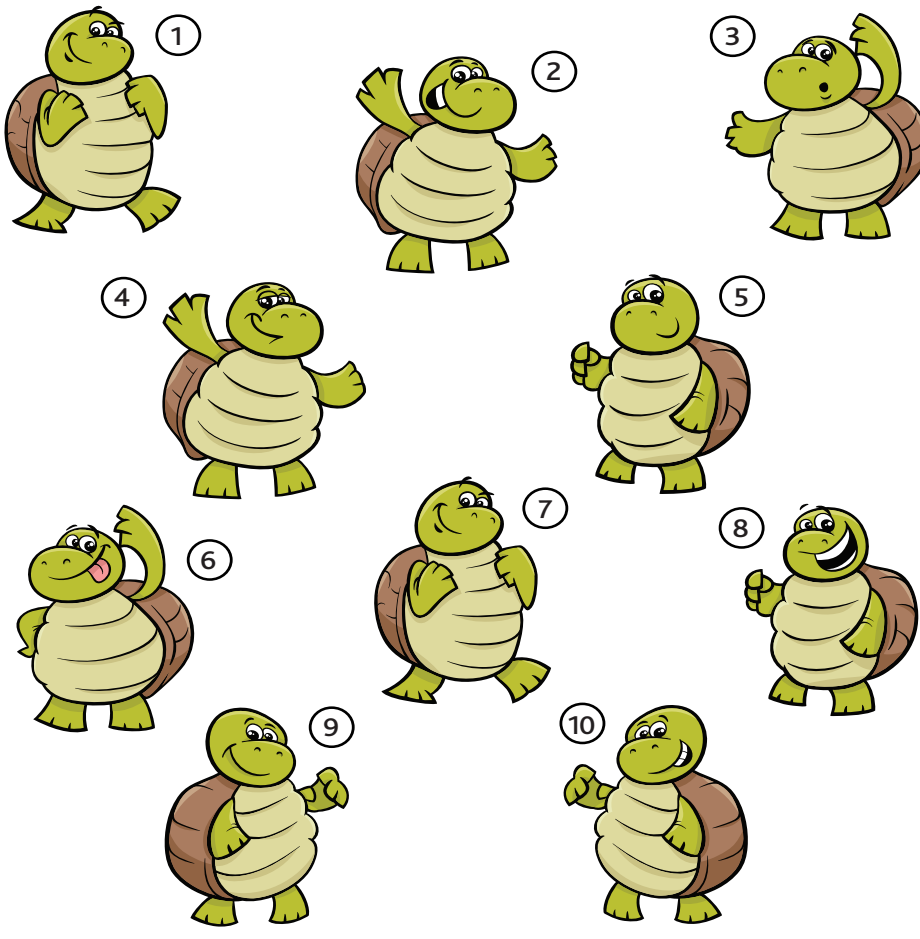


For the up-and-coming artist



TWINZZ

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 1 AND 7

Sudoku 4 x 4

3			
	2	4	
	3	1	
			4

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 4, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

- a number can only appear once per row

- a number can only appear once per column

- a number can only appear once in each box of 4 squares

4	3	1	2
2	1	3	4
3	4	2	1
1	2	4	3

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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



BIBLE VERSE:

“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”

— 2 TIMOTHY 1:13-14

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Master Gardeners to host fall workshop

Annual event to be held at Cassville United Methodist Church

Barry County Master Gardeners will host the annual fall workshop on Sept. 26 in Cassville. The event will be held at the Cassville United Methodist Church, located at 602 Gravel St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speakers will

address a variety of topics and there will be opportunities for questions from the audience. **Deer a Problem** Heather Cross and her husband own Bear Creek Nursery in Eureka Springs where they are frequently asked, "I have a deer problem, what can I plant?" Heather will give us some suggestions for addressing this problem which many of us share. **Gardening Vertically**

If you are limited in growing space and plant very few veggies or nothing at all, Marie Ewing will explain vertical gardening which might be of interest to you, allowing a significant increase in your crop production in a small space. Marie is a member of Master Gardeners of the Ozarks in Stone and Taney Counties. **The Dirt on Thriving: How Gardening Cultivates a Better Brain**

Do you ever wonder what health benefits gardening might provide? Besides having fresh produce with you in control of chemical product applications, there are many less obvious but very interesting ways that gardening enhances our brain and mental health. Joyce Weinsheimer is a retired educator and a Master Gardener who especially enjoys the company of her two dogs in the garden.

Pest Management in the Vegetable Garden Matthew Huchteman is the University of Missouri Extension Agent in Jasper County and he loves growing vegetables. Speaking from his own experience, he brings us methods for dealing with garden pests that he finds successful in his own garden. "For your enjoyment, we will provide snacks, drinks and door prizes," a Master Gardeners press

release said. "We ask you to preregister so that we can adequately provide for everyone attending. Please contact the Barry County Extension Office – Barryco@missouri.edu or 417-847-3161. The cost of the workshop is \$10 which may be paid at the door. Walk-ins are welcome and will pay \$12. We welcome all gardeners, novice or expert, join us for an informative and fun morning."



Students at Exeter can now take advantage of a new weightlifting room just off of the gymnasium, part of the \$3.5 million addition completed this summer. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



The new shop and ag room at Exeter will allow students to explore multiple career paths, from automotive repair to welding and more. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Exeter: District has worked on other improvements in recent years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

classroom was just really getting outdated, and so we needed a safer and better place for them to have classes and do all the different activities that they are doing," Jordan said. The district ultimately received voter approval for a no-tax-levy-increase bond, providing \$2.5 million in bond funding for the project. The district also used approximately \$600,000 through a lease purchase and \$400,000 saved in its capital projects fund. The total cost of the project was just under \$3.5 million.

Jordan said the district had been preparing for the project for years by saving money in its capital projects fund.

"Over the last 10 years, we've really been working, through [former superintendent Ernest Raney's] leadership, and then he kind of talked through with me, just saving some funds in our fund for capital projects to make sure when we got to this point we could do what was really needed for the district," Jordan said.

The project has added significantly more space for the agriculture program, including areas for welding and woodworking, as well as opportunities to expand into other areas. Jordan said the district is looking at adding automotive and agricultural science opportunities, including work with plants and animals.

"We're going to be adding some ag science, so adding that side of it where we can actually do some of the plants and animal things with the area that we have there," he said. "And then just enhancing some of the woodworking and the welding that they had already started doing."



A new band room was part of the \$3.5 million addition to the Exeter school district. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

The new facilities also allow Exeter students to explore career options before they reach high school. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students have access to the building through exploratory classes, where they can learn about agriculture, FFA and other opportunities available to them.

Jordan said that exposure can help students determine whether they want to pursue a particular career path. "Some of it they can just do here all the time, but it's just that same idea of just getting them started and interested in something that's going to turn into a career," he said.

Jordan said the district's philosophy has increasingly focused on preparing students for careers as well as college.

"What is it that you want to do with your life, and then let's find a way to make that happen," he said. The project also includes a new band room, which was not part of the original plan. As space became available for another classroom, district officials decided to create a larger room for the growing band program. The former music room can now be used for other district needs. New restrooms were also added and can serve as locker rooms for visiting teams during home athletic events. The facilities

provide teams with a place to meet with coaches before games before entering the gymnasium through a new entrance. The district began construction in July 2025, initially focusing on groundwork and moving overhead electrical lines. Barry Electric worked with the district to move the lines around the ball fields underground, which Jordan said improved safety during construction and provided a cleaner appearance. Construction was substantially completed in May, around the time of graduation, although

smaller projects continued through June and July. Jordan said students were eager to begin using the new facilities. "They were so excited," he said. "Like last year, you could start seeing the buzz starting to build, and then as it finally got finished, they were just dying to get out there." Some students participated in weightlifting during the summer, while others expressed interest in joining programs such as band. "I've heard some kids say, 'Hey, I want to go do band now,' or, 'I want to be involved in that,'" Jordan

said. Jordan said the district wants students to remain active and involved, and he believes the new facilities can help accomplish that goal.

The community also has responded positively to the completed project, Jordan said. Voters provided strong support for the bond issue, and community members who attended the district's open house have continued to offer positive feedback.

"It was a very high percentage of the voting that was yes," Jordan said. "But then, in follow-up, as they've seen the pictures and they've come to the facility, is just very positive and supportive of the school district."

Jordan said the project is part of a broader effort to improve Exeter, rather than an isolated undertaking.

Over the past several years, the district has worked on improvements including roads around the district and a playground, along with the new facilities.

Jordan credited Raney with helping establish the long-term planning that made the improvements possible.

He also said the improvements are also contributing to a renewed sense of pride in the district.

"There was a time where people didn't want to be at Exeter or would talk down about Exeter," he said. "We're starting to hear that pride again, and that's good to hear over the last several years."

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SPORTS



Cassville's Baxton Cornell chases down Aurora's quarterback during a victory over the Houn' Dawgs on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Kellen Weldy sheds a tackler during a win over Aurora on Friday. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wildcats blank Houn' Dawgs 44-0

Cassville moves to 2-0 with first road win

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville football team followed its season-opening Barry County Brawl victory with another dominant performance Friday, shutting out Aurora 44-0 on the road.

The Wildcats scored on their opening possession and never looked back, building a 31-0 halftime advantage before activating the turbo clock in the third quarter.

"We've been talking about how we have to earn home games in the district playoffs, and I'm proud of how we played on the road," Weldy said. "There's years we've been terrible on the road and years we've been good, but we played well."

Cassville opened the scoring with a 12-play drive after Masin Bryan returned the opening punt to the Aurora 43. Easton Hughes moved the Wildcats into the red zone before finishing the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run with 6:59 remaining in the first quarter.

Aurora appeared poised to answer on its next possession, moving to the Cassville 25 before an option pitch was fumbled and recovered by the Wildcats.

Cassville moved into Aurora territory on its ensuing possession, but the Wildcats were unable to convert on fourth down.

The Wildcats' defense forced another Aurora punt early in the second quarter, and Cassville quickly doubled its lead.

Quarterback Jaren Stearns disguised an option handoff, and Aurora's defense reacted to the dive, leaving Stearns with an open path. He raced 78 yards for a touchdown, putting Cassville ahead 14-0 with 10:09 left in the half.

"Jaren missed a few things early, but then he settled down and really grinded it out and wore them down," Weldy said. "Then, he hit a few pass plays later. He's a veteran and two-year starter, so he might miss a few but can come back, and I'm proud of him for that."

Stearns' next big play came through the air.

After Cassville's defense stopped Aurora on downs at the Cassville 46, Stearns connected with Bryan along the left sideline for a 46-yard touchdown. The score extended the Wildcats' lead to 21-0 with 7:35 remaining in the second quarter.

Stearns said Cassville adjusted its offensive approach after some early struggles throwing deep.

"I couldn't tell if our guys were getting held or what, but we had to make an adjustment, some more roll-outs, and then little options," Stearns said. "The options were working really well. It was good play calling."

Aurora moved to the Cassville 2-yard line on its next possession, but the Wildcats recovered a fumble to end the threat.

Cassville then put together another scoring drive. After a holding penalty

erased a first down, Stearns converted a first down with a keeper before Bryan caught a pass for 11 yards.

Mace Bredeson then followed his blockers to the left and raced 72 yards for a touchdown. Cassville led 28-0 with 3:38 remaining in the second quarter.

"In the second quarter, we just started moving ball really well," Stearns said. "Our line did a great job. We got a lot of blocks."

Aurora punted again, and Bryan returned the kick to the Cassville 37 with 43.8 seconds remaining in the half.

Stearns moved the Wildcats down the field and connected with Kellen Weldy and Carlos Barrientos on completions. After an incomplete pass to Bryan and a defended pass intended for Weldy in the end zone, Stearns ran for 12 yards to set up a field-goal attempt.

Coach Clay Weldy called timeout with 2.9 seconds remaining, and Dade Zajac converted a 35-yard field goal as time expired to put Cassville up 31-0 at halftime.

The Wildcats wasted little time adding to the advantage in the third quarter.

Hughes opened the second-half drive with a first-down run, and Kamden Beebe moved the ball across midfield. Hughes then broke free for another first down at the Aurora 15 before Beebe moved the Wildcats to the 4.

Hughes finished the drive with a touchdown run, giving Cassville a 38-0 lead with 9:55 remaining in the third quarter.

Cassville's defense con-



Cassville's Masin Bryan brings in a catch he turned into a touchdown in Friday's win over Aurora. Kyle Troutman/kt troutman@cassville-democrat.com

tinued to control the game. Bodie Hodge intercepted an Aurora pass and returned it to the Aurora 39.

The Wildcats then turned to their second string, with Spencer Drollinger, Wylan Farris and Hodge helping move the ball inside the Aurora 25. Hodge then kept the ball and scored from the right side, extending the lead to 44-0 with 1:09 remaining in the third quarter.

Cassville's defense held Aurora scoreless throughout the remainder of the game. The Wildcats recovered another fumble at the Aurora 48 in the fourth quarter before running out the clock.

good day," Weldy said. "I'm really proud of our defense. They have two kids that are D1 baseball commits, so they have some good athletes. Their quarterback made some good plays, and their running back was doing well before going out early."

Stearns said the defense's performance made things easier for the offense.

"It makes our job a lot easier for sure," he said. "I'm really proud of our defense. They've stepped up and done really good the past two weeks."

Cassville also used the game to give younger players extended opportunities.

"It's huge for the young kids to get some time," Weldy said. "We had a lot of freshmen play, and that's good for the program. They play on Monday, but any time they get in time on Friday nights, that's a huge thing and good for the program."

Stearns said the Wildcats have more depth than they did a year ago.

"I love it," he said. "We have it's a much deeper depth chart than it was last year. If we got one or two guys to get hurt, we got more guys to fill in for that position alone, and they're all really athletic. They do a really good job."

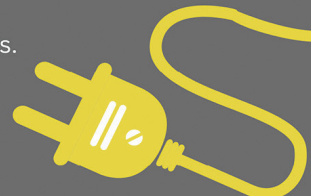
Stearns went 6-for-11 through the air for 103 yards and one touchdown, and he led rushers with 127 yards on 5 carries with one score. Hughes had 8 carries for 57 yards and two scores. Bryan led receivers with 2 catches for 56 yards and a score.

In total, 12 Wildcats ran the ball in the game, tallying 401 total yards on 38 attempts.

Defensively, Hughes, Baxton Cornell, Spencer Drollinger, Kellen Weldy and Logan Parsons recorded 4 tackles each. Hughes, Bryan and Cornell also recorded 4 tackle assists apiece. Barrientos caused two fumbles, recovered by Hughes and Hodge. Hodge had one interception, and Ricky Norris recorded a sack.

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CASSVILLE VOLLEYBALL

Who: Twins Taylor and Audrey Kennedy
What: Discuss playing senior seasons together on Cassville volleyball team
More: Taylor Kennedy recently cleared the 1,000 career assists mark

Twinning and winning

One sister sets the other for 1,000th career kill for Cassville volleyball

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

For nearly 13 years, twin sisters Audrey and Taylor Kennedy have done everything together, and their teamwork recently helped one of the pair achieve a goal she had been chasing since freshman year.

On Sept. 1, in the second set of a three-set volleyball sweep of Neosho, Taylor set a ball to Audrey, who spiked it for a kill, giving Taylor her 1,000th career assist.

“I feel like I have put in the effort and the work, and I finally achieved something that has been a goal of mine since freshman year,” Taylor said. “I also have the goal of setting the career assists record, so I’m still working on that. When I got to 1,000, it was surreal, to have all my teammates with me and that loving feeling.”

Audrey said while the kill may have looked run-of-the-mill, there was some pressure on the shot.

“I just wanted to get the kill for her so she could hit that milestone,” Audrey said. It was stressful, but it was really cool because we are sisters. It worked out how it should have.”

Taylor came into this season just 6 assists shy of 1,000, and with 15 regular season games and three tournaments before postseason, she’s hoping to top Jesse Edie’s career assists record of 1,505.

The Kennedys have attended Cassville schools since kindergarten, participating in volleyball camps since about third grade and joining the school team at the first opportunity in seventh grade. Both play volleyball and basketball for the Lady Wildcats.

Taylor and Audrey said though they are around one another all the time and play the same sports, competitiveness is not an issue.

“We don’t have a rivalry,” Taylor said. “We both have strengths in different aspects of the game, so we never really compete with one another.”

“Unless we are on separate teams in drills,” Audrey said. “But, we push to make each other and the team better. Healthy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

XC aims for postseason push

Lady Wildcats can field full team this season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville cross country program has started the season with its sights set on the same destination it has pursued in recent years — the state meet.

Coach Courtney Kirk said the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats have had athletes qualify for state each season during her tenure at Cassville.

“Our goal is always to compete at state,” Kirk said. “We’ve had athletes compete at state each year that I’ve been at Cassville, and we want to keep that tradition going. We are also excited to have a full girls team this year and we would like to see that group have some success in the postseason as a team.”

Cassville returns a group of runners who bring valuable experience to a relatively young roster. Peyton Anderson, Daniel Sledden, Clay Williamson, Molly Cox and Lydia Cupps are back for another season.

“This group brings experience and a strong running base,” Kirk

said. “They know what it takes to train and compete, which gives us a great starting point to build upon.”

The Wildcats have also added several newcomers, including freshmen Hattie Lyons and Nathan Lyons. The twins are entering high school after competing for Cassville in middle school, where both established themselves as strong runners.

“Both ran cross country for us in middle school and had exceptional eighth-grade seasons,” Kirk said. “They have already shown that they are talented runners and strong competitors, so we are excited to see how that translates to the high school level.”

Brooklyn Krallman and Elizabeth Fohn are also new to the team. While they are still gaining experience in the sport, Kirk said their willingness to join the program has been important.

“Their willingness to come out, work hard and be a part of this group has helped give us the numbers we need to compete as a full team,” Kirk said. “We are excited to watch them improve and contribute throughout the season.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville’s Peyton Anderson runs in the Cassville Pinkout Invitational last year. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wildcats top Bolivar in overtime



The Cassville boys soccer team bested district opponent Bolivar in over time on Thursday, 2-1. Junior Preston Driskill opened the scoring with a goal from a header, assisted by senior Mason Rillstone. Tied 1-1 at the end of regulation, freshman William Ray scored his first ever varsity goal — in walk-off fashion — by tucking in the rebound of a shot by Driskill in the first half of overtime. The Wildcats, as of Friday, are 3-1 on the season. Pictured is Rillstone as he controls a ball played forward in the first half of the Bolivar contest. Kyle

Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Sullivan, LeCompte families honored



This season, the Cassville Wildcat Football team will honor the memory of John Sullivan by wearing a gold “JS” sticker on the backs of their helmets. Sullivan was a lifelong contributor to Cassville Football. From his playing days in the 1960s, to the many Thursday night team meals he provided, and his years spent on the sidelines keeping stats, Sullivan was a huge part of not only the football program but the entire Cassville community. “We will never be able to thank John and his wife, Janet, enough for all they have done,” a football program press release said. John’s presence is deeply missed throughout our community, but perhaps most of all, we’ll miss that unforgettable ‘John Sullivan chuckle.’ Cassville Athletic Director Lance Parnell, left, presented John’s wife, Janet Sullivan, with a photo and helmet in his honor prior to the Aug. 28 home opener against Monett. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



At the Aug. 28 home football game against Monett, a special moment was taken prior to the game to honor the family of Jill & Michael LeCompte. “Jill & Michael devoted many years to serving Wildcat Nation,” a school press release said. “Their love for Cassville High School, its students, and the Cassville community was evident in all they did. Though they are no longer with us, their dedication and Wildcat spirit will continue to live on. Each time the Wildcat Flag is raised and waved, may it serve as a reminder of the lasting impact they made and the many lives they touched.” The LeCompte family, pictured, presented Whitney and Wilbur with a special gift, a new rally flag, in loving memory of Jill and Michael. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Football

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

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
9/29	Nevada	Home	V, JV	5:00 pm
10/1	Seneca	Home	V, JV	5:00 pm
10/2-3	Hillcrest Softball Tournament	Away	V	
10/5	Aurora	Home	V, JV	5:00 pm
10/6	Monett	Away	V, JV	5:00 pm
10/8	Central	Away	V	5:00 pm
10/10	Bolivar	Away	V	10:00 AM
10/10	Joplin (in Bolivar)	Neutral	V	12:00 PM

Cross Country

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

Boys Soccer

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

Girls Golf

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

Volleyball

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
9/26	Mustang Volleyball Classic	Neutral	V	
9/29	Lamar	Home	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm
10/1	Monett	Away	V, JV, Fr	4:30 pm

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

HOUSING SOUGHT

SEEKING HOUSING: Retired man, good health, clean and quiet seeks sleeping room or basement/ garage apartment. Easy-going and able to help with yard and house chores. References available on request. Call Steve at 417-896-0015.

PETS

FREE KITTENS: To good home, 4 months old. In Cassville. Call 479-502-7117.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

MACKA PROPERTIES, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS.

Steve Blankenship, in his capacity as Presiding Commissioner of Barry County, Gene Robbins, in his capacity as Southern Commissioner of Barry County, Gary Schad, in his capacity as Northern Commissioner of Barry County; AND The Village of Emerald Beach; AND

Robert W. Cannon, Mercedes Cannon, George D. Sinn, Shirley L. Sinn, Charles V. Petty, Lois E. Petty, Richard L. Ott, Doris J. Ott, The Richard L. & Doris J. Ott Revocable Living Trust, Madge H. Renard, Michael D. Darling, Raymond & Betty Nelson Trust, David J. Fuller, Richard Thomison, Patricia Thomison, George J. Cindrich, Harry S.M. Bates, Jr., Iris P. Bates, Fred W. Klaus, Virginia P. Klaus, Diane L. Carlson, Richard Blunden, Mary Blunden, Tracey Crook, Harold G. Chapman, Helen A. Chapman, John T. Drake, Ernestine Drake, Kenneth Brechbill, Donna Brechbill, Chris M. Pedersen, Clair Dickinson, Ethel Dickenson, Donald J. Pazsek, Margaret L. Pazsek, Richard E. Saxton, Cynthia Barnes, Lloyd Bletche, Muriel Bletche, Evelyn Schauer, Lee Gummow, Kenneth L. Silvers, Sharon K. Silvers, Steve M. Coring, Marti J. Coring, Rod Pappe, Betty Lou Holeman, Lloyd O. Holeman, Bettie A. Holman, Lloyd O. & Bettie A. Holeman Trust, Gary W. Coltrane, Virginia J. Coltrane, Juanita J. Dannenberg, Eric Chambers, Robert L. Twitchell, Iller Family Revocable Trust, Alfred J. Iller, Trustee, Marguerite J. Iller, Trustee, Daren A. Linnell, Jr., Jule P. Foster, Patricia L. Burford, John Burford, Loyd E Gilmore, Susan C. Gilmore, Tarrie L.

Call 847-2610 to subscribe

MUSICIANS WANTED
Cassville United Methodist Church seeks musicians to assist in worship, specifically keyboard and vocal. This is a part-time time paid position. Inquire with Pastor Jeff at 417-847-2328.

HUGE SALE
Farm Road 1240, across from Beaver Storage in Golden. Every Fri. & Sat. in Sept. from 9 am – 3 pm. **Everything must go.**

WIC NUTRITIONIST FULL-TIME
The Barry County Health Department is seeking a full-time non-exempt WIC Nutritionist to join our Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) team. The successful candidate will provide nutrition education and counseling to pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children while promoting healthy lifestyles and breastfeeding support. Minimum qualifications apply. Complete job description, qualifications, application, and instructions for applying are available on our website: www.barrycountyhealth.com Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Barry County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Ruark, Jerry L. Ruark, Tina Marie Hillhouse, Timothy A. Hillhouse, EdDee Ma Hillhouse, Lowell C. Duncan, Jr., Loretta Mae Chase, Carol Jean Smith, Olga Lee Lewis, Lelia F. Melugin, Joan M. Weng, Edward F. Hornof, G.E. Durbin, Louise Durbin, Donald D. Row Revocable Trust, C.W. Ross, Lester & Edith Purdom Trust, Charles D. Powell, and Iona M. Powell, and their heirs, grantees, devisees, consorts, successors, and assigns; DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO:

Robert W. Cannon, Mercedes Cannon, Gerge D. Sinn, Shirley L. Sinn, Charles V. Petty, Lois E. Petty, Richard L. Ott, Doris J. Ott, The Richard L. & Doris J. Ott Revocable Living Trust, Madge H. Renard, Michael D. Darling, Raymond & Betty Nelson Trust, David J. Fuller, Richard Thomison, Patricia Thomison, George J. Cindrich, Harry S.M. Bates, Jr., Iris P. Bates, Fred W. Klaus, Virginia P. Klaus, Diane L. Carlson, Richard Blunden, Mary Blunden, Tracey Crook, Harold G. Chapman, Helen A. Chapman, John T. Drake, Ernestine Drake, Kenneth Brechbill, Donna Brechbill, Chris M. Pedersen, Clair Dickinson, Ethel Dickenson, Donald J. Pazsek, Margaret L. Pazsek, Richard E. Saxton, Cynthia Barnes, Lloyd Bletche, Muriel Bletche, Evelyn Schauer, Lee Gummow, Kenneth L. Silvers, Sharon K. Silvers, Steve M. Coring, Marti J. Coring, Rod Pappe, Betty Lou Holeman, Lloyd O. Holeman, Bettie A. Holman, Lloyd O. & Bettie A. Holeman Trust, Gary W. Coltrane, Virginia J. Coltrane, Juanita J. Dannenberg, Eric Chambers, Robert L. Twitchell, Iller Family Revocable Trust, Alfred J. Iller, Trustee, Marguerite J. Iller, Trustee, Daren A. Linnell, Jr., Jule P. Foster, Patricia L. Burford, John Burford, Loyd E Gilmore, Susan C. Gilmore, Tarrie L. Ruark, Jerry L. Ruark, Tina Marie Hillhouse, Timothy A. Hillhouse, EdDee Ma Hillhouse, Lowell C. Duncan, Jr., Loretta Mae Chase, Carol Jean Smith, Olga Lee Lewis, Lelia F. Melugin, Joan M. Weng, Edward F. Hornof, G.E. Durbin, Louise Durbin, Donald D. Row Revocable Trust, C.W. Ross, Lester & Edith Purdom Trust, Charles D. Powell, and Iona M. Powell, and their heirs, grantees, devisees, consorts, successors, and assigns; but if they shall be deceased, then their unknown heirs, grantees, consorts, spouses or successors of those of them who shall be deceased.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court for the County of Barry, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to quiet title to the following described property in Barry County, Missouri:

Lots 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 33 of Bob White Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry

County Missouri. Lots 100, 101, 102, 141, 142, 146, 163, 164 & 213, of Emerald Beach Estates No. 1 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

Lots 1, 113, 129 & 131 of Emerald Beach Estates No. 3 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

Lots 19, 29, 31, 104, 110, 119, 144, 146, 147, 148, 160 & 161 of Emerald Beach Estates No. 4 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

Lots 152, 193, 207, 208, 216, 250, 251, 253, 254, 263, 275 & 277 of Emerald Beach Estates No. 5 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

Lot 29 of Emerald Beach Estates No. 6 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

Lots 4, 7, 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30 of Emerald Beach Estates No.

8 Subdivision as per the recorded plat thereof, Barry County Missouri.

The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Cordelia F. Herrin, P.O. Box 276,

702 West Street, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 19th day of August 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you.

IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.

A true copy from the record.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Circuit Court this 13th day of August, 2026.

CRAIG WILLIAMS, Circuit Clerk
By Kami Stanton
1st Publication: August 19th, 2026
2nd Publication: August 26, 2026
3rd Publication: September 2, 2026
4th Publication: September 9, 2026
1st insertion 08/19/26
32-35

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CASSVILLE

IN RE: IZRI ISAI MIRANDA, Petitioner, Case No. 26BR-DR00078

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR CHILD

Petitioner, Ana Rocio Estrada-Cifuentes
Next Friend, Ana Rocio Estrada- Cifuentes
Other Parent, Jose Alli Miranda

Public notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of August 2026, by an Order of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri,

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION
Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Shell Knob, MO. From Terry’s Café in Old town Shell Knob, go left (South) on FR 1230 for 4.2 miles. Then go left of Edgewater lane 1/10 mile. Turn left on Chaparral lane and go 1/10 mile. Auction on right at the corner of Falcon lane and Chaparral lane. (23135 Chaparral Lane, Shell Knob MO).

TABLE ROCK LAKE, REAL ESTATE, SELLING ABSOLUTE — BOAT SLIP — FURNITURE & APPLIANCES — SOME TOOLS — MISC HOUSEHOLD



Table Rock Lake Real Estate selling ABSOLUTE to the highest bidder. Doublewide home on permanent foundation on a corner lot just up the street from Table Rock Lake and only 1/10 mile to a public boat launch. 3 bedroom 2 bath home, enter this home into the living room with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan & large windows. Open to the dining area where there is a patio door leading out back to a deck and concrete patio. The dining area is open to the kitchen. The kitchen features a small bar area, double SS sink, built in Whirlpool dishwasher, a Whirlpool gas range/oven, a GE Refrigerator/ Freezer and a pantry. From the kitchen it leads to the utility room and a door that leads out to the attached 2 car garage with automatic door opener and a walk door leading out to the back yard. The master bedroom has vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan, window, walk in closet & a master bath that will pass through to the utility room. On the opposite end of the home is 2 more bedrooms with vaulted ceilings, ceiling fans, windows and walk in closets and a full bath. **Outside Amenities:** Concrete sidewalk leading to the front entry. Concrete apron from the street to the garage, back deck, back patio area, sm fenced backyard with mature trees. All this on a nice corner lot, easy to mow and maintain and just up the street from Table Rock Lake and a public boat launch. **Boat Slip:** New slip available 11’x30’. This will be in a new dock to be completed March of 2027. Separate seller, purchaser of this home will have option to buy slip. Very short golf cart ride to the slip. Furniture & **Appliances:** Hand carved, vintage, Asian coffee table – sofa – wing back chair – rocking/ recliner – round dining table & chairs – sm hutch – table lamps – queen bed – cedar chest – book shelves – sm desk – 2 drawer file cabinet – 4 & 5 drawer chest of drawers – tv stand – sm computer desk – night stand – 32” Vizio flat screen TV – sofa table – wood cabinet – cedar rocking chair – sm patio table & 2 chairs – misc snd tables – roll around kitchen island – stools – Samsung self clean washer – Amana dryer. **Tools:** 18 gal shop vac – misc long handle tools – weed eater blower – Kobalt cordless leaf blower – B & D cordless weed eater – alum ladder – tarps – sm dolly – ext cord – garden hose – step stools – step ladder – some sm power tools – misc shop items – yard seeder – sm plastic yard cart. **Household & Misc:** Shark cordless hand vac – vacuum – sm printer – books – sing a long CD player – kitchenware & sm kitchen appliances – plastic tote – household cleaners, chemicals, etc – Coleman cooler – microwave – Dyson vac – patio storage box – misc household, ant kitchen dock – wall hangings & pictures. **Note:** This is a very neat & clean home, a nice small corner lot, easy to maintain, just up the street from Table Rock Lake and a public boat launch. Also, Turkey Mountain Airport is a short golf cart ride away. So, if your looking for a weekend lake getaway and want to fly in, here’s your perfect chance. Real Estate sells to the highest bidder !!!!! Also, a boat slip will be available for purchase from a separate seller. Call 417-847-2507 for details or go to www.stumpffauction.com **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer’s premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **Boat Slip Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current drivers license to obtain bidden number. All terms on bidders card will apply. Qualified buyers only with bank letter of credit or proof to purchase. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. 10% buyer’s premium applies and is to be paid at the conclusion of the auction. Balance will be due day of auction and ownership will transfer with bill of sale.

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Case No. 26BR-DR00078, the name of IZRI ISAI MIRANDA was changed to IZRI ALLI MIRANDA. Filed August 9, 2026
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
Judge
Jonnie E. Cox
1st insertion 8/26/26
33-35

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION AT CASSVILLE

In Re: The Matter of: M.J.E., a minor, TRINITY L. COOK and HUNTER W. COOK, Petitioners, v. JOHN DOE, Respondent. Case Number: 26BR-JU00069

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: John Doe, the unknown father of the minor child M.J.E. You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is termination of parental rights and adoption.

The names of all parties to said action are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioners is: Harry D. Schwartz, 702 West Street, P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625. You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within 45 days after the 2nd day of September 2026, judgment by default will be rendered against you. Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 27th day of August 2026. Craig Williams

Judgment in Case No. 26BR-DR00100, changing the name of Kaleb Joel Mathias Outhouse to Kaleb Joel Mathias Colf. ELLIS, CUPPS, HERRIN & SCHWARTZ
Harry D. Schwartz
#73292
Attorney for Petitioner P.O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417) 847-2734; fax (417)847-5643
Published in Cassville Democrat
Dates of Publication: September 2, 2026
September 9, 2026
September 16, 2026
1st insertion 09/02/2026
34-36

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue and authority of an Execution, Numbers 26-EXEC-89 and 26-EXEC-96 (in Case Number 24BR-CC00109), issued from the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, returnable on l) q t and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, in favor of Plaintiff, Helen M. Hagerman, and against Defendants, Kevin Woodley and Christina Woodley, I have levied upon and seized all the right, title, interest and estate of said Defendants, in and to the following described real estate, situate in the County of Barry and State of Missouri, to wit: A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 25 WEST, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 25 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST 417.48 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

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417-689-5582 479-531-3252 417-342-4370

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

404.76 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 279.86 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 77.48 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 61 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST 19.87 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 84 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 1 1 SECONDS EAST 140.66 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 27 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 96.54 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 50.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 209.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST 49.78 FEET; THENCE NORTH 42 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST 125.66 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST 199.74 FEET; TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL ENCUMBRANCES AND RIGHTS RECORDED OR UNRECORDED. EXCEPT RIGHTS OF OTHERS IN AND TO DRIVEWAY EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON SURVEY OF JMARK SURVEYING NO. 18-493, DATED 11/15/2018. TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO: 10 FOOT DRIVEWAY EASEMENT. A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 25 WEST, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI. BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: A DRIVEWAY EASEMENT BEING 10.00 FEET IN WIDTH LYING 5 FEET EACH SIDE OF A CENTERLINE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 25 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST 417.48 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST 404.76 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST 279.86 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 77.48 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 61 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST 5.70 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED CENTERLINE: THENCE SOUTH 10 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 47.55 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 62.42 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 30 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 239.28 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY 39 AS NOW LOCATED, ALSO BEING THE POINT OF TERMINUS OF SAID DRIVEWAY EASEMENT. SIDELINES OF SAID EASEMENT TO BE LENGTHENED AND SHORTENED AT THE APPROPRIATE LINES.

and I will on October 5, 2026, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of that day, more particularly at 1 :00pm at the East front door (facing Main Street) of the County Court House 700 Main St., Cassville, Barry County, State of Missouri, sell at public vendue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title, interest and estate of the above-named Defendants, in and to said real estate, to satisfy said execution and costs.

By: Danny Boyd
Sheriff of Barry County
Date: August 25, 2026
Attorney for Sheriff:
James A. Pettit
200 S. Elliot
P.O. Box 148
Aurora Mo. 65605
417-678-1287
Dates of Publication
9/9/2026, 9/16/2026,
9/23/2026, 9/30/2026
1st insertion 9/9/26
35-38

PROBATE

IN THE 39TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY,

MISSOURI
PROBATE

In the Estate of
ALTINA L PIASECKI,
Deceased.
Case Number:
26BR-PR00101

NOTICE OF LETTERS
TESTAMENTARY
GRANTED
(INDEPENDENT
ADMINISTRATION – NON-
RESIDENT FIDUCIARY)

To All Persons Interested in
the Estate of
ALTINA L PIASECKI,
Decedent:
On AUGUST 3, 2026, the
last will of Decedent having
been admitted to probate,
the following individual was
appointed the personal
representative of the estate
of ALTINA L PIASECKI,
decedent, by the Probate
Division of the Circuit Court
of Barry County, Missouri.
The personal representative
may administer the estate
independently without
adjudication, order, or
direction of the Probate
Division of the Circuit
Court, unless a petition for
supervised administration is
made to and granted by
the court.

The personal
representative's name and
business address is:
TRISHA L EPPS,
708 WILLIAM STREET,
HUTCHINSON, KS 67501
The personal
representative's attorney's
name, business address and
phone number is:
TOBIN R DUNN,
620 W REPUBLIC RD
SUITE 104,
SPRINGFIELD, MO
65807,
(417) 851-5888
The non-resident personal
representative's designated
agent'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
473.033, 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF
GEORGE E. BENTON,
JR.,
Deceased.
Case No.
25BR-PR00189

NOTICE OF FILING OF
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
AND SCHEDULE
OF PROPOSED
DISTRIBUTION
(Sec. 473.840, Rsmo)

You are hereby notified
that the undersigned

independent personal
representative will file the
final statement of account,
containing a schedule of
proposed distribution of
the assets of the estate, in
the Probate Division of the
Circuit Court of Barry County,
Missouri on September 28,
2026. If no objections to
the statement of account or
schedule of distribution are
filed within twenty (20) days
after the filing thereof, the
undersigned independent
personal representative will
distribute in accordance with
the schedule of proposed
distribution contained in the
statement of account.

If no proceeding is
commenced in the court
within six months after the
filing of the statement of
account, each independent
personal representative is
thereby discharged from
further claim of demand by
any interested person.

Sandra L. Means-Benton,
Personal Representative
Mark McFarland, MO SC
#57332
mmcfarland@hinklaw.com
8711 Penrose Lane #400
Lenexa, Kansas 66219
Telephone: (913) 345-9205
09/02/2026
34-37

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

In the Estate of
LEANN JAMES
BANASZEK,
Deceased.
Case Number:
26BR-PR00103

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(SMALL ESTATE)

To All Persons Interested in
the Estate of
LEANN JAMES
BANASZEK,
Decedent.

On August 7, 2026 a
small estate affidavit was
filed by the distributees for
the decedent under Section
473.097, RSMo, with the
Probate Division of the Circuit
Court of BARRY COUNTY
Missouri. All creditors of
Decedent, who died on 19-
FEB-2026, are notified that
Section 473.444, RSMo, sets
a limitation period that would
bar claims one year after the
death of Decedent. A creditor
may request that this estate
be opened for administration.

Receipt of this notice
should not be construed by
the recipient to indicate that
the recipient may possibly
have a beneficial interest
in the estate. The nature
and extent of any person's
interest, if any, may possibly
be determined from the
affidavit on this estate filed
in the Probate Division of
the Circuit Court of BARRY
COUNTY Missouri.

Date of first publication is
September 9, 2026.

Date of second publication
is September 16, 2026.

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
1st insertion 09/09/26
35-36

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF BARRY COUNTY,
MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION
AT CASSVILLE

In the Estate of:
EMMETT LENDELL
COCKRUM,
Deceased
Case No.
26BR-PR00023

NOTICE OF FILING OF
FINAL SETTLEMENT
AND PETITION FOR
DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE
ESTATE OF
EMMETT LENDELL
COCKRUM,
deceased:

You are hereby notified that
the undersigned Personal
Representative will file a
Final

Settlement and Petition for
determination of the persons
who are the successors in
interest to the personal/real
estate of the decedent and of
the extent and character of
their

interest therein and for
distribution of such property,
on October 30, 2026, or as
may be

continued by the Court,
and that any objections or
exceptions to such Final
Settlement or

Petition or any item thereof
must be in writing and filed

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville go South on hwy 76 (112), 2 miles then go East on Hwy 76 for 9.6 miles. Turn left on FR 1200 (Lohmar Tower). Go 2 miles to property line and 2.6 miles to the cabin. (20220 Fr 2180, Cassville MO)

112 ACRES M/L SELLING IN (2) TRACTS



Tract #1: 88 Acres m/l fenced, pasture & timber, nice bottom pastures, creek, great for cattle, horses or just a hunting retreat, nice farm. It also has a shop building approx. 30'x30' with concrete floor and elect and a shared well with the cabin. **Tract #2:** Country cabin charm. 2 Bedroom, 1 ½ bath. Hardwood floors, kitchen with custom cabinets, outside is rustic with lap siding, inside is nice. With this cabin you will also get 24 ac m/l, mostly wooded with a couple of flat cleared acres on top. Great deer & turkey hunting !!! **Note:** If a person wants it all, just be the one that outbids everyone else, on both tracts. Set on the front porch and enjoy your own paradise here in the Ozark hills. Call 417-847-2507 to preview the property before auction time. How often does 100 plus acres come up for auction, almost never !!!! See you there. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Josilyne Creason & Grace Hurst



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State Cham-
pion Auctioneer
#1409 | PB00051442



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, Sept. 21, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Golden, MO. From the Jct's of Hwy 86 & Hwy J across from Shumaker Tire, take J Hwy 1 mile. Stay straight on Hwy RA and go 2.6 miles. Turn right on FR 1250 and go 1/10 mile to auction. (25321 FR 2265, Golden MO)

TOOLS – ZERO TURN MOWER – LOG SPLITTER
– GUNS – GUN SAFES – MISC BUILDING ITEMS –
FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – HOUSEHOLD – MISC



Table Rock Lake Front Real Estate: Lake front, 3 bedroom 2 bath brick & vinyl home with basement. Fantastic views of Table Rock Lake. Enter this home into the foyer with coat closet, open floor plan to the kitchen, dining & living room. The living room has large windows looking out to Table Rock Lake, and vaulted ceiling. There is a door leading to a nice enclosed sun porch with vaulted ceiling, a door leading out to a raised deck overlooking the lake. The kitchen features custom oak cabinets, double SS sink, built in microwave/hood, GE gas range/oven, Refrigerator/Freezer & a center kitchen island. The dining area is next to the kitchen with large windows. Now down the hall where you will find bedroom #1 with window & closet, a full bathroom with utility area, a linen closet. Bedroom #2 with windows & closet and the master bedroom with ceiling fan, his & hers, closets and a French door leading out to the sun porch. **Downstairs:** Could be a man cave, hobby room, family room, etc. with windows looking out o the lake. A French door leading out to the bottom deck, lakeside. Also in the basement is a ¾ bathroom, a hobby room and a mech/storage room and a door leading to the 3 car garage, a storage room & a garden storage room. **Outside:** Table Rock Lake Front with fantastic views. A detached garage/work shop, a storage shed and a large shop/garage. All are lakefront and all on 2 ½ lots. **Note:** With the passing of Mr. Krutz, Mrs. Krutz has decided to sell this beautiful lake property and move to be closer to her kids. This property is lake front and has fantastic views of Table Rock Lake. Mr. Krutz liked working in the shop, lots of tools & misc shop items. Call 417-847-2507 to learn more about the Real Estate or to preregister or go to www.stumpffauction.com. See you there. **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidder number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee will apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty expressed or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Jolene Krutz



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State Cham-
pion Auctioneer
#1409 | PB00051442



www.stumpffauction.com

417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion
Auctioneer
#2352

within twenty days after the
filing of such Final
Settlement.

HARRY D. SCHWARTZ,
Attorney
SAM MADSEN,
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin
& Schwartz Personal
Representative
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417)847-2734

Dates of Publication –
9/9/26, 9/16/26, 9/23/26,
9/30/26

THE
REFERENCED DATE IS NOT
A COURT APPEARANCE
DATE.

It is an estimated date as
to when the Final Settlement
will be filed with the court.

1st insertion 09/09/26
35-38

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

In the Estate of
ROXANNE L MCINTIRE,
Deceased.
Case Number:
26BR-PR00112

NOTICE OF LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION
GRANTED
(SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in
the Estate of
ROXANNE L MCINTIRE,
Decedent:
On August 26, 2026, the
following individual was
appointed the personal
representative of the estate
of

ROXANNE L MCINTIRE,
decedent,
by the Probate Division
of the Circuit Court of Barry
County, Missouri.
The personal
representative's name and
business address is:
TEDDY L MCINTIRE,
7315 FARM RD 1095 ,
PURDY, MO 65734.

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

All creditors of said
decedent are notified to file
claims in court within six

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

Date of the decedent's
death:

August 31, 2025
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
Date of first publication:
September 9, 2026
Date of second publication:
September 16, 2026
Date of third publication:

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B
September 23, 2026
Date of fourth publication:
September 30, 2026
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 09/09/26
35-38

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

In the Estate of
GARY JAMES AKES,
Deceased.
Case Number:
26BR-PR00111

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION – NON-RESIDENT FIDUCIARY)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
GARY JAMES AKES,
Decedent:
On AUGUST 25, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

GARY JAMES AKES, decedent,
by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative may administer the estate independently without adjudication, order, or direction of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court, unless a petition for supervised administration is made to and granted by the court.

The personal representative's name and business address is:

JAMES A AKES,
5264 W 1600 RD,
PARKER, KS 66072

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:

CODY ALAN FENTON,
500 W. MAIN ST. STE. 401,
BRANSON, MO 65616,
(417) 335-3550

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone number is:

CODY ALAN FENTON,
500 W. MAIN ST. STE. 401,
BRANSON, MO 65616,
(417) 335-3550

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:

August 5, 2026
Date of first publication:
September 9, 2026
Date of second publication:
September 16, 2026
Date of third publication:
September 23, 2026
Date of fourth publication:
September 30, 2026

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 09/09/26
35-38

TRUSTEE'S SALES

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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by

David E. Cockrell,
dated March 31, 2008, and recorded on April 1, 2008, in Book No. 08, at Page 1980 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on September 28, 2026, at 12:00 PM, at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

LOT ELEVEN (11) IN PUGH'S ADDITION TO PURDY, BARRY COUNTY MISSOURI AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, commonly known as 207 S Caledonia, Purdy, MO, 65734

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:
September 2, 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. 223048-1100382).

1st insertion 09/02/26
34-37

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by
Benjamin Lee Miller;
Chris Tina Miller,
dated April 30, 2018, and recorded on May 3, 2018, Document No. 201800006274 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Stone County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on September 30, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the North Door of the Stone County Courthouse, Galena, Missouri, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

ALL THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 24 WEST, STONE COUNTY, MISSOURI, LYING NORTH AND WEST OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 13-30, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 18; THENCE SOUTH 88°40'08" EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 18, 579.17 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE (C/L) OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 13-30; THENCE ALONG A SEGMENT OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, ALONG SAID C/L, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 208.05 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 228.59 FEET AND A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 52°53'56" WEST, 217.26 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 21°25'25" WEST, ALONG SAID C/L, 64.33 FEET; THENCE ALONG A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, ALONG SAID C/L, SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 1129.37 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 250.84 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 34°08'57" WEST, ALONG SAID C/L, 274.29 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 36°42'10" WEST, ALONG SAID C/L, 204.09 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF SAID C/L WITH THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 18; THENCE NORTH 00°43'51" EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF

SAID SECTION 18, 816.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPT ANY PART DEEDED, TAKEN OR USED FOR ROAD PURPOSES, commonly known as 1549 Elm Springs Rd, Aurora, MO, 65605

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:
September 2, 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. 261306-1102086).

1st insertion 09/02/26
34-37

NOTICE OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE'S SALE

In re: Michael J. King,
unmarried man

Default having been made in the payment of certain monthly installments on a Note described in and secured by Deed of Trust executed by Michael J. King, unmarried man, dated September 8, 2020, and recorded September 15, 2020, in Book 20, Page 5417, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County of Barry, State of Missouri; the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note, who has elected to declare the entire indebtedness due and payable, will on October 1, 2026, at 1:00 P.M., at the at the East front door of the Barry County Courthouse, in the city of Cassville, 700 Main St, Cassville, MO 65625 sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate described in said Deed of Trust and situated in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, to wit;

A TRACT OF LAND LYING NORTH AND EAST OF THE EXISTING COUNTRY ROAD LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH, RANGE 27 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M. IN BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH, RANGE 27 WEST, THEN RUNNING NORTHERLY ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER 935 FEET,

THENCE EAST 935 FEET THENCE SOUTH 935 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH, RANGE 27 WEST, THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH, RANGE 27 WEST TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Together with all improvements thereon known and numbered as 17640 Farm Road 1150, Cassville, Missouri 65625 for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the costs of executing this trust, and the present taxes, if any, due and paid by the holder.

singers corp,
Successor Trustee
By: Michael P. Gaughan
12701 W. 87th Street
Parkway, Suite 200
Lenexa, KS 66215
Email: saleinfo@lewisricekc.com

SINGERS CORP, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY

I N F O R M A T I O N OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

(King, Michael J., 14537-66308, Publication Start: 09/09/2026, Newspaper: Cassville Democrat)
1st insertion 09/09/26
35-38

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

A default has accrued on a certain note secured by a deed of trust executed by,

AMY MARIE WASHINGTON
dated 9/9/2022 and recorded on 9/12/2022 in BOOK 22 PAGE 5827, in the Recorder's office for Barry County, Missouri. The successor trustee will on October 6, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, more particularly at 11:30 AM, 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 104, EMERALD BEACH ESTATES #5 AS PER THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDERS OFFICE, OF BARRY 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

09/09/2026,
09/16/2026,
09/23/2026,
09/30/2026
CSM File 26-25-01397

NOTE: This office is a debt collector.

1st insertion 09/09/26
35-38

Twins: Plan to go to separate colleges after graduating high school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

competition grows teams and individuals.”

“Also, when were are not on the same team, e always know what the other one will do,” Taylor said.

That spirit of teamwork and constant improvement has a knack for showing up when one of the twins may not be on top of her game.

“If I’m in a hole and down a lot, I will give it to Audrey because she knows where the other team’s holes are,” Taylor said.

“On the other side, if I’m not doing well, I can tell Taylor where I see the holes,” Audrey said.

“And, in basketball, we always know where each other is on the court — we have that twin telepathy,” Taylor said.

The absence of rivalry on the court extends beyond sports, as even though Audrey is the older twin, both said those few minutes do not make a difference.

Only a couple matches into their senior seasons, Taylor and Audrey said they have high hopes for this year’s squad.

“I hope we win a district championship,” Taylor said.

“We are very strong and have a lot of young talent, so we’re pushing in practice,” Audrey said. “We want to make our team more competitive.”

“It’s our last year to make a



Taylor Kennedy, right, and her twin sister, Audrey Kennedy, are pictured together after Taylor crossed the 1,000 assist mark in a three-set sweep of Neosho on Sept. 1. Contributed photo

name for ourselves, so there is some eight on our shoulders to hold ourselves accountable and

stay disciplined to achieve what we want.”

The Kennedys make up half

of the senior volleyball players, with Kami Stough and Keely Bailey also in their final seasons. The four have played volleyball together since they were little, all attending Cassville schools since kindergarten.

After spending their lives in school side by side, Audrey and Taylor are making their own plans for college — and they likely won’t be together. Taylor plans to attend Missouri State University to major in business, and Audrey plans to go to Ozarks Technical College to major in radiology.

“I’m sure it will feel weird at first because we’ve always been together and done everything together,” Taylor said. “It may be tough at first, but after we’re separate for a little while, we’ll be OK.”

“It’s exciting but different,” Audrey said. “College will be about experiencing going out on our own and experiencing life. And, our schools are still close together, so we will still be close and help each other out.”

Taylor will have the next opportunity to add to her assist total on Thursday, when the Lady Wildcats host Hillcrest. Coach Paige Huddleston said to reach the career record total, Taylor will need to average about 18-20 assists per match this season.

XC: Home meet scheduled for Oct. 6 at Cassville Aquatic Center Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

The Wildcats will rely on Anderson, a junior, to take on a leadership role on a young boys team.

“He’s already naturally stepping into the role,” Kirk said. “He been encouraging to his teammates and has been consistently modeling the work ethic we expect at practice.”

Cupps is the lone returning senior in the program, and Kirk described her as a leader by example.

“Lydia is a quieter leader, but she leads by example every day,” Kirk said. “Her work ethic and grit throughout practices speak for themselves.”

Work ethic is also what Kirk considers the team’s biggest strength entering the season.

“We have a smaller and younger team, but despite that, this group has come in willing to work,” she said. “They don’t shy away from difficult workouts, and they have been very coachable.”

That approach gives Cassville a foundation to build on as the runners gain fitness and experience. Kirk said fitness development is the biggest area where the teams need to improve. Summer heat has affected the ability to conduct workouts at the same level as in previous seasons, meaning runners may need patience early in the schedule.

“Our biggest area for improvement right now is just continuing to build our fitness and experience,” Kirk said. “Because of the heat, our workouts haven’t been as strong as in the past.”

Kirk said the squads understand it may not be at its best early in the season, with the larger goal of reaching its peak when the postseason arrives.

“We know we may not be at our peak early in the season and we’re okay with that,” she said. “If this group continues to work the way they have been, I think we have a lot of room to improve from week to week and hopefully be running our best when the

postseason arrives.”

Cassville’s home meet will provide one of the most important opportunities for the community to watch the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats compete. The meet is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, later in the regular season.

“Always our home meet,” Kirk said when asked which meet she would like to see draw a large crowd. “There is something special about competing on a course that is familiar to you and hearing people yelling your name throughout the course — it’s such a motivator.”

With the meet positioned near the end of the regular season, Kirk also sees it as a potential springboard into postseason competition.

“Our home meet is also one of the final regular season meets on our schedule, so running well there can give us some great momentum heading into the postseason,” she said. “We’d love to have as much of our community there supporting these athletes.”

Cassville has also added larger meets to its schedule this season, aiming to dial in on gaining experience and familiarity.

“We have strategically added some larger meets to our schedule this year to expose our athletes to more competition,” Kirk said. “It also gives us opportunities to see some of the courses and teams we could potentially face again in the postseason. With this group building experience is important.”

One of the most unique aspects of this year’s roster is the addition of the Lyons twins.

“It’s not often you get a brother and sister entering your program in the same year who can compete at that level, so we’re excited to watch them begin their high school careers,” Kirk said.

The twins combined for a dozen top-5 finishes during their eighth-grade seasons, giving Cassville a pair of young runners with



Cassville’s Lydia Cupps crosses the finish line in last year’s Cassville Pinkout Invitational. Kyle Troutman/kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com

an established competitive background.

Kirk said overall, the season will be a combination of

maintaining the program’s tradition of sending runners to state and developing a young group capable

of making an impact later in the year. With returning experience, new runners providing depth and a full

girls team for the postseason, she said Cassville has plenty to build on as the season progresses.



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