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CASSVILLE Democrat
OCTOBER 21, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

OZARK 7 PD DAY
What: Professional Development Day for Ozark 7 schools
Where: Held at Exeter school district
More: Over 300 educators enjoy event, learn new skills

Ozark 7 PD day hits home

Inspiration speaker, breakout sessions, collaboration at local event

More than 300 area educators visited the Exeter R-6 School District campus to learn and collaborate during the annual Ozark 7 Conference Professional Development Day on Sept. 18.

The event offered an inspirational keynote address, professional development workshops and collaboration opportunities.

"Our Ozark 7 Conference came together to share ideas, foster connections, and collaborate in similar content areas," said Stephanie Fuller, Exeter science teacher and professional development committee chair. "What a fabulous success. The day's events created an inspiring space to leave energized for the school year ahead of us."

The professional development day began with a keynote address by motivational speaker Justin Pickens, who shared his history as an educator along with inspirational stories for teachers and mentors.

"I thought Justin's story was very empowering, and I liked that he grew up in this area," said Jeremy McNabb, Exeter Elementary School third grade teacher.

Kelsey Bowers, Exeter Elementary School first grade teacher, called the address inspirational.

"The impact a teacher can have is beautiful, and his insight really puts that into perspective," she said.

In addition to traveling the country as a motivational speaker, Pickens, who grew up in southwest Missouri, teaches at Rolling Ridge Elementary School in Olathe, Kan.

"Justin Pickens was honestly the hidden inspiration I didn't expect to receive," said Quan Beasley, Exeter High School business teacher. "We have similar stories in terms of our upbringing, and hearing his journey to where he is now really inspired me to keep striving to be better each and every day for our students."

Following the opening address, educators had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions, receiving instruction on a variety of topics, including leadership,

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Don't wait until 40

Sitzes: 'I will never hear the words cancer free'

BY JORDAN TROUTMAN
cassvilledemocrat@outlook.com

For Andrea Sitzes, the road through breast cancer began with a series of appointments that had repeatedly reassured her that the lumps and spots she felt were cysts.

Then, at 36, a routine mammogram changed everything.

"My paternal grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was young," Sitzes said. "She had a left mastectomy, but since that, she didn't have to do any chemo radiation, no further treatment.

"Other than that, there was no family history. And I have also tested negative for all of the genes. So, I don't have BRCA 1, BRCA 2. There is a myriad of others, but I have no genetic mutation."

Sitzes has one son who, now 13, was 11 years old at the time of her diagnosis.

"My family's been incredible," she said. "In 2022 — in my early 30s — I started to have hormonal changes that led to some cystic changes."

Sitzes said she had noticed a couple different lumps and spots.

"It was almost two solid years of every three to six months, going in, getting checked, doing ultrasounds, and biopsies," she said. "In some cases they would be benign — all cystic."

Sitzes said she thanks the Lord that she had already established care, because when she had the mammogram, they saw something irregular.

"It ultimately led to my diagnosis," she said. "I didn't feel a thing. What I learned through that early process is that I have extremely dense tissue, which should be the number one red flag.

"If there is a young woman that has dense tissue, push to establish care to get your screening done earlier."

Sitzes said there is currently legislation that is aimed at getting the recommended age for mammograms lowered. For her,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

BLAZE DESTROYS CASSVILLE HOME



Fire crews put out a fire at 109 Rainbow Drive that resulted in a total loss. The blaze began in a storgae area near the home's carport, but the exact cause is undetermined. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cause of fire undetermined; began in storage area

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A home on Rainbow Drive in Cassville was ruled a total loss following a fire on Oct. 12 that began in a building adjacent to a carport.

According to a report from the Cassville Fire Protection District, the fire was at 109 Rainbow Drive, with the call coming in at 10:25 a.m. for smoke showing from the home. Cassville Fire Chief Derek Acheson was the first to arrive on scene at 10:30 a.m., finding fire present on the south side of the home extending into the attic space.

While none of the home's occupants were present at the time, Cassville Police Officer Matt Hoover entered the structure from the north side and safely removed two dogs.

Cassville's Engine 1 arrived on the scene and personnel deployed a 1-3/4 inch handline for fire attack and exposure protection on the south side of the structure. Cassville and Exeter firefighters then entered the north side of the home and initiated interior attack with another 1-3/4 inch line. During operations, a third dog was removed safely and reunited with its owner outside.

Additional mutual aid units arrived and were assigned to assist with backup operations and fire attack. Mercy EMS also arrived and was assigned to rehab.

The fire was brought under control and personnel conducted salvage and overhaul operations to locate and extinguish any remaining fire and confirm complete extinguishment.

Acheson spoke with the occupants, who stated they had been at work when neighbors notified them the home was on fire. The occupants reported that miscellaneous lawn equipment was stored in the carport storage area on the south side

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

Purdy school board focuses on state mandates

Concern shared over letter grades for schools

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat

Purdy school board members took a closer look at the start of the 2026-2027 year at their September meeting, and forecasts of how changes at the state level may impact the district in the coming months.

Superintendent Travis Graham shared the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's PowerPoint presentation on Gov. Mike Kehoe's proposed letter grade evaluation for every school district. The plan, released in late August, confirms that DESE will make its assessment based on data already collected, giving districts no opportunity to clarify or improve any perceived issues. The State Board of Education approved the framework for the plan on Sept. 15.

Challenging the letter grade plan

New elements not previously included in past evaluations include literacy, which was not defined, and "growth to proficiency" over two consecutive years toward hitting that mark in the third year.

The grade card for eighth grade to kindergarten would come from math, science, and English language arts, including literacy, comprising 38 percent of the score. "Value-added growth" would assess English language arts, math, and science, making up 33 percent of the score. The rest would come from growth-to-proficiency. For high school, DESE would tally academic achievement in English language arts, math and science for 29 percent of the score, then look at value-added growth in the same subjects for another 29 percent. Making up the rest of the assessment would be a high school's four-year graduation rate and success-ready measurements, looking at career planning, college preparation and technical school certification.

The district would get a final grade based on these same measures across all class levels.

DESE anticipated a first look at the grade card assessment, based on school data from the 2024-25 year, would come out this fall, but not include data on literacy. All elements would be included in the letter grade issued one year from now.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Howl-O-Ween returning to Eagle Rock

The Eagle Rock Friends of the Library Howl-O-Ween festivities will be held on Saturday. The day will start with the Craft Fair in the Event Center, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock, with shopping available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Trunk or Treat and Touch a Truck will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. For more information, people may contact the Eagle Rock Library at 417-271-3186.

Barry County Republican Club to meet

The Barry County Republican Club will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 22 at The Rib restaurant in Cassville.

Extension Council nominations sought

Nominations are being accepted for the January 2027 election of the University of Missouri Extension Council in Barry County. Council members are elected or appointed to two-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Nominees must be at least 18 and must reside in the district from which they are selected. Nominations must be made prior to Dec. 7. "We want nominees who are interested in improving our community and the education of our youth," said Carolyn Kilts. "The resources of the University of Missouri System are available to us through this statewide partnership. We need active council members who recognize the needs in the community and can help plan, locate funds and promote educational programs with University of Missouri Extension specialists." MU Extension offers educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, families, business and workforce development, community development, youth development, community health and various continuing education courses, seminars and workshops. Nominations may be made through the Council Chair Carolyn Kilts or the county extension center at 417-847-3161 or Barryco@missouri.edu. Nominees will be contacted to secure their permission to place their names on the January 2027 ballot.

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Today (Wednesday), Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m. (registration required); Thursday, Teen Craft, 3:30 p.m., Refit, 5:30 p.m., Little Ghost Cutting Board at Zone 4, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee); Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m. to noon; Monday, Family Paint, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 fee required); Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Storytime, 10 a.m.

Absentee voting ongoing for Nov. 3 General Election

Two-week in-person, no excuse absentee voting for the Nov. 3 General Election began Oct. 20. 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 is ongoing at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Office will also be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Oct. 31 for absentee voting. 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. The last day to request an absentee ballot is today (Wednesday). For more information, people may call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

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.







More than 300 area educators visited the Exeter R-6 School District campus to learn and collaborate during the annual Ozark 7 Conference Professional Development Day. Contributed photos

PD: Eductaors will continue to collaborate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

apprenticeships, critical thinking, reading strategies, and collaborative learning. Presenters were from Home Grown, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA), and the Agency for Teaching Leading and Learning (ATLL), which works in conjunction with Missouri State University.

"The breakout sessions were very enlightening," said Lindsay Reed, Exeter School librarian. "During one of my sessions, the instructor helped participants place themselves in the shoes of a multilingual learner by asking us to read and understand a document composed entirely in Spanish.

"She then walked us through a process of using pictures, visual clues, presenter actions and chunking information in order to understand the document. This gave me a new way of thinking when working with English language learners."

The Exeter School District cafeteria staff and supportive staff members served a taco lunch for all attendees. Following lunch, educators participated in collaborative sessions to close out the day.

"It was amazing to see the different schools of the Ozark 7 come together to collaborate, share ideas, and work toward ensuring the academic success of all our students," said Chris Seymour, Exeter Elementary School principal. "When we work together, we create greater opportunities for every student to thrive."

Administrators from the Exeter, Purdy, Southwest, Wheaton, Verona, Golden City, St. Mary's, McAuley and Thomas Jefferson school districts collaborated to organize the Ozark 7 Professional Development Day. Planning took place over a six-month period prior to the event.

"We were very pleased with how the event came together," said Tim Jordan, Exeter School District superintendent. "We worked together to build a day that would be beneficial to the professionals that work so hard to educate students. One of the main goals of this day was to create a culture within all the schools in the Ozark 7 Conference where teachers could help support each other throughout the school year with tips, advice, and encouragement.

"As a group of small schools, teachers sometimes feel like they are on an island, and we wanted to create opportunities for growth for all of our instructional staff."

Educators from throughout the Ozark 7 Conference will continue to collaborate through quarterly virtual meetings throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

Purdy: Multiple new hires made

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Graham shared a joint assessment developed by other public school superintendents that questioned whether all schools should receive a grade card. He wondered how DESE planned to fairly use its growth-to-proficiency standard on students who already scored at a proficient level. The superintendents further asked if the framework should be adjusted for demographic characteristics. Those decisions apparently had not yet been made. Graham noted that of the 16 states that have employed a letter grade assessment, six had paused the process and five had thrown out the plan altogether.

The Missouri School Improvement Program Level 6 (MISP 6), now in use by DESE, intentionally connects school accountability and accreditation, Graham observed. "An A-F rating is fundamentally an accountability/reporting device," he noted. However, state law requires the State Board to "establish requirements for the schools within each classification and formulate rules governing the inspection and accreditation of schools preparatory to classification." He noted that was the case under MSIP 6, which is much different than issuing a new letter grade every year for school districts.

With the public in danger of remembering only the letter grade assessment, because of its simplicity, Graham joined other school leaders in asking what safeguards were being put in place to prevent the ordinary parent from viewing the letter grade as accreditation.

Federal funding concerns

Graham further noted the Trump administration, through the Federal Communications Commission, has announced plans to review federal funding for schools, narrowing its scope. E-Rate, a federal program, has been very important to districts like Purdy's in covering costs for internet and Wi-Fi service throughout the district buildings. Public comment is open until Oct. 13.

In board action, Ashley Terry was hired to serve as the supervising registered nurse. In extra duty assignments, Rebecca Botts will sponsor the National English Honor Society. Clara Lindsay will oversee the color guard.

The board added a teacher to the substitute list.

Reports

Board members also approved the special education local compliance plan as presented by Darcy Brown. She reported the district presently has six preschoolers on individual education programs, 25 in elementary grades, 14 in the middle school, and 36 in grades 7 and higher. A total of 95 students receive therapy from speech to vision, mobility, occupational and physical therapies.

Julie Dalton, elementary principal, reported on beginning-of-school assessments for all students, identifying deficits so that corrective steps could be taken. Representatives from Step Up For Students were due on Sept. 24 to work with teachers on standards-based grading and proficiency scales. A team from the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support program planned a visit to provide staff and reading specialists on progress with implementing the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling program.

Stephanie Heman, the new high school principal, shared a long list of extracurricular and athletic events plus student club activities. She discussed her plans to showcase a teacher weekly.

Graham reviewed progress in recovering from the April 28 hailstorm that damaged most of the district building roofs. "We are coordinating with insurance to get the TPO [thermoplastic polyolefin] membrane roofs replaced per insurance recommendation," Graham said. With two bids pending, a contractor has not yet been hired.

In the coming months, state lawmakers will begin filing proposed legislation for the coming session of the General Assembly. Graham pledged to update the board as priorities take shape.

The board will next meet on Oct. 15.

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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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Barry County Health Corner

People should get a flu vaccine every year for optimal protection against flu

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older with rare exception. The reason for this is that a person's immune protection from vaccination declines over time, so an annual vaccination is needed to get the "optimal" or best protection against the flu. Additionally, flu viruses are constantly changing, so the vaccine composition is reviewed each year and updated as needed.

Flu and People 65 Years and Older

• Flu vaccination is especially important for people 65 years and older because they are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications.

• While flu seasons vary in severity, during most seasons, people 65 years and older bear the greatest burden of severe flu disease.

• CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) preferentially recommend the use of higher dose flu vaccines (including high-dose inactivated and recombinant) or adjuvanted inactivated flu vaccine over standard-dose unadjuvanted flu vaccines for people 65 years and older.

• CDC recommends prompt flu antiviral treatment for people who have flu or suspected flu and who are at higher risk of serious flu complications, such as people 65 years and older.

Take time to get a flu vaccine.

• Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season, especially people at higher risk.

• CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important action in reducing your risk of flu and its potentially serious outcomes.

• For 2026-2027 flu season, CDC recommends seasonal flu vaccination for children, pregnant women, and adults with only single-dose formulations of flu vaccine that are free of thimerosal as a preservative.

• Flu vaccines help to reduce the burden of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths on the health care system each year.

• Flu vaccination also has been shown to reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

• All flu vaccines are designed to protect against three influenza viruses

• Everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine, ideally by the end of October but people should continue to get vaccinated as long as flu viruses pose a threat to their community.

• Vaccination of people at higher risk of developing serious flu complications is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.

• People at higher risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease, and people 65 years and older.

• Vaccination also is important for health care workers and other people who live with or care for people at higher risk of serious flu illness to keep from spreading flu to them. This is especially true for people who work in long-term care facilities, which are home to many of the people most vulnerable to flu.

• Children younger than 6 months are at higher risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.

• Health care providers can support patients in making informed decisions about vaccinations.

The Barry County Health Department has the following vaccines available Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 5:30pm as a walk-in service. Due to high demand, please call 417-847-2114 to verify availability and cost: Flulaval Trivalent, Fluarix Trivalent, Flublok Trivalent and Fluzone High Dose.

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.





Fire crews put out a fire at 109 Rainbow Drive that resulted in a total loss. The blaze began in a storgae area near the home's carport, but the exact cause is undetermined. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Fire: Marshal ruling is cause undetermined

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

of the structure, stating the area had an electrical outlet but could not confirm whether or not anything was plugged into it.

Due to the circumstances and the extent of the fire, Acheson requested the State Fire Marshal investigator to respond. After suppression and overhaul operations were completed, mutual aid units were released and apparatus were returned to service. Acheson and Engine 1 remained on scene awaiting the Fire Marshal's arrival.

The investigator arrived and Cassville Fire District personnel assisted the investigation as needed. Once the investigation was complete, all remaining Cassville units and personnel cleared the scene and returned to service.

The Fire Marshal ruled the cause of the fire undetermined, confirming it began in the carport storage area. The home was determined to be a total loss.

Central Crossing Fire Protection District, Exeter Fire Department, Butterfield Fire Department and Purdy Fire District provided mutual aid. Cassville had three apparatus on the scene.

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COMMENTARY

STAFF VIEW



SHEILA HARRIS

Convoluted by design: Part one

A Facebook friend believes the Missouri legislature is intentionally crafting more convoluted ballot measures with every election, so that we, the people, will just vote as we're told, along partisan divides.

He might be right. The November 3rd ballot will contain what might be the biggest rat's nest yet, with Amendments 3, 6, 7, 8 and Proposition A on the slate.

Prop A made it to the ballot as the result of a court order, in spite of many egregious attempts by secretary of state, Denny Hoskins, and attorney general, Catherine Hanaway, to sidestep the requirement, making a laughing-stock out of Missouri in the process.

I'm giving Prop A a big, hearty "No!"

No, I don't want to use the new gerrymandered map that Prop A brings to the ballot: a map that legislators slung together and Governor Kehoe signed into law in 2025, just in time to use in our August primary. The new map changes a Kansas City congressional district into a monstrosity that cuts through the middle of the state. The timing of the map brings its legality into question, but Hoskins' over-the-top efforts to ignore the citizens' referendum, with its legally-collected 300,000-plus signatures, gives us some insight into his character.

A "Yes" vote on Prop A, would the affirm use of the gerrymandered map, while sending a message to Hoskins that we're okay with his underhanded shenanigans.

A "Yes" vote on Amendment 6, on the other hand, will preserve the ability of citizens to have a say-so in the constitutional amendment process. The current requirements, for signatures and a statewide simple-majority for citizen-initiated ballot measures to pass, would stand. Legislature can still repeal or amend them, but changes would require an 80% vote from both the Senate and the House. If achieved, the changes would go back on the ballot for another vote by citizens.

Opponents of Amendment 6 say it will make it impossible for legislators to do their job. Yes, it could make it more challenging for a super-majority of legislators to achieve their ends – but not impossible. There's a difference.

Opponents are also using scare tactics, again, telling us that if Amendment 6 passes, Missouri law will be unduly influenced by "big-money, big-city people and out-of-state interests."

I've got news: those out-of-state influences have been affecting Missouri legislation for years. Take a look at the numerous tax credits our current legislators have dished out as bribes to out-of-state corporations to suck them into doing business in Missouri. Lobbyists for said corporations swarm the Capitol like gadflies, pitching gilded manure into the ears of whomever might listen. They're gaining access, as evidenced by recent laws that have passed. We're at their mercy, more so, if Amendment 6 fails.

A "No" vote on Amendment 6 will limit our ability to pipe up in the face of legislative injustice and corporate influence. Think hard before throwing away the valuable tool that a citizens' initiative petition represents, just because you don't agree with past, passed initiatives. The next one might be critical to your interests.

In Barry County, I'm thinking specifically of the corporations with big plans to store and dump out-of-state meat-processing waste on our fields. Because of Senate Bill 391, passed into law in 2019, counties cannot legislate against such activities, because the measure would be considered more stringent than state law, in matters agricultural. That law needs to change, and I suspect that few of you would disagree. A citizens' petition could be our only recourse. Likewise, with many other pressing topics.

A "Yes" vote on Amendment 6 will allow us to retain our voice in matters that affect all Missourians.

Amendment 7 (like Amendment 5, in the August election) is another attempt by legislature to do away with Missouri state taxes: this time, to replace them with money generated from a government endowment fund. The account would receive funds appropriated by the legislature - for example, donations (very likely, some from out-of-state corporations) and a portion of our continuing state income taxes, which we'll continue to pay until they're deemed unnecessary. State taxes will only become unnecessary if stock-market gambling with our funds, by our state treasurer, pays off.

State income taxes for individuals would not be curtailed unless the endowment fund generated enough revenue to cover state expenses, which sponsoring Senator Adam Schnelling (R-23) envisions in a world 100 or 125 years from now.

The idea of our current legislators having a new tax-payer-funded account to tinker with, in the meantime, seems ludicrous, when they already have trouble giving account for what they're in charge of. A $1.4 trillion discrepancy in reported revenue from out-of-state (pass through) corporations, between the Department of Revenue's 2024 and 2025 annual financial reports, has yet to be accounted for.

There's another big hitch with Amendment 7: if our taxes have been curtailed, and the investment fund goes belly-up - or not enough money is being generated – state taxes can be reinstated in the future, at unknown rates.

Tread lightly, Missouri voters. We have lots at stake.

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

TROUT TALES



Are you ready for the rootin'-est, tootin'est State Representative race this side of the Mississsippi? Our local candidates, Democrat Christopher Foster, at left, and Republican Scott Cupps, at right, made a big splash in social media this week, gracing the McDonald County Press Facebook page with their impressive chops! Of the more than 1,700 comments, our favorites include: "The candidates will be meeting for a duel on the courthouse steps at high noon," "When's the election? 1865?," "The best way to win is to be both candidates," "I just cast my vote, waiting for pony express to pick it up," "They look like this: 'This town ain't big enough for the two of us,'" "What are their positions on locomotives?," and, of course, "What in tarnation?" No matter their positions, we're declaring Cupps and Foster both winners. My boss, Kyle Troutman, knows a thing or two about beards, and he approves of this matchup of mutton!

Trout Brown is the comics correspondent for the Cassville Democrat, aiming to point out entertaining happenings in Barry County.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Early settlers that made Barry County



LYNN HILBURN

We're finally going to get around to talking talk about some of the people/ the earliest inhabitants and settlers of the area that made Barry County what it is today.

Many think that history is boring and why should we be bothered with going over something that is well past. But others feel as I do, that we need to be a student of history so that in the future we don't make the same mistakes, so that we create a better country and a better environment in which to live.

What I am trying to do in my editorial segments about the history of Cassville and Barry County is to present why things are named what they are, why some things are the size that they are, information about things that have influenced people or events in Barry County and tidbits of information about some of our historical characters and about unique things that have happened in Barry County.

Much of the information that I will be using came from these major sources "Goodspeed's 1888 History of Barry County," the book "Early Barry County," published in 1965 by the original Barry County Historical Society (Compiled primarily by Addah Matthews, Historian), "The First 150 Years in Cassville Missouri," by Barry County's own Emory Melton, Dennis Epperly's book "Rural Schools in the Ozarks," with information, tidbits, stories, family histories and 'gossip" from the "Ancestors Unlimited" Quarterlies published by the Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society and from 160 years of my own family's history in Barry county.

Before I start talking about the early settlers and individuals and families, I want to spend just a little more time on the history of the place called Barry County. Barry County, the southwest corner of Missouri, the state of Missouri and, of course, the whole Louisiana Purchase have a great deal to do with the size and shape of the present-day United States. If Napoleon Bonaparte had not needed money to help him fight the war for the control of most of Europe, then he and the French would never have sold the Louisiana Purchase to America, and western edge of the United States may have ended at the Mississippi River, and we here in Barry County may have been speaking French today.

Going back even farther, there had been signs that there was inhabitation of this area by Indians or others as far back as 6,000 years ago. When the Spanish and French explorers came into this area in the early 1700s, the primary inhabitants of the area were generally peaceful Osage Indians, and maybe a few Delaware Indians. Speaking of the Osage Indians, did you know that there was a relationship between the FBI and the Osage Indians.

As the Osage Indians were pushed out of Missouri and even out of Kansas down into Oklahoma, something unique occurred. Most of the Osage wound up settling in the northern part of Oklahoma, around Pawhuska, Oklahoma. In the 1890s, oil was found in this area. Any Osage who had their names on the Roles became relatively well off. Some unscrupulous white men arranged for their young male relatives to marry Osage women, then the women and some of their family members would disappear, and therefore the surviving husbands became the heirs to more oil money. Actually, tribal leaders believed they were murdered and asked the government for some assistance. The United States sent in some federal police to investigate the situation. Needing a name for this group of lawmen, since they were operating not on American soil (at the time Pawhuska was "Indian Territory"), they called them the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the FBI). The left handed conclusion, some of the former residents of Barry County had a hand in creating the FBI. Isn't history amazing?

Getting back to the land that we know as Barry County. It was at one time part of three other counties or districts. At the time of statehood for Missouri in 1821, Barry County was part of what was called the New Madrid District, which was generally the south 1/6 of Missouri and ran all the way from the Mississippi River to the western border of the State. Then the western portion of it was divided off and called Crawford County. In 1833 Crawford was divided and the area was part of Greene County.

It was in 1835 the area finally became known as Barry County, which included the territory now constituting the counties of Barry, Newton, Lawrence, Jasper, McDonald, Barton and Dade, and part of Cedar County. The county seat was in Mount Pleasant, which was approximately two miles west of Pierce City. In 1838 the State decided Barry County was too big, so the West 30 miles (+/-) of Barry County became Newton County, and the county seat was moved to McDonald or McDowell.

In 1845 the state of Missouri thought that Barry County was still too big (remember they tried to make counties small enough so families with a buckboard and a team of horses could get to the county seat and back in one long day), so they cut off most of what today is Stone County on the East and Lawrence County on the north, creating our, almost square, 790 square mile County of Barry. They needed a new county seat so they picked the home of William Kerr, which was located close to Flat Creek, near the center of the county (about where the old LeCompte Lumber Company was located). John O Bertram had a house at the old Crystal Springs Trout Farm just north of present city limits of Cassville, but it was located in a floodable area. The Kerr house was closer to the center of the County, and it was sitting on a knob well above the Creek.

As far as I can determine, Edmund Jennings was the first white American to actually stay for a while in southwest Missouri in 1817. He hunted and trapped with the Indians and even dressed like them. When he went back to Tennessee, he referred to the area as the Country of Six Boils, meaning Big Springs. In 1818 and 1819, Henry Schoolcraft, a geologist looking for lead and other minerals, and Levi Pettibone, his companion walked from Potosi, MO down to James River and White River in southwest Missouri. At the time, there were very few others, except trappers and possibly outlaws.

In 1828, Samuel Washburn was the first settler on what was later to be known as Washburn Prairie. He lived with his family there until the early 1830s and established the small community known as Washburn. He then took his family to Texas looking for more land, more "free" land (Remember in Missouri the land cost between $1.00 and $1.25 per acre – In Texas the land was free, if you came and fought with Sam Houston). While the Washburns were gone, the community went through two name changes, but after they returned following the Civil War, the community again became Washburn.

Population information: Barry County did not yet exist in 1820 – Population consisted of probably two or three white men and a few hundred Osage Indians. Barry County still did not exist in 1830 – It was counted as part of Greene County, Missouri Territory – Estimated population 1100 to 1200 settlers.

In my next editorial message, I will actually get down to talking about Littleberry Mason, Price McMurtry, the LeComptes, the Pharises, the McClures, the Baylesses, the Sparkmans, the McConnells, the Varners, the Weathers, the Stubblefields and many others.

Please, keep reading history.

Lynn Hilburn is an officer in the Barry County Genealogical and Historical Society, and invites all to come and join meetings, to provide information about their families or to look up information about their families. Hilburn may be reached at hlhilburn@hotmail.com.

50 years ago

Oct. 27, 1976

– HOSPITAL GIFT FROM AUXILIARY ROOM BEGINNING

Efforts of the South Barry County Hospital Auxiliary have resulted in presentation of a $1,000 gift to the local hospital unit. The gift came forth in the auxiliary meeting last week. Mrs. Betty Johnson, treasurer, made the presentation to Don Grant, administrator. The auxiliary's intention is for the contribution to be applied to the purchase of an electric bed. Mrs. Signe Vollenweider, auxiliary president, said this "is the first step in our overall project of completely refurbishing a room in the hospital." In about two years of operation, the auxiliary unit, through fundraisers including bake sales, cookbook sales, airplane rides at the airport dedication and bazaars, has scraped together the funds for this first major financial contribution of their history. In addition to regular business, the auxiliary heard a report on current swine flu clinics by representatives of the Missouri Division of Health. Also reported at the meeting were offspring volunteer efforts for the hospital, also fostered by the auxiliary. Included were hours of volunteer work since March 30 this year: Pink Ladies have 227 hours at the hospital; Candy Stripers have worked 835 hours; and overall the auxiliary has contributed over 800 hours to fundraising and administrative activities. Board of director reports, with each making emphasis on their area of responsibility, included: Helen McKelvy, Pink Ladies; Evangeline Huddleson, workshop; Hazel Edmondson, membership; Ruth Ann Barnes, Candy Stripers; Eva Lee, ways and means; Jeanne Roles, secretary; Margaret Henbest, gift cart; Gerry Hoover, projects; Bunny Carney, publicity; and Dorothy Miles, awards and Pink Lady co-chairman.

– 13,026 ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN BARRY COUNTY TUESDAY

Barry Countians, 13,026 in number, could go to the polls next Tuesday in the general election, according to County Clerk Howard Bounous. That's the number of registered voters eligible at the October 6 deadline. If statewide estimates of 76% of the voters going to the polls November 2 are correct, this would put the county vote total at 9,900. The percentage of Missourians going to the polls comes from Secretary of State James Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick's office this week said the state has 2,552,852 registered voters, with 1,950,000 of these expected to mark ballots next week. Bounous noted the increase in registered voters in Barry County was above the 10,800 on the books in April and the 12,000-plus eligible for the August primary. Voters using their right in the primary totaled 6,287 in the U.S. Senate races of both parties, which was just under the 50% figure for those eligible. Absentee voting in Barry County was noted at a brisk pace this week. As of Tuesday, a total of 674 requests had been received. Bounous noted the deadline for applications is 4 p.m. Friday. Deadline for ballot return is 4 p.m. Monday, November 1. Conducting the election will be 124 judges in 26 townships. There will be an additional 62 clerks, one to each two judges, assisting in distribution of ballots and counting. Election officials will be paid $27.30 each for the 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. duties. The day will actually be longer for most, since major counting and tabulation will follow closing of polls. A record voter turnout at the general election has been predicted by Secretary of State Kirkpatrick. Missouri's chief election official announced there are 2,552,852 Missourians registered to vote and 1,950,000 of them are expected to mark ballots. The previous registration record since Missouri adopted statewide voter registration in 1973 was 2,395,070, set in the August 3 primary. The record turnout in a general election was established in 1960, when 1,934,422 Missourians marked ballots. Kirkpatrick said registration increased by 420,758 since the August 6, 1974, primary election — the first conducted under statewide registration requirements. This is a 20 percent increase in registration since mid-1974, and most of it came within the last six months. "We think Missourians may be saving their largest Bicentennial celebration for November 2," Kirkpatrick said. He noted 311,753 more Missourians were registered since April 1976, when Kirkpatrick surveyed registration for the municipal, school and special district elections. Census Bureau statistics cited by Kirkpatrick estimate Missouri's voting-age citizen population at 3,331,000. Young Missourians who have reached voting age since the last presidential election are estimated at 370,000. Secretary Kirkpatrick said his prediction of a record turnout was prompted by several factors. "We're experiencing one of the largest automatic turnovers of incumbent officials in my memory. One of our U.S. Senators, five of our 10 congresspersons and 40 of 180 state legislators who would have faced re-election this year are not running. That contributes to some exciting contests on November 2," he said. Kirkpatrick also credited the controversy over two constitutional amendments and a proposition for part of the reason he expects a big turnout. He added that he expects the anticipated closeness of the presidential race to be one more factor encouraging more people to vote. The prediction by Kirkpatrick will hold true if 76 percent of the registered voters mark ballots. This would be nearly 59 percent of the estimated voting-age population.



30 YEARS AGO: SWEET VICTORY — Wheaton high school senior Amie Tichenor, the Lady Bulldogs shortstop, is pictured above accepting the Class A state softball championship trophy in an emotional moment. The Lady Bulldogs captured the title Saturday by beating the South Nodaway Longhorns, 11-8. April Disney is pictured on the right of Tichenor and Laura Wilson is shown on the left. Democrat file photo

40 years ago

Oct. 29, 1986

– RID R-4 CAMPUS OF STRAY DOGS

Cassville R-4 board of education took steps Thursday night to rid the campus of dogs, bought three bus units for December delivery, discussed possible change in tax levy and agreed to financing of the transportation units. Superintendent Dan Bailey, in public notices, said, "Any dog sighted on school premises during the school day will be picked up by the Cassville City Police Department." Board president Don Stockton said it was not determined in the meeting who would bear costs of the program. City ordinances call for stray or troublesome dogs to be captured and held from three to five days. The city operates through Miekley-Cupps Veterinarian Clinic here. Charges are $12.50 per animal for boarding and disposing of same if that becomes necessary. Stockton said two youngsters were bitten on the campus last week. He said the dog involved had not been rabies vaccinated. The dog was being held for observation. In other business, the board accepted a bid from Vernon Bus Sales for three units to be delivered in December. Total cost was $71,000. The board also opened sealed bids on financing the bus units. Presented were Commerce Bank of Barry County at 7.5 percent and Boatmen's National Bank at 5.8 percent. The board accepted Boatmen's bid for purchase of units. Discussion by the board also covered a possible tax levy increase. Stockton said the board was not ready to discuss numbers on this issue. He said Bailey would present additional information in future sessions. The special meeting had members Stockton, Tom Cardin, John Anglum, John Sullivan, Dennis Ledgerwood and Steve Buchheit attending.

30 years ago

Oct. 23, 1996

– COUNTY OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO DISCUSS INTERSECTION OPTIONS

Discussions continued this week between county commissioners and state highway department officials about alternatives that could be employed to make the intersection of Highway 76-86 and Old Exeter Road less dangerous. The county held a hearing on the matter Oct. 1, which revealed strong public concerns about safety at the intersection. At the conclusion of the hearing, county officials pledged to continue pushing for improvements at the crossroads. Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren said the commission intends to send a formal request to the highway commission concerning possible changes at the intersection. Specifics of the request have not been formulated. Area residents and county office holders said the most desirable action would be for the highway department to widen the road, shave off the top of the hill that blocks the view of the approaching intersection and add a left turn lane at the site. Highway officials said a project of that magnitude could take two or three years and about $500,000 to complete if it was ever approved. In the meantime, commissioners met Thursday with Leland Osburn and Bob Cannon of the Missouri State Highway Department and with Stona Farwell of Flat Creek Road District in regard to alternative actions that could be taken at the intersection. Closing Old Exeter Road to through traffic and creating an alternative route to the highway was discussed. John Starchman, a Flat Creek road district commissioner, said the district was willing to do "something" to make the intersection more safe, but he said he wasn't sure if closing Old Exeter Road and building a new street was the best solution. "We could move the intersection down a couple of a hundred feet but we don't have the budget to build that much new road," Starchman said. He said he and the other road commissioners would continue to study options at the intersection and talk to nearby residents about possible changes in the coming weeks. Warren said the county couldn't pay for the new road but would act as the "sponsoring agent." In a related issue, the commission sent a letter to District Engineer Richard Walters with the State Highway Department concerning the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit on Highway 37 at the west edge of Cassville. Warren said the commission had received several requests from citizens in south Barry County about reducing the speed limit near the two traffic lights on Highway 37 outside of Cassville. The pair of stop lights involved are located at the intersection of Old Exeter Road and Highway 37 and at the junction of Highways 37, 76 and 86. The commission is asking the highway department to perform a traffic study for the area along Highway 37 within one-half mile of each stop light. In the letter, Warren writes: "It is difficult for the commission to understand why we have 45-mile-per-hour speed limits through the west edge of Purdy, 37 Highway and the east side of Washburn and east side of Seligman, while the speed limit is 55 miles per hour through Cassville." In other business this week, the commission met with representatives from G.T.E. telephone operations, Sheriff Ralph Hendrix, Jack Lowe of the sheriff's department, David Cox with Branco Enterprises and Charley Hannaford of Hannaford Electric in regard to wiring for the phone system in the new Barry County Jail addition. Commissioners asked the phone company to survey needs with the sheriff and report back to the commission. The commission approved a schedule of claims payable in the total amount of $110,988.92. This total included a $67,050 payment to Branco Construction, an $11,035 payment to Capital Prison Systems and a $2,889 payment to Hannaford Electrical. All three disbursements were for work completed on the jail addition. The commission okayed Treasurer Lois Lowe's request to distribute $93,830.02 to county road districts in CART, MVST and MVFI revenue. Commissioners also directed Lowe to pay $67,518.27 to Snyder Bridge Company from the emergency road and bridge fund for completion of the Woodard Creek bridge in Wheaton Special Road District.

– IF I WERE PRESIDENT...

I would give the poor people a room in my house and give them money. Kala Harris, third grade, Cassville.

Get rid of taxes and make every road paved and give kids more time in the lunchroom and a chance to talk. Adam Brown, third grade, Cassville.

I would study and try to solve the racial problems and gang problems. Scott Fitzpatrick, third grade, Cassville.

Help everybody clean-up the universe. Brittany Linebrink, first grade, Cassville.

Clean up the United States.

Julia Madison, first grade, Cassville.

I would rule the land. Jeffery Blankenship, first grade, Cassville.

I would stay home and lay in my bed. Jerry Hopkins, first grade, Wheaton.

I would help everybody.

Dalton Cullers, first grade, Wheaton.

Everybody would do what they wanted. Cliffie Robe, first grade, Wheaton.

I would lower the taxes. I would be respected. I would be a good man. I would be a good sport. Tyler Wallace, third grade, Wheaton.

Teach kids about color. Chell Dawn Terry, kindergarten, Cassville.

I would go home because I wouldn't like it. Tiffany Testerman, kindergarten, Cassville.

I would invite my friends to my birthday party. Melissa Moore, kindergarten, Cassville.

Fly in a big airplane. Jesse Webb, kindergarten, Cassville.

Ride in a big long car.

Matthew Webb, kindergarten, Cassville.

I would make people stop killing animals and only kill cows, pigs and turkeys. I would give my money to the poor people. I would put up signs every place that would say "Don't drink and smoke."

Charity Reid, second grade, Purdy.

I would stop the fights in America. Erica Burns, second grade, Purdy.

Make laws about no smoking, no killing deer and listen to the teacher. I would write stories of Miss Hamm. If there were trouble in Canada I would send guards because I'm the presidential king.

Josh Popchoke, second grade, Purdy.

I would read stories. Reabbh Bell, first grade, Wheaton.

I would keep people from polluting the USA. Mandy Thomas, fourth grade, Exeter.

I would go all around the world and give out teddy bears to everybody in the world, give a new law not to be putting trash in the lakes, ocean, rivers, beaches too because it kills the fish in the water and the seaweed and other plants in the world. And the Dallas Cowboys play the Chiefs and watch the Super Bowl because the Dallas Cowboys is my favorite team in the world because I like them. Jaclyne Sweat, fourth grade, Exeter.

I would give day care more money and cut down prices on food. I would put more police on patrol, give homeless people homes, cut down taxes. Dakodah Murray, fourth grade, Exeter.

I would hire all my friends to be workers for me and my secretary and my best friend Lance will be vice president and Dakodah will be my counselor. Jacob Davis, fourth grade, Exeter.

I would help the poor people get food and warm places to live so they won't die. I would also raise money for the weapons for the war in Bosnia. I would try to do my best to be president. Elizabeth Cooper, fifth grade, Exeter.

Wish we could buy more stuff from the poor so they could buy more stuff from other places. Kyle Bishop, third grade, Cassville.

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

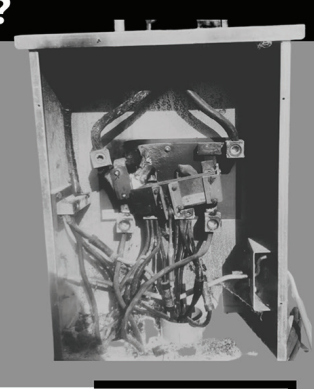
Hi, I'm Ruby — formerly known as Judd — a 3-year-old Great Pyrenees and Bluetick Coonhound mix with a striking white and tan coat! I'm already spayed and ready to join a family, and I get along wonderfully with dogs, kids, and cats. I'm a friendly girl who thrives in an active household, though I'd do best without chickens around. Come meet me and let's see if we're a perfect match. Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



Still keeping it old-school?

While an old-school transfer switch, meter box, or breaker/fuse box may still do its job, it can't match the safety features of modern equipment.

Ensure your safety by replacing any outdated equipment that doesn't meet current safety standards. Consult a qualified electrician for a thorough inspection of your electrical wiring and fixtures.



Barry Electric Cooperative

4015 Main St. Cassville, MO 65625
417-847-2131 ~ www.barryelectric.com

Obituaries



Robert Philip "Phil" Reese

Robert Philip "Phil" Reese, age 74, formerly of Monett, Missouri, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2026, at Castlewood Senior Living in Nixa, Missouri.

Phil was born on March 11, 1952, in Cassville, Missouri, to Harold and Ruby (Dunlap) Reese. On January 16, 1977, he married Linda Pharr in Lincoln, Arkansas, who survives. Also surviving are his sons, Clayton Reese of Monett and Clifton Reese and his wife Amanda of Monett; and his grandchildren, Katelyn Cook, Jaci Reese, and John Reese. Phil was incredibly proud of his grandchildren, and the joy they brought him was evident whenever he spent time with them. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Phil grew up in Springdale, Arkansas, and graduated from Springdale High School in 1970. He went on to attend the University of Arkansas, where he studied Agriculture and Animal Science. During college, he pursued his passion for rodeo, competing in college rodeos as a steer wrestler.

Following his education, Phil began a successful career in sales, selling poultry vaccines for Boehringer Ingelheim until his retirement. Phil had a remarkable ability to remember the faces and names of those he met. He took a genuine interest in people, making them feel remembered and valued. He also spent many years as an auctioneer, selling horses and cattle.

Those who knew Phil would remember him as a sharp dresser who took particular pride in his cowboy hat. He loved riding, was an avid stockman, and enjoyed every aspect of the livestock business, especially working his cattle.

Phil was a member of First Baptist Church in Cassville, Missouri. He had a tender heart for the Lord and loved reading God's Word every day.

Funeral services for Phil will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, October 23, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Paul Wahlert and Ron McDaniel will conduct the services. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 P.M. until service time on Friday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Oak Hill Cemetery or Gideons International.

PAID OBITUARY

Fohn Funeral Home
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141
Visit www.fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbooks and private condolences

Norma C. Pennel

Norma C. Pennel, 84, of Verona, MO, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2026 with her son and husband by her side at home. Norma was born October 9, 1942 in Redlands, CA.

Her wish was to be cremated and her ashes to be spread in Deception Pass in Washington State. No services are planned at this time. A possible celebration of life and memorial will be announced at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, MO.

Harry Jay Brown

On Friday, October 9, 2026, Harry Jay Brown was called for his final great adventure. He was born on August 27, 1944.

A Celebration of Harry's life will be at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Monett, MO. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, MO.



Wendie Jean Kryselmire

Wendie Jean Kryselmire, 82, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Saturday, October 3, 2026 at her home.

She was born February 4, 1944 in Iowa City, Iowa, the daughter of Wendell and Geraldine (Wheeler) Weed, who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her first husband to William E. Roney; her second husband Eddie Charles Kryselmire and her brother Dennis Weed.

Survivors include her son, Tim Kryselmire and wife Carrie of Sandy, Utah; daughters, Beth Pieters and husband Dave of Auburn, Neb., Mindy York and husband Dave of Draper, Utah, and Kat Tucker and husband Dave of Springfield, Mo.; 13 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

She attended school in Minneapolis, Minn., graduating from Washburn High School. She later attended the University of Utah, where she earned a Masters Degree in Special Education.

She and Eddie moved to southwest Mo. in 2006 from Evanston, Wyo.

She spent time helping with Operation Christmas Child, and serving through Ozark Christian Church in Purdy, Mo., where she was a faithful member.

Services were held Sunday, October 18, 2026 at Ozark Christian Church in Purdy, Mo. Pastor Randy Martin conducted the service.

Graveside services were held Monday, October 19, 2026 at Clarinda Cemetery in Clarinda, Iowa, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Tim Kryselmire conducted the service.

Contributions may be made to Ozark Christian Church in memory of Wendie.

Fohn Funeral Home
Cassville, Missouri
417-847-2141
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Jean Marie McCutchan

Jean Marie McCutchan, passed away on October 9, 2026 in Cassville, Mo., after a long illness.

She was born on April 11, 1952 to Leslie Z. Nichols and Frances Martin Nichols in Washington, D.C. who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death was her husband, Thomas E. McCutchan and brother, Renn Nichols.

Survivors include two daughters, Michelle Cox and Jessica Bucciantini, one granddaughter, and one grandson.

She comes from a large family and will be sorely missed by her sister, Connie Bruce, brothers, Bobby Nichols, Gary Nichols, James (Jimmy) Nichols and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life, for the family (schedule to be determined). To leave a memorial in Jean's honor, please donate to your local SPCA, Humane Society or preferred animal shelter, as Jean was an avid animal lover.

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Cassville, Missouri
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Judy Marie Shumaker

Judy Marie Shumaker, age 86, of Golden, Missouri, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2026 at Circle of Life in Bentonville, Arkansas.

She was born in Cassville, Missouri on January 20, 1940, the daughter of Clifford Maurice and Thelma Marie (Henbest) Nickle. On December 23, 1958 she was united in marriage to Keith Shumaker, who preceded her in death on February 1, 2016. Also preceding her in death were her parents; a brother, Dan Nickle and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bob and Kay Curry.

Surviving are her sons, Brian Shumaker (Linda Anstaett) of Golden, Missouri, Lane Shumaker and wife Gail of Golden, Missouri, and Mark Shumaker and wife Jennifer of Golden, Missouri; brother, Bill Nickle and wife Kappy of Ft. Worth, Texas; sister-in-law, Glea Nickle of Colorado Springs, Colorado; grandchildren, Megan, Pate, Alex, Trevor, Audra, Morgan, and Sarah and great grandchildren, Paislee, Silas, Kasen, Porter, Asher, Liam, Truman, Colston, Callahan, Avalee, Benny, Harper, Sailor, Quincy, and Wilson.

Judy attended school in Joplin, Missouri, and graduated from Joplin High School with the Class of 1957. From 1961 until 2023, she co-owned and operated Shumaker Tire, Incorporated, in Golden, dedicating many years to the business.

She enjoyed gardening, tending to her flowers, painting, sewing, working in the yard, and cooking. Hospitality was especially important to her, and she always wanted everyone to feel welcome in her home. Judy was an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan and loved attending the events and activities of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Judy will be remembered for her many years of hard work, her welcoming spirit, and the love she shared with her family. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, October 22, 2026 at First Baptist Church in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Home in Cassville. Pastor James Weaver, Pastor Jerry Yarnall, and Pastor Shaun Crawford will conduct the services. Burial will be at Viney Creek Cemetery in Golden, Missouri.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Gideons International or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of Judy.

PAID OBITUARY

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William "Roger" Stumpff

William "Roger" Stumpff, age 73, of Cassville, Missouri, passed away October 14, 2026 at his home in Cassville.

Roger, the youngest son of Donald and Barbara "June" (Blankenship) Stumpff was born March 27, 1953 in Cassville, Missouri, where he spent his entire life. On June 6, 1971 he married his high school sweetheart, Gaye (Krepps) Stumpff. They enjoyed a life filled with love and laughter and were blessed with two daughters, Kara Janell and Sunni Elizabeth.

His parents owned the Dairy Queen (which explains his lifelong love of ice cream). As a boy, he hung out there, and next door at Butler's gas station where he quickly acquired the nickname "Sassafras." In 1971 he graduated from Moler Barber College in Kansas City and started working with his brother, Rex. In 1976 they purchased the Reid Hardware building on Main Street and became co-owners of the newly remodeled and relocated Stumpff Barber Shop. In 1977, he began as a contract mail carrier, cutting hair part time in the evenings. In their spare time, he and Gaye purchased several homes and enjoyed remodeling them as rentals or flipping them. He eventually became a full-time USPS rural carrier, retiring after 40 years due to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. On November 1, 2018 he received a life-saving double lung transplant which allowed him to actually begin enjoying his retirement.

He loved ice cream (his last meal), old cars and trucks, going to flea markets and auctions, Janice's homemade sand plum jelly, and being outdoors. Horseback riding, motorcycles, four wheelers, jeeps, or his Polaris Ranger, traveling to the Colorado mountains and other states to ride the trails were his favorite activities. He enjoyed the country life in his dream home, tinkering in his shop, and listening to the "night sounds" on his beloved 60 acres. But the thing he loved the most was spending time and doing anything with his family. Family was always his #1 priority.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Gaye Stumpff; one daughter, Kara Williams and her husband, Jason; one grandson, Tanner Williams; one granddaughter, Tori Williams, all of Cassville; one brother-in-law, Ray Krepps and his wife, Janice of Winfield, Kansas; two sisters-in-law, Janice Stumpff and Yvonne Stumpff, of Cassville, and aunt, Bonnie Ragain, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sunni Stumpff; his parents; brothers, Rex Stumpff and Max Stumpff; his niece, Tricia Vaught; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Wayne and Edith Krepps; two brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Richard and Chalea Starlin, and Bob and Nonie Opperman and nephew, Steve Starlin.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Paul Wahlert will conduct the services. Burial will be at Russell Cemetery in Butterfield, Missouri.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Tuesday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Russell Cemetery in memory of Roger.

PAID OBITUARY

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Dorothy May "Dot" Young

Dorothy May "Dot" Young, 91, of Mt. Vernon, Mo. passed away Monday, October 12, 2026, at Cox Monett Hospital in Monett, Mo.

She was born in Detroit, Mich., the daughter of Ralph and Mildred (Winslow) Freedline. On May 2, 1970, in Dearborn, Mich., who preceded her in death.

Also preceding her in death were two daughters, Martha and Patricia; two sisters; one brother and two grandsons.

Survivors include her husband, David Eldon Young; her sons, David Young and wife Christina of Mt. Vernon, Mo. and Jeff Young and wife Brooke of Union, Mo.; daughter Ruth Anderson and husband Dave Hathcox of South Gate, Mich.; 12 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

She attended school in Redford, Mich., and worked as a waitress for several years. She and her husband, David, had made their home in Mt. Vernon for the last six years after moving from Pendleton, Ky.

She was a member of the Church of Christ. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Services were Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at Church

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

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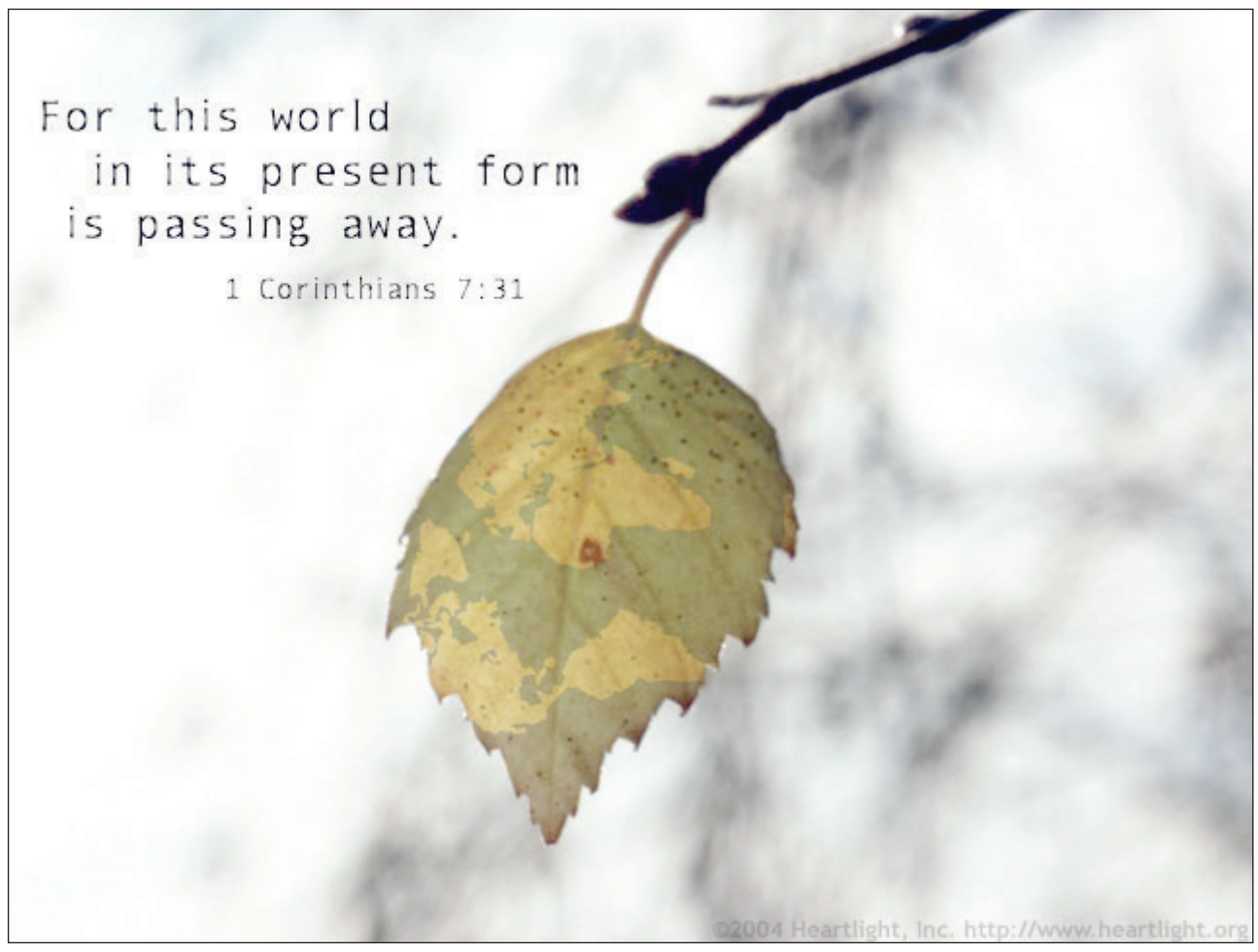
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— PSALM 37:4

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 158

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



Scott Cupps, Republican

1. Why do you want this position and what are your qualifications?
I'm running for my fifth and final term in the Missouri House. A LOT has changed since I started in the legislature, but the one thing that has stayed fairly consistent is that with modern term limits and ever shifting dynamics in the Senate, it has become extremely difficult to get anything substantial accomplished until you have some seniority within the Chamber. I've worked extremely hard in the last seven years gaining not only the respect of my House colleagues, but also that of members of the Senate and Governors office. Over the years I've been diligently working on many bureaucratic reform measures that will add much needed checks and balances to the semi-corrupt Jeff City bureaucratic machine, and would love nothing more than to have the opportunity to see that work through.

2. If elected, what are your three highest priorities and why?
I think I accidentally already revealed one, but the honest truth is the other two are fairly simple. TO KEEP BAD, CORRUPT, AGENDA BASED LEGISLATION FROM PROGRESSING, and to at all cost protect my constituent's God given Personal Rights and Civil Liberties. If you would have asked me seven years ago if we would be in a position in Missouri where guys like myself would have to fight with all we're worth, literally on a daily basis, to protect the citizenry from having their rights infringed upon by a semi-corrupt form of bureaucratic government... one that ironically was originally established and designed only to serve them, I would have told you there was no way!... but the reality is that's where we are. I not only want to make sure it doesn't get worse, but want to ACTUALLY be the one that helps return Missouri to a form of state government that is beholden to the people, not a form of government that treats the people as if they are beholden to it.

3. What is the single biggest issue in Barry County you believe could be addressed in the state legislature?
In pondering this question and attempting to eloquently find a way to say that there isn't one key issue, but literally hundreds, my brother called and asked me what I was doing. I told him... and he was quick to remind me that there was a calf beside my house that was starting to get pink-eye and needed darted with Draxxin, and that no one will read my dumb thesis type response (his words)... and even if they do they won't care what my answer is because no one cares what you know unless they know that you actually care. He then went on to remind me that the only thing my constituency actually cares about is knowing that I care... and knowing that I'm doing it for the right reasons. Every week that I'm in Jefferson City numerous real life issues that affect real life people come up, and I have to be very diligent in leaning on the handful of true Christian friends and family that I have that remind me to check myself on a daily basis and remind me to remind myself why I'm doing it, and who I'm doing it for. During session I start everyday by doing that which helps me prioritize and address issues by their real importance on a daily basis, not pick some fake politically advantageous issues and prioritize them for fake political purposes.

4. What changes, if any, are needed in Missouri's criminal justice system?
I think the biggest reform that needs done before we can even begin the broader conversation of reform/treatment initiatives and their efficacy is to actually hold criminals accountable. I know this is a crazy concept to some, but it's silly to get worked up about what the "Law" is, and how effective certain reform measures are, when there is a lack of desire by certain portions of our judicial system to actually hold those who break the law accountable. Real no nonsense Truth-In-Sentencing is crucial in getting the law-abiding public's trust back! Even if the sentences handed down aren't as "harsh" for certain non-violent crimes, or don't include jail time, it is imperative that the legislative and judicial branches work together to get to a point where the sentence handed down is actually the sentence. You don't go into a store and see something with a twenty dollar price tag and expect it to be five dollars when you go to the register. How is it we've created a system where criminals literally expect that their punishment cost won't actually be anything even close to the "price on the tag"? Two years of incarceration should mean two years of incarceration, instead of meaning two months of incarceration and a free ride back to the drug house. We can never begin to reform the rehabilitative efficacy of a "correction" system and make valuable changes unless we start by interjecting some honesty and truth into the framework of the system we're starting with.

5. What is your position on the state's current funding for public schools, and what changes would you make, if any?
I've never in my entire life met anyone who feels as strongly about how crucial our rural and small town public schools are to our communities than myself. But that doesn't mean we can't have a real conversation about how St. Louis Public Schools and Kansas City Public Schools are some of the most corrupt "Black-Hole" public school districts in the entire country. Multi-million dollar consulting contracts to former administrators for "professional-development training" that never actually takes place, building maintenance contracts for union leaders for maintenance that isn't performed, kick-backs to former employees that infiltrate DESE and rubber stamp the grift, liberal teacher's unions that threaten their own members' lives for speaking up, etc, etc. We have to quit letting our rural and small town school administrators be tricked into advocating for the system that protects St. Louis and Kansas City's corruption. Period. There. I said it outloud. I'm definitely not calling out any of the administrators we have in my district! Infact, we're much more fortunate in the 158th than many people realize. We genuinely do have some of the best pragmatic administrators you could ask for, and I'm not just saying that!... but that's not the norm, that's the exception. Many rural districts have superintendents and principals that let their union run professional organizations trick them into advocating for policies that tilt the scales even harder towards the corrupt city public schools instead of policies that are actually best for our healthy successful local public schools. As far as raw funding, I'm going to continue to at all cost advocate for substantive foundation funding formula changes that promote the increased direct funding of the things that we know actually positively affect educational outcomes and support healthy local community schools while trying to cut out those black holes in the formula that the city districts use to fund their grift and corruption.



Christopher Foster, Democrat

1. Why do you want this position and what are your qualifications?
I want a representative that will hear and act on the concerns of all of the constituents in our district, so to ensure that, I decided to throw my hat in the ring. I studied at Crowder College's remote campus in Cassville then finished my degree at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. For eleven years I have worked for the leading financial software & technology company in Monett.

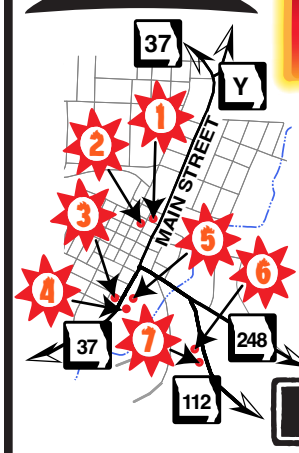
2. If elected, what are your three highest priorities and why?
Expanding Medicaid to ensure healthcare access for all Missourians.
I believe Missouri taxpayers should expect accountability and transparency in state spending, and that public dollars should remain in public schools that educate all students. I oppose the voucher program that takes money from public schools and puts them in private/charter schools.
The Viney Creek Public Access and Campsite near Golden MO has been closed for nearly a decade. The land belongs to the Army Corps of Engineers but there is room in the state budget to re-open it to the public once more. This is the campground I remember camping there as a child and wish it to be available for future generations. My father taught me to tie a fishing lure off the shoreline of Viney Creek.

3. What is the single biggest issue in Barry County you believe could be addressed in the state legislature?
Wage Stagnation, State lawmakers made a mistake eliminating the annual minimum wage adjustments that had been in place and repealed paid sick leave that Missourians had voted into law, removing opportunities for stability in tough times. When we have to pay more out-of-pocket for needs like food and healthcare, it makes it harder for families to thrive.

4. What changes, if any, are needed in Missouri's criminal justice system?
I oppose the death penalty. Capital punishment violates the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment and the guarantees of due process of law and of equal protection under the law. Second, the tendency for plea bargains over trial (95% of cases) The pervasiveness of plea bargains brings with it many troubling consequences. This can, and often does, lead to defendants pleading guilty to crimes for which they are not culpable or accepting lengthier sentences than they otherwise would have received. Jury duty is a core to democracy similar to voting, a right and an obligation of citizenship.

5. What is your position on the state's current funding for public schools, and what changes would you make, if any?
The legislature has failed to meet the state's obligation to fund our public schools. And I am disappointed that the State Board of Education has chosen not to recommend fully funding Missouri's school foundation formula. I'll vote NO on a budget bill that fails to provide the funding our schools requested.

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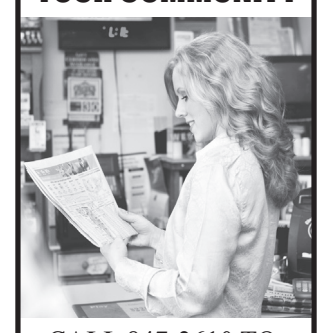
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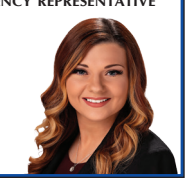
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6A

of Christ in Mt. Vernon, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Jonathan Zerby conducted the services. Burial was at I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Mt. Vernon, Mo.

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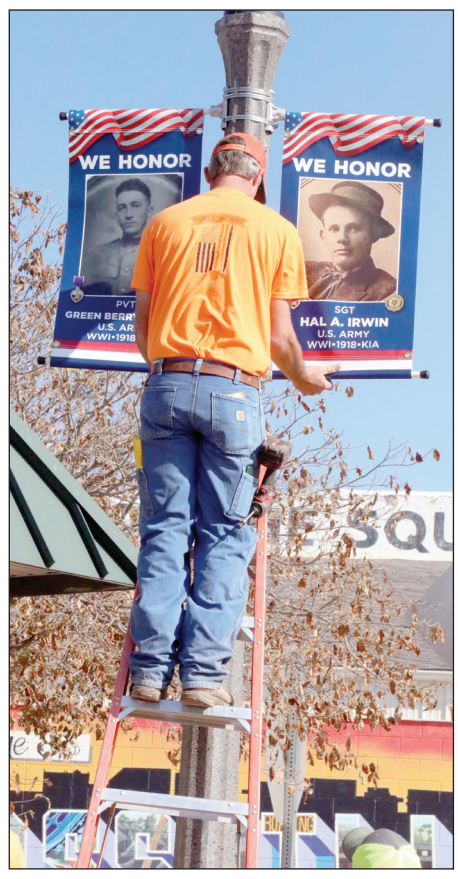
Geneva Hicks and Wilma Gaines accept a banner in honor of Green Berry Easley from John Easley, adjunct historian for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 119, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Hal Miller, left, accepts a banner in honor of Hal Irwin from John Easley, adjunct historian for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 119, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Dennis Ledgerwood, left, accepts a banner in honor of Neal T. "Gene" Ledgerwood from John Easley, adjunct historian for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 119, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Trey Phillips, Cassville public Works employee, hangs the veteran banners for Green Berry Easley and Hal A. Irwin, namesakes for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118. The banners were put up by the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce, where they are able to be perpendicular to Main Street instead of parallel since the pole is on Chamber property. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville Mayor Jon Horner delivers an address at the second presentation of veterans banners at the Barry County Courthouse on Oct. 13. A total of 22 banners were presented, each of which to be displayed in the city of Cassville following the initial awarding of 25 banners already on display. The project is sponsored by the Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 118 in Cassville. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Darrell Hovland, second from right, and members of the Hovland family accept veteran recognition banners for Darrell and his late wife, Michele Hovland, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Dustin Gregory, center, accept his veteran banner from John Easley, adjunct historian for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 119, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Bill Andrews, left, accepts his veteran banner from John Easley, adjunct historian for Cassville's Irwin-Easley American Legion Post No. 119, during a banner presentation ceremony on Oct. 13. Kyle Troutman/

A full list of banner recipients include:

Sergeant Hal Irwin accepted by Hal Miller and Ronnie Campbell

Private Green Berry Easley accepted by Geneva Hicks and Wilma Gaines

Seaman 1st Class Gene Ledgerwood accepted by Dennis Ledgerwood

Private 1st Class William Thompson accepted by Jim Thompson

Private 1st Class Kenneth Beeson accepted by Jo Ellen Fielding

Seargent 1st Class Dustin Gregory accepted by Dustin Gregory

Seaman 2nd Class Robert Daniels accepted by Terry Daniels

Lance Corporal Terry Daniels accepted by Terry Daniels

Sergeant Darrell Wood accepted by Mary Woods

Corporal Daniel Hagan accepted by Bob and Tracy Hagan

Master Chief Aurther Hagan accepted by Bob and Tracy Hagan

Command Master Chief Robert Callahan

Sergeant Normal Chaney accepted by Gary Chaney, Linda Gibson and Cindy Ledgerwood

Private 1st Class Charles Cole accepted by Sandy Baker and Charles Cole Jr.

Colonel Michele Hovland accepted by Darrell Hovland and Family

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Darrell Hovland accepted by Darrell Hovland and Family Command

Sergeant Major Chris Fields accepted by Darrell Hovland and Family

Senior Master Sergeant Bill Andrews accepted by Bill and Diane Andrews

Private 1st Class William Turner accepted by Regina Robbins and Family

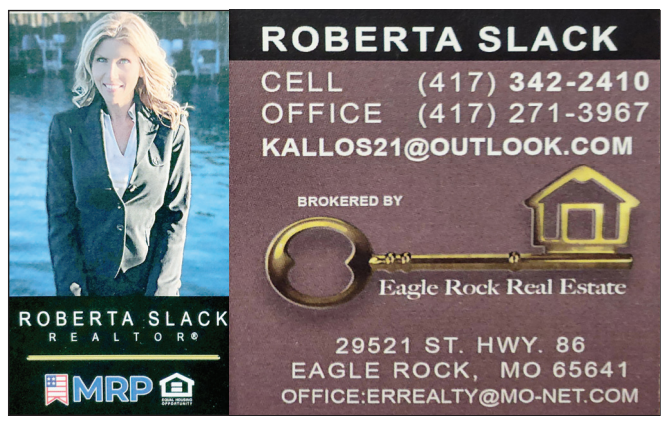
Specialist 4th Class Richard Rider accepted by Richard Rider

Master Sergeant Donald Day accepted by Lucille Day

Lance Corporal Carrell Day accepted by Lucille Day

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Cancer: When you don't know what to say, just say, 'I'm here'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

a scheduling change meant she didn't get the scan at the time she had expected and she said that was a blessing.

"God just really opened the doors to be able to find this when we did," she said. "You get a new vocabulary when you go through this. We knew of two small spots of Stage 0 or the DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ in situ). And then we had also biopsied another spot on my right breast and then a lymph node that had lit up under my armpit."

Sitzes said she then I discovered she had hormone positive (estrogen and progesterone positive) HER 2 negative breast cancer.

"I had a bilateral mastectomy in May of 2025," she said. "My post-op pathology showed that the left was still clear, but my right had over 60 percent of my breast that was cancer affected, and I had a lymph node test positive. So, I got upgraded to what I fondly refer to as the VIP package."

After this, Sitzes was referred to an oncologist, who recommended four months of dose dense chemotherapy.

"I had infusions every other week that was the equivalent of a three week dose," she said. "That's 24 weeks worth of chemo condensed into 16 weeks."

Additionally, a PET scan after her surgery identified two lymph nodes inside her chest wall that were highly probable for metastatic spread.

"At that time, my oncologist said, 'You know, if you would not have found this, you would not have made your 40th birthday,'" she said. "And 40, of course, is when they recommend mammograms."

Sitzes said this is when she started to look at alternative treatments.

"Driving to my first oncology appointment, I just really felt that piece of God saying, 'This is your path,'" she said. "I was very much taken down a road where I didn't want to go, where I had to fully depend on God [without control].



Andrea Sitzes, center, is pictured with her family post-mastectomy and pre-chemo in the last set of family photos before losing her hair to breast cancer treatment. Contributed photo



Andrea Sitzes, right, with her son, Ezra, in 2025 when the pair found Ezra's rocket tent to play in. Sitzes was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. Contributed photo

"I think cancer is so widespread, so relevant because so many people have been touched by it, but it's also so individual and that every case is different, how you treat it is different. What you choose to do as the patient is different. In my case, I very much got the peace after that point, like, okay, I'm going to have to go where I don't want to go."

Sitzes went through four months of chemo after her active treatment.

"Then I received a PET scan, and my first official report was October 13th of 2025 which said that those lymph nodes were completely resolved and no longer measurable," she said. "Definitely a blessing from God.

"I had 15 radiation treatments in December and this year I have been on the path of, Additional medications."

Sitzes said since her cancer is hormone positive and she isn't of menopausal age, they have her on medications to suppress her hormones and she has been recommended for a hysterectomy as well.

When asked how that affects her in the terms of having more children, she said she and her husband hadn't planned on having more children.

"We only have our one son, but I mean, you go through a 100,000 questions and it, it makes you then question everything," she said. "You know, it's not a peaceful journey to go through this."

Sitzes is now in her second round of medical menopause.

"Chemo threw me into medical menopause for nine months," she said. "Then after radiation, everything in my system restarted again. The oral medication was not strong enough, and so in April, I was switched to monthly injections to suppress my hormones. It's been quite a battle with insurance, but, I was just notified that I will be having, finally, my full hysterectomy, November 2nd, and then I will have my final reconstruction and switch out my tissue expanders for my Implants December 7."

Sitzes wants people to understand how different this journey is for everyone.

"In my case, there is no end," she said. "My oncologist has told me I will never hear the words cancer free. I will never hear the words I'm in remission. Because she said, 'The minute that I do that, we take the foot off the gas and I'm never willing to do that with you.'"

That was one of the harder adjustments to make in this process, as Sitzes said she is a goal oriented person.

"[Cancer free] is what you're pushing for," she said. "But then when you realize, okay, this is for my benefit. We're going to stay vigilant. You just learn all along the way to adjust your expectations.

"That is kind of where I'm at now. Fear not, God is in control and walking in faith and realizing this is for my good."

The follow-up treatment in Sitzes case is a targeted agent, which she refers to as "chemo pill sister."

"It helps to suppress the remainder of the estrogen that is not taken care of by either surgery, or the injections, and I'll be on that for 10 years." She said. "In the beginning there was one test that came back and my estrogen was 300 percent higher than it should have been. I wish I had known then. That was probably my biggest early warning that I didn't know was a warning at the time."

Sitzes said she was always a healthy person who went to the doctor, worked out and she had been vigilant in her check ups.

"When the dominoes started to tip and when the test started to come back irregular, it just felt different," she said. "The looks that I would get from the nurses felt different. Everything felt different. And then after my diagnosis, I remember thinking that I felt like tingles in my right breast.

"'I think I feel this tingling. Do I really? Do I not? Am I making it up? It's one of those things like you don't realize it's there until all of a sudden you're hyper aware of those sensations in your body."

Sitzes said she is a completely different human than she was two years ago.

"That is a process," she said. "Relearning yourself, relearning your body, realizing that there is no back to normal. You have to create a new normal.

"Beauty has changed so much for me, when you stripped down everything that you, knew about yourself when you look at yourself and you don't recognize yourself and it happens so fast."

Another aspect that was majorly affected by this journey was motherhood.

"Feeling like the last of my son's childhood was robbed from me was the absolute hardest," she said. "I had a little boy when I was diagnosed and now my son is 13 and he's taller than I am.

"We rode roller coasters for the first time the other day. But, I can't describe to you in words how hard that is. You just have to lean on God."

Sitzes said when you don't know what to say to someone who is going through this, just say, "I'm here."

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12 PM	CHILI TASTING BEGINS
12:30 PM	CHS BAND PERFORMS

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OCTOBER 21, 2026

SPORTS

SECTION B
Publisher Kyle Troutman
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WILDCATS OVERCOME MISTAKES IN SHUTOUT WIN



Cassville's Zach Myers nearly punches in a touchdown during the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville getting back on track after 15 days between contests

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

In spite of losing three fumbles and having two touchdowns wiped off the scoreboard, the Wildcats found a way.

Cassville's defense delivered a shutout in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, helping the Wildcats overcome a turnover-filled offensive performance for a 26-0 victory over Mt. Vernon.

Cassville scored twice in the first quarter and added two more touchdowns to improve its position heading into the final week of the regular season. However, the win came with plenty of room for improvement, particularly on offense, as Cassville worked through a difficult stretch following a lengthy layoff.

"That's the worst we've played offensively all year, and it was mistakes on us," said Clay Weldy, Cassville coach. "Mount Vernon did a good job. They played aggressive and did a good job."

Cassville opened the game with a fumble on the first offensive snap, giving the Mountaineers possession at the Wildcats' 34-yard line. The defense responded by forcing a turnover on downs, setting up the offense to find its footing.

Easton Hughes broke through the middle for a first down to the 46-yard line, and Jaren Stearns followed with a 51-yard touchdown run. The score put Cassville ahead 7-0 with 8:51 remaining in the opening quarter.

The Wildcats quickly added to their lead after Hughes intercepted a Mt. Vernon pass and returned possession to Cassville at the Mountaineers' 18-yard line. Chase Ruark gained seven yards, and Kamden Beebe moved the chains before scoring on a short run to make it 14-0.

WILDCATS FOOTBALL
Record: 7-1
Last result: 26-0 in over Mt. Vernon
Next up: Regular season finale against Nevada on the road Friday

Cassville's defense continued to control the game, stopping Mt. Vernon on downs again after the Mountaineers moved across midfield. Bodie Hodge later intercepted a pass to end another Mountaineer possession.

The Wildcats threatened to extend their lead midway through the second quarter, moving from their own 37 to the Mt. Vernon 1-yard line. But a fumble on the next play gave the ball back to the Mountaineers just short of the goal line.

Cassville's defense forced a punt, and the offense put together another scoring drive. Stearns scrambled for a first down at the Mountaineers' 24-yard line, and, after a fumble that Cassville recovered, the Wildcats continued moving forward. A pass to Carlos Barrientos reached the 1-yard line, where Beebe punched in another touchdown. The extra-point attempt was blocked, leaving Cassville ahead 20-0.

The defense kept Mt. Vernon off the scoreboard through the remainder of the first half. Tyler Hodge recorded a sack for an 8-yard loss, and Spencer Drollinger brought down the quarterback on a scramble to end the half.

Weldy credited the defensive effort as a major bright spot.

"Defensively, I thought we played outstanding today," he said. "We got off the field. We got turnovers. We played really well."

Cassville added to its lead late in the third quarter with another sustained drive. Beebe converted a fourth-and-1 and later picked up another first down to move the Wildcats into scoring position. After Beebe helped advance the ball inside the 10, Stearns kept it himself for a 4-yard touchdown. Another blocked extra point made the score 26-0 with 1:45 left in the quarter.

The Wildcats appeared to add another score when Masin Bryan returned a punt for a touchdown, but a holding penalty brought the play back. Cassville later lost a fumble, giving Mt. Vernon a chance to get on the board.

The Mountaineers drove inside the Wildcats' 15-yard line, but Cassville's defense held again. Mace Bredeson broke up a pass in the end zone, and the Wildcats took over at their own 14.

Cassville's offense then put together one final drive to run out the clock. Hughes picked up a first down near midfield, Ruark caught a screen pass for another first down, and Hughes moved the ball to the Mt. Vernon 20 before the Wildcats entered victory formation.

For Weldy, the performance reflected some of the challenges that can come with an unusual schedule. Cassville had gone through a 15-day stretch without

CONTINUED ON PAGE XX

Lady Wildcats learn on the links

Inexperienced squad grows throughout season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Cassville girls golf team made strides throughout the season, with an inexperienced roster gaining valuable tournament experience and setting the stage for bigger goals next fall.

The Lady Wildcats wrapped up the year at the Class 2, District 3 Tournament, with senior Taylor Yarnall posting the team's top score with a 118, good for 26th place. Paislee Bolinger shot a 136 and took 43rd, Molly Pickett shot a 140 and took 48th, and Abbi Yarnall shot a 142, good for 49th.

Coach Clayton Bagby said the Lady Wildcats saw improvement across the lineup, as players worked to develop consistency and learn the game while navigating challenging conditions throughout the season.

"Overall, it had many positives and it showed some areas for improvement," Bagby said. "The girls we had on the team did a good job of showing up and working on a daily basis, and all girls showed improvement over the previous season, so that was fun to watch."

Bagby said Pickett and Bolinger, both new to varsity competition, made progress as they gained experience.

"Molly and Paislee were new to the varsity side of golf and did a good job of improving their scores from tournament to tournament," Bagby said.

LADY WILDCATS GOLF
What: Played in Class 2, District 3 Tournament
Results: Taylor Yarnall top finisher at 26th with 118
More: Team excited for returners with experience next season

Extreme heat sometimes limited the team's opportunities to play multiple holes on the course, making it more difficult to practice shots and situations that cannot be replicated on the driving range.

Yet, the team made progress in its ball striking and understanding of the game.

"Overall consistency in ball striking was definitely an improvement for all," Bagby said. "With most of our girls relatively new to the game, and with it being very confusing at times to even the most experienced, they did a good job of starting to learn all the rules of golf and starting to learn their individual games and what they need to do help themselves out."

One area Bagby said will remain a priority is the short game. He said players who excel in high school golf often distinguish themselves around the greens.

"In the girls high school game, the girls at the top really separate themselves from the rest with their short games, and especially on the green, so that is an area that will always be a focus," Bagby said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE XX



Cassville's Taylor Yarnall plays a shot onto the green during the Cassville Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

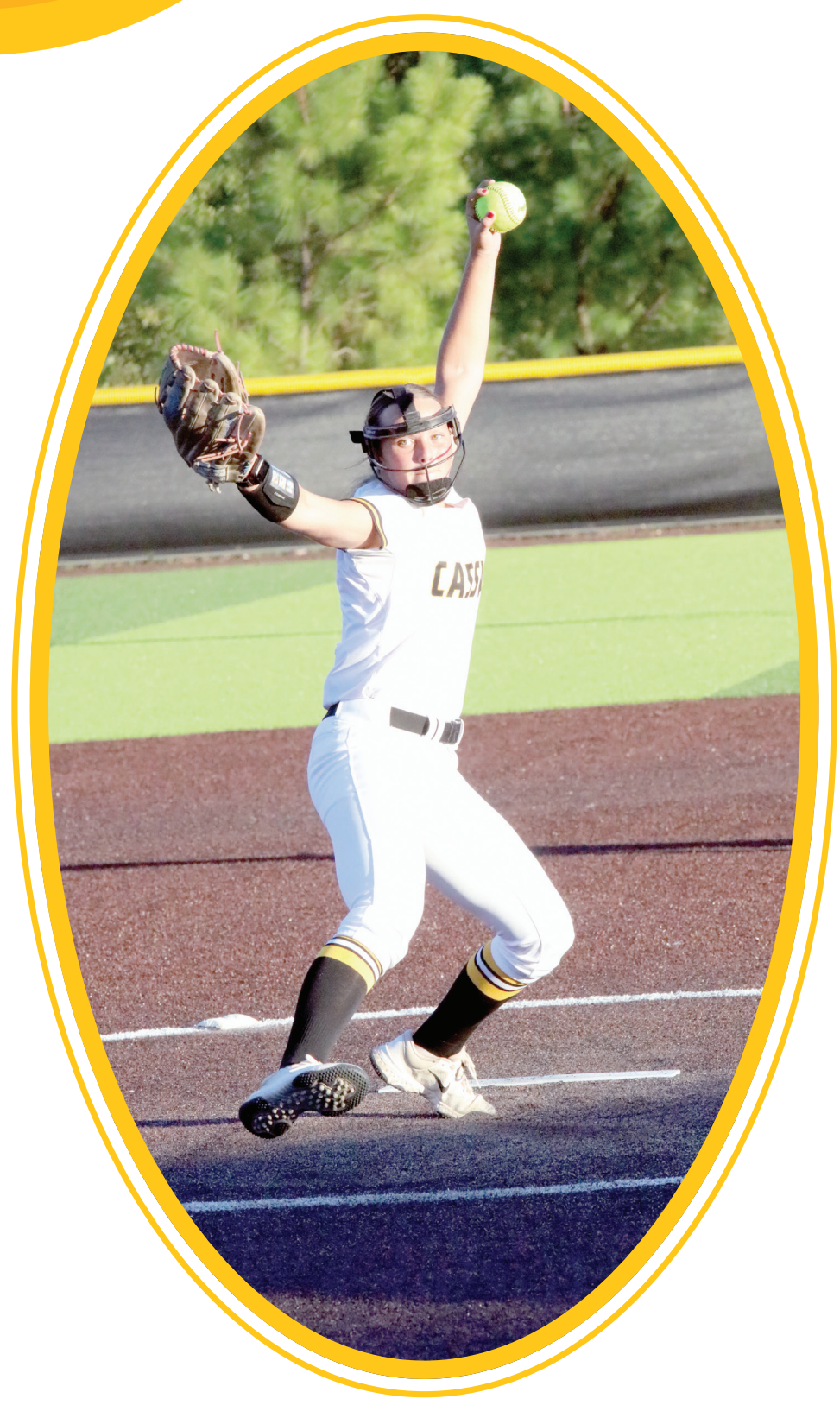






WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE





Cross Country

10/24	Reeds Spring	Away	4:00 pm

Boys Soccer

10/22	Greenwood	Home	5:00 pm
10/26	Clinton (in Springfield)	Neutral	5:00 pm

Football

10/23	Nevada	Away	7:00 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.

PETS

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

HELP NEEDED

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

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Retail Spaces, Westgate Center. 600-900 sqft available. 1-yr lease min, $375-475 per month. Some Restrictions. (417) 847-0025.

GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE: At 160 Glenwood Circle, Cassville, MO. on October 22, 23, 24. Thursday and Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

THOMAS CORN,
PLAINTFF,
VS.
BILLY RAY WILLIAMS, JR.,
their heirs, grantees, devises, successors, consorts, and assigns,
DEFENDANT,
26BR-CC00142

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO:

Defendant,
Billy Ray Williams, Jr.
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:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 3, Township 22 North, Range 26 West, thence South 37 degrees 49 minutes 23 seconds West 563.58 feet to the North right of way line of State Highway M, thence North 54 degrees 39 minutes 25 seconds West along the said North right of way line 304.64 feet, thence North 35 degrees 20 minutes 35 seconds East 774.67 feet, thence South 83 degrees 18 minutes 47 seconds East 120.00 feet to the West line of said East half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, thence South 4 degrees 23 minutes 22 seconds East 350 feet to the point of beginning, all in 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 Harry D. Schwartz, 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 30th day of September, 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 22nd day of September, 2026.
CRAIG WILLIAMS,
Circuit Clerk
By:
Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st Publication: September 30, 2026
2nd Publication: October 7, 2026
3rd Publication: October 14, 2026
4th Publication: October 21, 2026
1st insertion 09/30/26
38-41

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

J.K., a minor by and through his next Friend.
SHAWN KEEVEN, and
SHAWN KEEVEN, individually
Petitioner,
Vs.
KRISTYN FINOCCHIARO,
Respondent.
Case No. 20BR-DR00270-03

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO KRISTYN FINOCCHIARO

You are hereby notified than an action has commenced in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is the Motion to Modify under Chapter 452 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and service by publication in the Cassville Democrat. The case number assigned to said actions is stated in the caption above, and the name and address of the attorney for Petitioner, Shawn Keeven, is:

Toni M. Hendricks, Moxie Litigation,
P.O. Box 215,
Cassville, Missouri 65625/25376
State Highway 39, Suite 207,
Shell Knob, MO 65747,
(417) 342-6510.

You are hereby notified that, unless you file an answer to the Motion or other pleading or

otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within forty-five (45) days after the 6th day of October 2026, or appear and defend against the aforementioned action in the Barry County Judicial Facility, 102 West Street, Cassville, MO 65625, State of Missouri, judgment by default will be rendered against you, and a Modification Judgment will be entered. Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court this 6th day of October,
2026.
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker, DC
Date of first publication: October 14, 2026
Date of second publication: October 21, 2026
Date of third publication: October 28, 2026
Date of fourth publication: November 4, 2026
1st insertion 10/14/26
40-43

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NOTICE

The Southwest Missouri Solid Waste Management District is accepting applications for the 2027 District Grant Program.

The District serves the counties of Barry, Dade, Lawrence, Stone and Taney. Any public entity, commercial/industrial business, civic or non-for-profit organization within the District is welcome to apply.

The District has funds available to provide grants targeted to reducing, reusing, or recycling solid waste, or to educate the public about solid waste management.

Grant Applications are available by calling the District Office at 417.236.9012. The application deadline is Monday, December 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Applications must be postmarked or delivered to the office by that date and time. No faxed or emailed copies will be accepted.

The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all grant applications.
Only insertion 10/21/26
41

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CASSVILLE

IN RE:
THE NAME CHANGE OF
KADEN SCOTT NEW-KRUSE,
Petitioner,
Case No. 26BR-DR00091

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

Public notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of July 2026, by an Order of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri,
Case No. 26BR-DR00091,
the name of KADEN SCOTT NEW-KRUSE
was changed KADEN SCOTT KRUSE.
Filed July 7, 2026
Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
1st insertion 10/21/26
41-43

PROBATE

IN THE 35TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUDGE OR DIVISION: PROBATE

In the Estate of
CLARA B DODSON,
Deceased.
Case Number: 23BR-PR00100

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
CLARA B DODSON,
Decedent:
On 08-20-2023, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of
CLARA B DODSON,
decedent,
by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.
The personal representative's business address and phone number is:
KENNETH DODSON,
9410 STATE HWY C.
PURDY. MO 65734
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
DAVID ALEXANDER PAYNE,
1402S Elliot, Ste F.
Aurora, MD 85805,
417-878-5161.

All creditors said decedent are notified to file claims in court within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or i 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 amy other applicable Imitation 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 item pursuant to Section 537.021, RSMo

Date of the decedent's death
03-MAY-2023
Craig Williams
by KSleeth
Date of first publication: 10/07/26
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 ties and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Crout Court.
1st insertion 10/07/26
39-42

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

In the Estate of
VIOLA MAY LEVERICH,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00131

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
VIOLA MAY LEVERICH,
Decedent:
On September 28, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individualwas appointed personal representative of the estate of VIOLA MAY LEVERICH, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.
The name and business address of the personal representative is:
THOMAS LEVERICH JR,
6081 FARM ROAD 1005,
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: May 6, 2026
Date of first publication: October 7, 2026
Date of second publication: October 14, 2026
Date of third publication: October 21, 2026
Date of fourth publication: October 28, 2026
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Anderson, MO. Downtown Anderson from the Jct's of Hwy 59 & Hwy F go right on F Hwy 4.2 miles. Turn right on Elbert Road and go ½ miles. Turn left on Ball Rd and go ¼ mile. Turn right on Chandler Lane. Follow signs (299 Chandler Lane, Anderson MO)

REAL ESTATE, HOME & 34.6 ACRES M/L – TRACTORS – MOWERS – TOOLS – COLLECTIBLES – COLLECTOR TRUCK – HOUSEHOLD – MISC






Tractors: Mahindra HST, E Max 20 S, 4x4 tractor with Mahindra front loader & belly mower – old Allis Chalmer tractor (rough). **Implements:** 5' 3pt angle blade – 4' 3pt box blade – 5' digger – old sickle mower attachment – metal Ranch King pull behind yard wagon – old David Bradley – sm yard roller. Mowers: Troy Bilt XP 50" zero turn mower – Troy Bilt Pony 7 sp, 42", 1705 hp riding mower – (2) old push mowers – 22" high wheel string trimmer. Old Golf Cart for Parts. **Collector Truck:** 1950's Ford Truck – Rough to be restored. **Tools:** Echo 16" 58v. cordless chain saw – Dewalt 20v cordless drills & ¼" impact – Worx cordless blower – Kobalt cordless hedge trimmer – Porter Cable 150 psi pressure washer – roller stands – jack stands – 60,000 BTU torpedo heater – Craftsman 1/3 hp 9" band saw – shop lights – table top drill press – delta scroll saw – asst clamps – 2 ½ ton floor jack – Delta chop saw – Poulan chain saw – Craftsman 10" table saw – Blue Hawk router – roll around tool chest – Sunco 3 mig 130 welder – sm floor jacks – 20 lb. propane bottle – bench grinder – lawn mower lift – portable air tank – Cat battery charger/starter – rotator saw – ½" Air Stream impact drill (new) – sm roll around tool chest – misc long handle tools – misc sm power tools such as sanders, drill, router, Sawzall, biscuit cutter, etc. – misc sm hard tools such as hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches, saws, grease guns, levels, drill bits, etc.- work tables – 6' step ladder – weed eaters – vice on a work table – ext cords – 12 gal shop vac – more tools not listed. **Collectibles:** MTD 500 little red wagon – Western Flyer little red wagon – shoe lasp – old Victrola – Vintage cabinet stereo – sm figurines – old Schmidt beer tray – misc sm old radios & misc electronics – turn tables – old wash board – old scythe – old child's trike – old ringer washer – galvanized wash tub on stand – old wood chicken coop – misc old wood chairs – old pop bottles – old single metal bed head & foot board – old fiberglass Corvette Go Cart body – old chicken house heaters – sure to be many more collectibles as we unpack. A lifetime collection on the same farm since 1945. **Household:** large oak entertainment center – sm wall display cabinet – sm entertainment center – claw ft dining table & 6 chairs – quilt rack – deacons bench – coat rack – TV stand – wing back chair – coffee & end tables – sofa – rocking chair – Vizio flat screen TV – sm old wardrobe – sm chest of drawers – bunk beds – roll away bed – office chair – plastic folding table. **Appliances:** Magic Chef refrigerator/freezer – Haier sm countertop refrigerator – misc sm kitchen appliances. **Misc:** lots of totes full of household & misc – First Act guitar & case – Dan Electro bass guitar – old guitar – Ford wheel & 275/55/R19 tire – fans – bow target – wire shelf – Ozark Trail air beds – Maxam mdl HH guitar 4 w/strap & case – plastic shelving – replica wall phone – stadium seats – old golf clubs – Phillips TV ant – tomato cages – potting soil – several bicycles – sewing machine – sm cabinet – misc chemicals, cleaners, oils, etc – misc kitchen wares – elect heaters – lots of books – misc scrap, old car body. **Real Estate:** Home & 34.6 acres m/l, with 2 springs. Been in the same family since 1945, 2000 sq ft plus home, built in 1995 plus an older home approx. 1952, very rough & a 19502 chicken house used for storage, all on 34.6 acres m/l. Enter this home under a large covered front porch into the foyer with coat closet then on into the living room with vaulted ceiling, dual ceiling fans, windows & a gas fireplace. From here on into a formal dining room with patio door leading outback & an office area & built in display cabinet and open to the kitchen. The kitchen features ceiling fans, windows, custom oak cabinets, Whirlpool gas range/oven, exhaust hood, built in Maytag dishwasher, double SS sink & a Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer. From the kitchen on into the pantry with outside door and a door leading to the oversized 2 car garage with automatic opener, over the garage is a storage area. On the opposite end of the home is a linen closet, a large bathroom with utility plus a door that opens into bedroom #1 with ceiling fan, windows & closet and the master bedroom with ceiling fan, windows and a master bath with walk in closet. **Note:** This farm has been in the same family since 1945. The home has not been lived in for the past 5 years, due to health reasons Mr. & Mrs. Brower moved to be closer to family & Dr's so the time has come to sell their family farm. This home will need some TLC just from setting vacant. Sure to be many surprises as we get ready for the auction. The old chicken house is full of surprises as well as the 1952 farmhouse. Lots of history here on this farm. Come spend the day with us on Sat Oct 24th and join in on the treasure hunt and come prepared to buy a farm that has not been on the market since before 1945. 81+ years. Call the office 417-847-2507 to learn how to preview this home before auction day or to get pre registered. Go to www.stumpffauction.com for more information. **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: William & Deborah Brower



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

STUMPFF'S
REALTY & AUCTION SERVICE, INC.
www.stumpffauction.com
417-847-2507



Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion Auctioneer
#2352

BOAT FOR SALE

2018 Bennington Q25 25' 4'' Pontoon Boat. Outboard Yamaha F300 Four-Stroke 300HP Gasoline Engine with 45 Hours total usage. Trailer Included. Priced at $75,000.00. Call 903-477-7176

NOW HIRING - GENERAL OFFICE CLERK/ RECEPTIONIST

Barry County Health Department is accepting applications for a full-time, non-exempt General Office Clerk/Receptionist. Starting wage is $15.00/hour. We are seeking a dependable, professional, and friendly individual with strong customer service, communication, and basic office skills. Duties include assisting the public, answering phones, scheduling appointments, data entry, processing records and payments, and providing general clerical support. Work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. Benefits available. For the complete job description, benefits, application, and instructions on how to apply, visit www.barrycountyhealth.com. Barry County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HOLDER AUCTION SERVICE

3rd Generation Auction Service

ALL TYPES OF AUCTIONS

Brad Holder 417-689-5582 Brent Ferguson 479-531-3252 Carl Hendrix 417-342-4370

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

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 10/07/26
39-42

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

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

In the Estate of
WILLIAM GORDON SHAW,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00120

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of WILLIAM GORDON SHAW, Decedent:

On September 25, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of
WILLIAM GORDON SHAW,
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 name and business address is:
CODY SHAW,
13 DAY ST,
GROTON, CT 06340

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
JAMES AUGUST PETTIT,
P.O. BOX 148,
AURORA, MO 65605,
(417) 678-2187

The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone
number is:
JAMES AUGUST PETTIT,
P.O. BOX 148,
AURORA, MO 65605,
(417) 678-2187

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: 14-APR-2026

Date of first publication: October 7, 2026

Date of second publication: October 14, 2026

Date of third publication: October 21, 2026

Date of fourth publication: October 28, 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.

39-42

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

In the Estate of
JERRY ROBERT GAINES,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00134

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
JERRY ROBERT GAINES,
Decedent:

On October 1, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of

JERRY ROBERT GAINES, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.

The personal representative's name and business address is:
RICHARD HIMEBAUGH,
8734 FARM ROAD 2020,
MONETT, MO 65708.

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

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: July 26, 2026

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk

Date of first publication: October 14, 2026

Date of second publication: October 21, 2026

Date of third publication: October 28, 2026

Date of fourth publication: November 4, 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 10/14/26
40-43

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

In the Estate of
STEVEN R THOMAS,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00136

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (SMALL ESTATE)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
STEVEN R THOMAS,
Decedent.

On October 5, 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 August 21, 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 October 21, 2026.

Date of second publication is October 28, 2026.

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk

1st insertion 10/21/26
41-42

TRUSTEE'S SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by the Deed of Trust executed by
Cristopher Green
And Chelsey Green,
Husband And Wife,
dated 7/6/2023, recorded on 7/10/2023, in Instrument Number 202303387 and/or Deed Book 23, Page(s) 3320, , in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on 10/22/2026, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, starting at 2:00 PM at the Barry County Courthouse - East Door - 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the below described real estate to satisfy said debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction. Purchasers take property as is, without warranty.

A Tract Of Land, Consisting Of One (1) Acre, More Or Less, In The Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Of Section 36, Township 25, Range 26, Barry County, Missouri, And More Particularly Described As Follows: Commencing At A Point 15 Feet North Of The Southeast Corner Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Thence North 276 Feet, To A Point On The East Line Of Said Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) Of The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4), Thence West 158 Feet To A Point, Thence South 276 Feet To A Point, Thence East 158 Feet To The Point Of Beginning. Subject To Easements And Rights-Of-Way Of Record. More commonly known as: 6949 Farm Road 1182 Verona, MO 65769 Notice To Bidders:

Please be advised that the highest bidder ("purchaser") at this trustee's sale may be required to provide information, documentation and/or certification as mandated by applicable federal law, and entity and trust purchaser should be prepared to provide beneficial ownership information as required by federal reporting requirements effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. If applicable, the required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at:
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5. Nestor Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115

1st insertion 09/30/26
38-41

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by
DORIS M VAUGHAN AND KENNETH E VAUGHAN,
WIFE AND HUSBAND,
dated 11/15/2018, recorded on 11/26/2018 in Book 18, Page 7917 Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri. The undersigned Successor Trustee, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, will on 10/28/2026, 11:00 AM at 102 West Street, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the following real estate:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY (THE PROPERTY) SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MISSOURI, TO WIT:

PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH OF THE BASE LINE, RANGE 25 WEST OF THE 5TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN EXISTING FENCE CORNER POST AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST, 1104.53 FEET, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 TO A SET REBAR ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF AN EXISTING COUNTY ROAD; THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 430.88 FEET, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE TO A SET REBAR; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST 988.62 FEET, LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY TO A SET 1/2" REBAR ON THE EAST LINE OF SAIS NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREE 15 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 416.30 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. (A/K/A TRACTS 1, 2 & 3, AS SET FORTH ON CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY FILED AUGUST 2,1999 IN SURVEY BOOK 10 AT PAGE 93.)

APN: 21-4.0-20-000-000-002.001

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO DORIS M. VAUGHAN AND KENNY VAUGHAN, HUSBAND AND WIFE BY DEED FROM MAX A. KOERNER AND WANDA KOERNER, HUSBAND AND WIFE RECORDED 05/04/2016 IN DEED BOOK 16 PAGE 2191, IN THE RECORDER`S OFFICE OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

to satisfy said debt and costs.

Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#d_5

Western Progressive - Missouri, Inc., Successor Trustee, (866)-960-8299, may be deemed to be a debt collector and, if so, is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 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 prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Western Progressive - Missouri, Inc, as Trustee for beneficiary Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx

1st insertion 09/30/26
39-41

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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 November 2, 2026, at 10:00 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: October 7, 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
39-42

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

FOR DEFAULT in the payment of debt secured by a Deed of Trust executed by
Crystal Brown,
dated August 3 1, 2023 and filed on September l, 2023 and recorded on in Book 23, at Page 4390, and May 31, 2023 and recorded June 9, 2023 in Book 23, at Page 2782 in the office ofthe Recorder of Deeds ofBarry County, Missouri, the undersigned Trustee Foreclosure sale will be on November 13 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., specifically at 9:00 a.m. at the East Front Court House Door in the City of Cassville, County of Barry, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash the föllowing described real estate located in Barry County, Missouri, to-wit:

Address: 3724 Private Road 2217 Washburn, MO 65772 Legal Description:

The North 400 feet of the following: Beginning at the Southwest comer Ofthe Northwest

Quarter ofthe Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 22, Range 28, Barry County, Missouri, thence North L 151.28 feet to the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter Of Section 13, Township 22, Range 29, Barry County, Missouri; thence East a distance of527.79 feet to the center of an existing road; thence Southwesterly fallowing the center ofsaid existing road to its point of intersection with the South boundary line of said Northwest Quarter Of the Southwest Quarter of said Section IS, thence West along said South boundary line of said Northwest Quarter ofthe Southwest Quarter to the point of beginning.

ALSO

A part OF The Northeast Quarter Of The Southeast Quarter Of Section 13, Township 22 North, Range 29 West, Barry County, Missouri, Being More Particularly Described As Follows: Beginning At The East Quarter Corner Of Section 13; Thence South 01 Degrees 44 Minutes 14 Seconds West Along The East Line Of The Northeast Quarter Of The Southeast Quarter 300.00 Feet; Thence South 64 Degrees 00 Minutes 00 Seconds West Departing Said Line 473.84 Feet, Thence North 01 Degrees 44 Minutes 14Seconds East 531.34 Feet TO The North Line Of The Northeast Quarter Of The Southeast Quarter; Thence South 86 Degrees 47 Minutes 13 Seconds East Alons Said North Line 419.53 Feet; To The Point Of Beginning. Containing 4.00 Acres More Or Less.

Subject To Any And All Encumbrances And Rights Recorded Or Unrecorded.

to satisfy said debt and trust.

Jon Horner, Trustee
Security Bank of Southwest Missouri
Blake B. Fields, Attorney for Trustee
Law Office of Blake B. Fields, LLC
605 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625

Please publish:
Oct. 14, 2026
Oct. 21, 2026
Oct. 28, 2026
Nov. 4, 2026

1st insertion 10/14/26
40-43

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by the Deed of Trust executed by
Eldon W. Gillenwater
and Susan M. Gillenwater,
husband and wife,
TS No. 2026-22509-MO

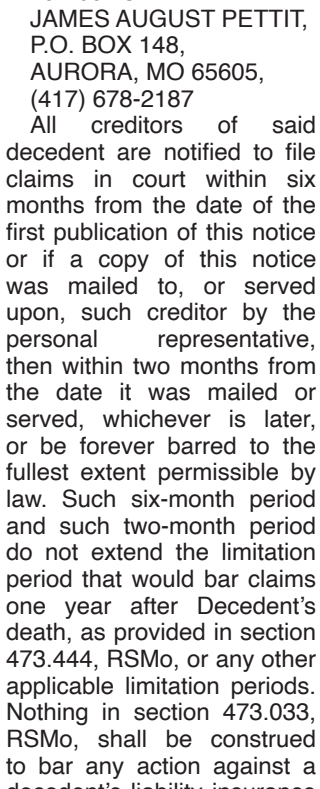
as tenants by the entirety and not as tenants in common, dated 12/15/2014, recorded on 1/5/2015, in Instrument Number 002622000018 and/or Deed Book 15, Page(s) 28, , in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on 11/12/2026, between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, starting at 2:00 PM at the Barry County Courthouse - East Door - 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (certified funds only) the below described real estate to satisfy said debt and costs. Certified funds must be delivered to the auctioneer at the conclusion of the auction. Purchasers take property as is, without warranty.

Lot 5 And The West 1/2 Of Lot 6, Roaring White Eagle Estates, A Subdivision In Barry County, Missouri. More commonly known as: 27015 Farm Road 1197 Eagle Rock, MO 65641

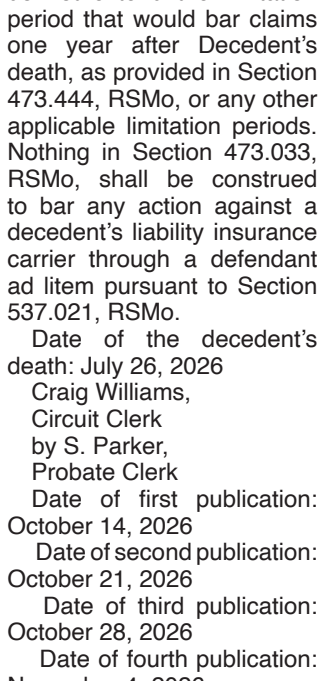
Notice To Bidders: Please be advised that the highest bidder ("purchaser") at this trustee's sale may be required to provide information, documentation and/or certification as mandated by applicable federal law, and entity and trust purchaser should be prepared to provide beneficial ownership information as required by federal reporting requirements effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. If applicable, the required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5 .

Nestor Solutions of Missouri, LLC Successor Trustee (888) 403-4115

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SAMPLE BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026
BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the General Election will be held in the County of Barry on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 as certified to this office by the participating entities of Barry County. The ballot for the Election shall be in substantially the following form.
REPUBLICAN (REP), DEMOCRATIC (DEM), LIBERTARIAN (LIB)

FOR STATE AUDITOR
Vote For ONE
- ◯ SCOTT FITZPATRICK — REP
- ◯ QUENTIN WILSON — DEM
- ◯ DUSTIN COFFELL — LIB
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7
Vote For ONE
- ◯ ERIC W. BURLISON — REP
- ◯ MISSI HESKETH — DEM
- ◯ KEVIN CRAIG — LIB
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 158
Vote For ONE
- ◯ SCOTT CUPPS — REP
- ◯ CHRIS FOSTER — DEM
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION I
Vote For ONE
- ◯ JOHNNIE E. COX — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION II
Vote For ONE
- ◯ ROBERT "BOB" FOULKE — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 6

Proposed by Initiative Petition

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

• expand the initiative and referendum petition process by making it a fundamental right;
• allow courts to revise ballot summaries through lawsuits;
• prohibit the legislature from weakening initiative or referendum powers;
• prohibit the legislature from changing or repealing laws enacted through the initiative process, or passing laws similar to those rejected by referendum, without approval from at least 80% of both chambers; and
• preserve existing majority vote and signature requirements for initiative and referendum petitions?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

FOR PRESIDING COMMISSIONER
Vote For ONE
- ◯ STEVE BLANKENSHIP — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR COUNTY CLERK
Vote For ONE
- ◯ KIMI DEAL — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR CIRCUIT CLERK
Vote For ONE
- ◯ CRAIG WILLIAMS — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR RECORDER OF DEEDS
Vote For ONE
- ◯ DANIELLE STILL — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR TREASURER
Vote For ONE
- ◯ GRETTA TRIPP — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Vote For ONE
- ◯ ANDREW COLE — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR COLLECTOR OF REVENUE
Vote For ONE
- ◯ SKYLER BOWMAN — REP
- ◯
- WRITE IN

FOR SURVEYOR
Vote For ONE
- ◯
- WRITE IN

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 7

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) SS SCS SJR 95

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to establish a permanent public endowment fund to support state government instead of taxing Missouri residents, prohibit the General Assembly from appropriating or diverting the fund, and eliminate state-imposed taxes once the fund generates sufficient revenue to replace them?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

OFFICIAL JUDICIAL BALLOT

Submitting to the voters whether the Judges named below, whose terms expire December 31, 2026, shall be retained in office for new terms.

VOTE ON EACH JUDGE

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT JUDGES

Shall Judge PAUL C. WILSON of the Missouri Supreme Court be retained in office?

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Shall Judge MATTHEW P. HAMNER of the Southern District Court of Appeals be retained in office?

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 3

Proposed by the 103rd General Assembly (First Regular Session) HCS HJR 73

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

• Repeal the 2024 voter-approved Amendment providing reproductive healthcare rights, including abortion through fetal viability;
• Allow abortions for rape and incest (under twelve-weeks' gestation), emergencies, and fetal anomalies;
• Allow legislation regulating abortion;
• Ensure parental consent for minors' abortions;
• Prohibit gender transition procedures for minors?

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings. Greene County estimates it may experience an unknown increase in tax revenue. Other local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 8

Proposed by the 103rd General Assembly (Second Regular Session) CCS HCS SS SJR 87

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to support law enforcement by preserving the right of citizens to elect a county sheriff, prohibiting the removal of a county sheriff except by a writ of quo warranto, and recognizing the office of sheriff as part of the administration of justice?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ◯ YES
- ◯ NO

PROPOSITION A

Proposed by Referendum Petition

Do the people of the state of Missouri approve the act of the General Assembly entitled "House Bill No. 1 (2025 Second Extraordinary Session)," which repeals Missouri's existing congressional plan, and replaces it with new congressional boundaries that keep more counties intact?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

◯ **YES**

◯ **NO**

CITY OF WASHBURN

QUESTION

SHALL THE CITY OF WASHBURN, MISSOURI, IMPOSE A CITY SALES TAX OF ONE PERCENT (1%), THEREBY INCREASING THE CITY'S GENERAL SALES TAX FROM ONE PERCENT (1%) TO TWO PERCENT (2%)?

◯ **YES**

◯ **NO**

CITY OF PURDY

QUESTION

Shall the City of Purdy, Missouri, impose a local use tax at the same rate as the total local sales tax rate, currently two percent (2.0%), provided that if the local sales tax rate is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be reduced or raised by the same action?

◯ **YES**

◯ **NO**

CITY OF EXETER

QUESTION

Shall the City of Exeter, Missouri, issue its combined waterworks and sewerage system revenue bonds in the amount of $3,700,000 for the purpose of extending and improving the combined waterworks and sewerage system of the City, including acquiring land and rights of way, the cost of operation and maintenance of said combined waterworks and sewerage system and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its combined waterworks and sewerage system, including all future improvements and extensions thereto?

◯ **YES**

◯ **NO**

Two week in-person, no excuse absentee voting for the Nov. 3 General Election runs through Nov. 2 at the Clerk's Office.

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI)

) ss.

COUNTY OF BARRY)

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

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of my office. Done at the Barry County Courthouse this 22nd day of September, 2026.

Joyce Ennis

Barry County Clerk

JOYCE ENNIS SEAL BARRY COUNTY, MO

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

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

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

POLLING LOCATIONS

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

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

Voters must present photo identification to vote. Acceptable IDs include: Missouri Driver License, Missouri Non-Driver License, Military ID or Passport. For more information, call the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com.

Mighty Mites return to home turf

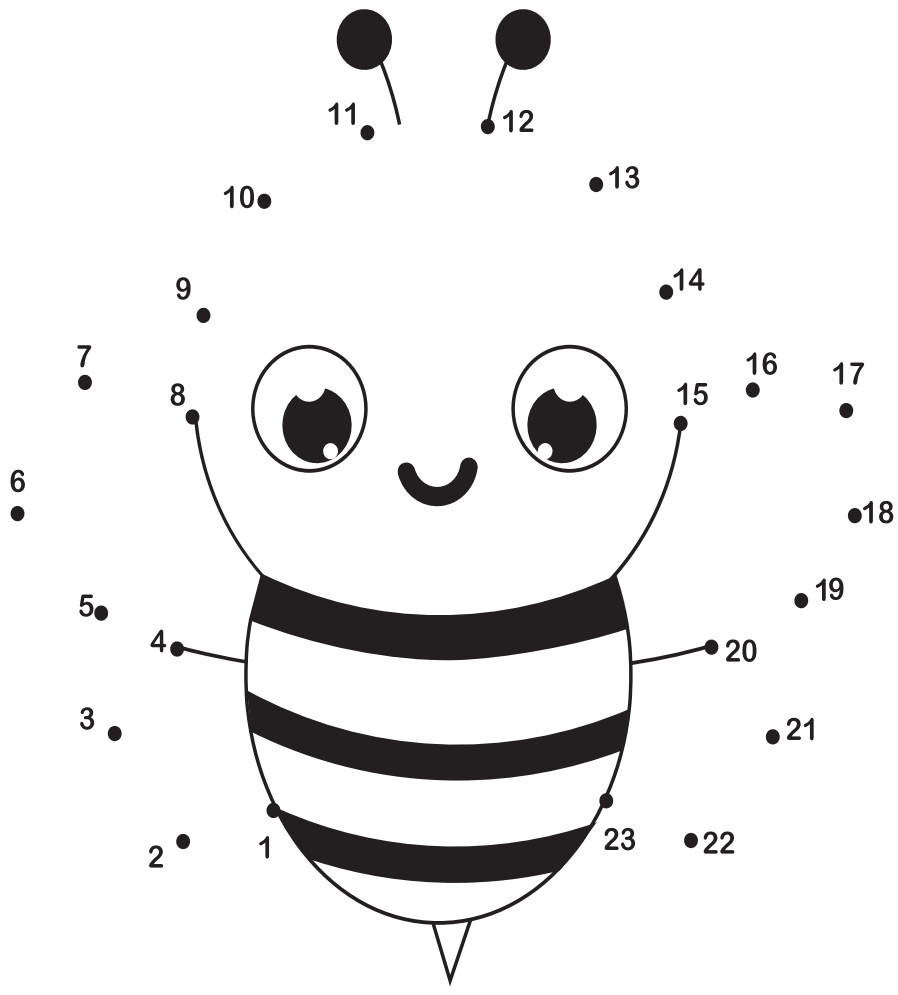






It's good to be home. The young Wildcats got the benefit of letting other teams split games instead of us. We had Bolivar and Nixa come to town, which proved out to very tough games. If you like defense, each team had to flex their defensive muscles throughout the day, which made for exciting football. Come see us take on teams from Rogersville and Pea Ridge on the 24th and 31st. — Bobbie Jo Meek. Photos by Kerry Rose/Special to the Cassville Democrat

DOT TO DOT





KIDS' COLUMNS



A weekly hangout for the young and young at heart

JUST kidding

Q: What do you call a duck that gets all A's?

A: A wise quacker.

JUST kidding

Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school?

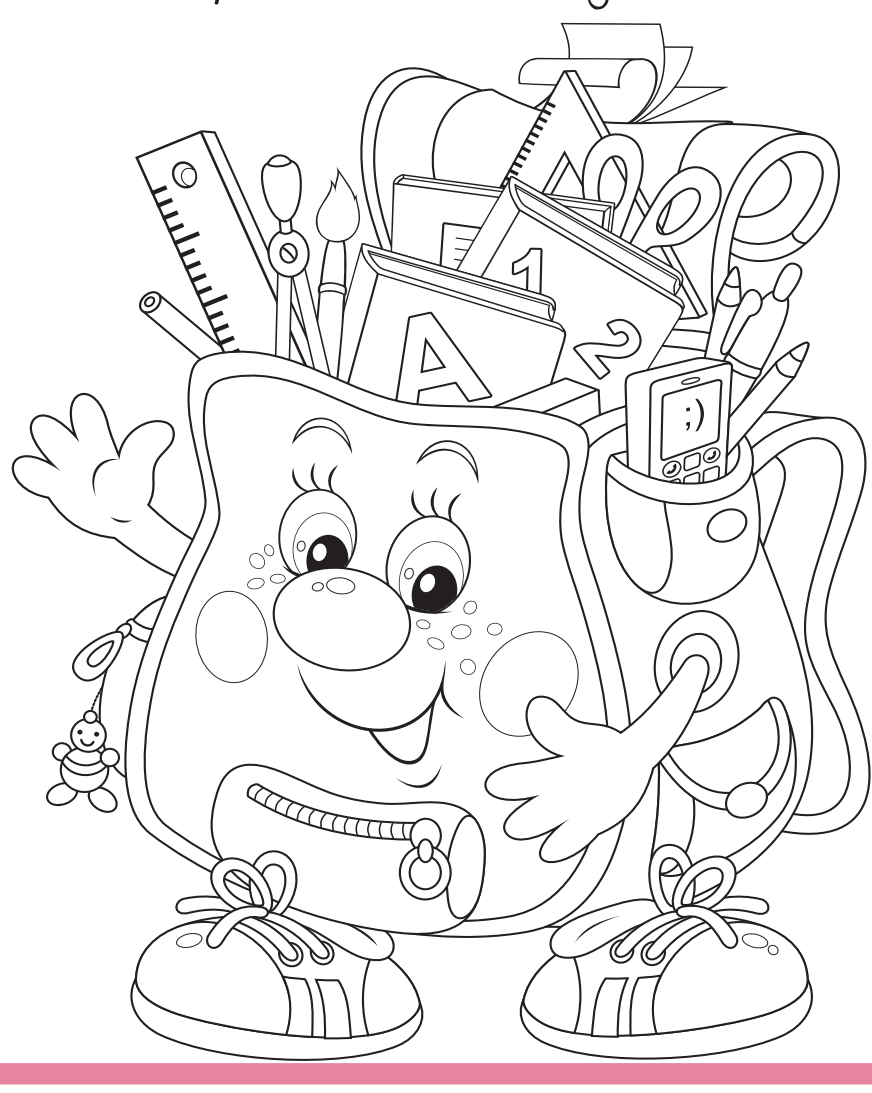
A: Because her students were so bright.

JUST kidding

Q: What should you do if an astronaut is upset?

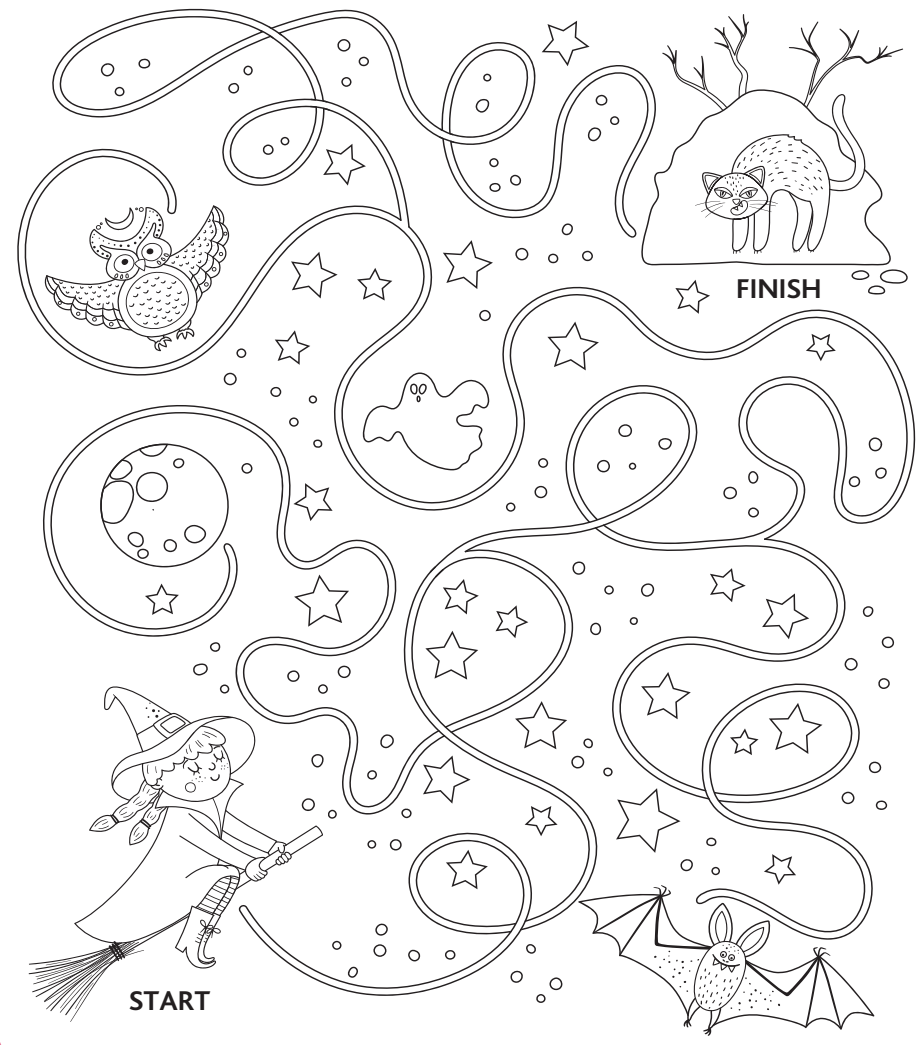
A: Give her some space.

For the up-and-coming artist



Amazing maze

Help the witch find her cat.



Sudoku 6 x 6

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

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 6, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

- a number can only appear once per row
- a number can only appear once per column
- a number can only appear once in each box of 6 squares

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

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Cassville's Jaren Stearns shrugs off a tackler to score a touchdown in Saturday's win over Mt. Vernon. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Carlos Barrientos breaks up a pass in the first half of the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Easton Hughes stiff arms a defender during a rush in Saturday's victory over Mt. Vernon. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Football: Wildcats head to Nevada with shot at No. 1 district seed, Week 10 bye

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

playing a game after Miller Career Academy did not travel to Cassville in Week 7. The remainder of the Phoenix's season has been canceled due to inappropriate player behavior, which is being investigated by the district and St. Louis police.

"Football players and coaches are creatures of habit, and you get out of habit," Weldy said. "We had a week off, and we were expecting it. You get your juices up on a Friday, and all of a sudden, you're going home."

The coach said the schedule has forced the team to adjust, with a canceled game, a Saturday kickoff and another road contest ahead.

"These last three weeks are going to be out of routine," he said. "It's going to be not what we're used to, and it's adversity we've got to deal with. That's going to make us better in the postseason."

Senior Chase Ruark echoed his coach's assessment that the Wildcats need to clean up their mistakes, even as they take satisfaction in securing the win.

"We did not play the greatest, to be honest with you," Ruark said. "We definitely should have done a lot better, but we got the win. That's all that matters. We're one step closer to that No. 1 district seed."

Ruark said the team had maintained its energy during the break but acknowledged that returning to game action after two weeks away was challenging. He also pointed to ball security as an immediate priority.

"We've just got to be better and not put the ball on the turf," he said.

Cassville has one regular-season game remaining before district play begins. The Wildcats will travel to Nevada next, with the goal of securing the top district seed and a Week 10 bye.

"We're feeling good," Ruark said. "We're trying to get that No. 1 seed, so this is just one step closer. We've just going to go handle business in Nevada."

Weldy said the offensive miscues need to be corrected quickly as the team approaches the postseason.

"We have not played that way all year," he said. "Maybe we needed that game this late in the year to kind of refocus us and get us better."

Offensively, Stearns went 6-for-9 through the air for 73 yards, adding 76 yards and two touchdowns on 65 carries on the ground. Beebe had 90 yards on 12 carries and two scores, and Hughes tallied 87 yards on 11 carries.

Five receivers brought in passes, with Bredeson leading the way with 19 yards on 2 catches.

Defensively, Braydyn Sizemore led the Wildcats with 4 tackles, 2 assists, 3.5 tackles for loss and 1 sack. Masin Bryan had 4 tackles, 3 assists and 0.5 tackles for loss. Tyler Hodge, Zach Myers, Wylan Fraris, Spencer Drollinger and Bredeson each had 3 tackles each. Drollinger also recorded a sack, Carlos Barrientos and Bredeson each had a pass breakup, and Hughes and Bodie Hodge each logged an interception.

Kickoff in Nevada on Friday is at 7 p.m.

Golf: Coach hopes to expand participation in girls golf program next season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"We will have to learn to embrace that aspect even though it's not always the most fun to work on."

The Lady Wildcats' home tournament provided one of the season's highlights. Bagby said the team enjoys hosting the event and playing a course that also attracts other schools.

"All the girls shot their career best at that point, with Taylor Yarnall leading the team that day with a top 20 individual finish with over 65 girls participating," Bagby said.

Bagby praised Yarnall, a senior, for her impact on the team beyond her scores.

"Taylor did an awesome job with the younger girls this season making sure they had fun throughout and working hard throughout the season herself," he said. "Taylor has such a positive attitude and outlook and did an amazing job welcoming girls to the team this year and making sure they felt welcome. With some girls new to the game, it can be very intimidating to come out and give it a try when you are just starting out and how difficult it is."

Abbi Yarnall also turned in a standout performance at the Big 8 Conference tournament, finishing seventh overall to earn All-Conference recognition.

The team's limited experience made improvement a primary goal entering the season, and Bagby believes the Lady Wildcats accomplished it.

"We were a very inexperienced team coming into this year, so setting goals outside of trying to improve a little bit every day is hard," Bagby said. "I believe overall we did achieve that goal."

Taylor Yarnall's leadership helped make the learning process more welcoming for players who were still becoming comfortable with the sport.

"She made sure to keep things positive and always encouraging, and we will miss that," Bagby said.

Cassville could return four golfers next season in Abbi Yarnall, Pickett, Bolinger and Gracelyn Sanders. Bagby said the experience they gained this year should help them continue developing their games.

"If all return we will have four girls coming back in, this will be the second or third season for all of them, so for them going into the season with some actual tournament experience after this year will be a benefit to all of them," Bagby said.



Cassville's Paislee Bolinger takes a swing during play in the Cassville Tournament this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The returning players have shown enthusiasm for the sport, and Bagby hopes they can use the offseason to prepare for more competitive finishes.

"They have all shown enthusiasm for the game and getting better, so hopefully they can work on their game between now and then and come back and give themselves a shot at earning some medals next year," Bagby said.

The Lady Wildcats' goals for next season include helping returning golfers identify where they can make the greatest improvements and potentially contend for a spot at the state tournament.

"The first goal for the ones coming back will be to really start to focus on where they can improve their game and save the most strokes to give themselves the best chance at medals," Bagby said. "We would love to see an opportunity for the girls to qualify for state competition, and we have returners that will be capable of that if they make a few adjustments."

Bagby also hopes to expand participation in the program.

"The second goal would be to try and grow the number of girls we have participating," Bagby said. "Golf is an expensive and intimidating game to start playing, which can be tough to get the girls started, but we have a lot of support to get the girls what they need, and we will continue to try and get some girls the opportunity to play."

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CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER
Weekly Menu

WEEK OF OCT. 26 - OCT. 30, 2026

MONDAY OCTOBER 26	TUESDAY OCTOBER 27	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28	THURSDAY OCTOBER 29	FRIDAY OCTOBER 30
Country Fried Steak	**Turkey Club on Whole Grain Croissant**	**Taco Salad w/ all the Fixings**	**Salmon w/ Mango Salsa or Chicken**	**Witches Brew Beef Stew**
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy	Sweet Potato Fries	Salsa	Kale & Ancient Grains	Balsamic Roasted Beets
Balsamic Roasted Brussel Sprouts	Capri Veggies	Refried Beans	California Veggies	Whole Grain Cornbread
Biscuit	Eclair Dessert	Blueberry	Pistachio Cake	Death by Chocolate Cake
Cherry Crisp		Sopapilla		

Salad Bar — Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday — BOWL $2.00 — PLATE $4.00

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