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AG'S OFFICE ADDRESSES SCOTTS' MURDER CHARGES — PAGE 2A



<<< WILDCATS 'NOT DONE YET'
Cassville trounces Mt. Vernon, will host Seneca for district title — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat
NOVEMBER 11, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

Honor for service

Gann inducted into Arkansas OCS Hall of Fame

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
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A career that began with an enlistment in the Army National Guard in 1979 and continued through deployments overseas and domestic emergency response has earned Larry Gann a place in the Arkansas Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

OCS HALL OF FAME
Who: Larry Gann, of Verona and Cassville
What: Was inducted into the Arkansas OCS Hall of Fame on Saturday
More: Gann spent 35 years in the U.S. Army, serving abroad and stateside

Gann, a 1979 Cassville High School graduate who grew up in Golden, was one of six people inducted this year. The Arkansas National Guard recognizes a select number of Officer Candidate School graduates annually based on their military careers, leadership experience and service.

"I thought when I retired, the last time I would ever have a military function would be that," Gann said. "Then, to get the call when I was on vacation in Florida that I've been nominated for it, it kind of just sat me down."

Gann began his military career Nov. 26, 1979, enlisting with the 110th Engineer Battalion in Lexington. After moving to the University of Arkansas about a year and a half later, he transferred to the field artillery and continued his service in the Arkansas National Guard.

He attended the Arkansas Officer Candidate School and graduated in 1984 as the honor graduate, receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in field artillery. Over the next several years, he served in a variety of positions, including forward observer, fire direction officer, ammunition officer, nuclear courier officer and battery executive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A

CHRISTMAS CHEER
Who: Students at Cassville and Exeter schools
What: Crafted handmade Christmas cards to send to sailors in the Middle East
Connection: Effort made as a result of the deployment status of Charlie Seymour, 2017 Cassville High School graduate

Students send cheer to sailors

Every shipman on USS Shoup to receive Christmas card

Students at Exeter and Cassville schools are shipping some cheer to a ship this Christmas.

The effort was made as a result of the deployment status of Charlie Seymour, 2017 Cassville High School graduate and Petty Officer Second Class, in the U.S. Navy serving aboard the USS Shoup.

The ship is an Arleigh Burke-class Flight IIA guided-missile destroyer currently deployed in the Middle East, with its main task to provide protection for the US aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington, and is a part of the 7th Fleet.

Seymour joined the Navy in 2019 and has been stationed in Japan since 2024, and recently, he informed his mother, Angela Seymour, via video call that his deployment had been extended until after the New Year, meaning he would not be back in Japan as originally planned.

Realizing that time was running short to send care packages and Christmas cards, Angela sprang into action. She also wanted to make sure Charlie's fellow sailors received a little extra Christmas cheer, so she asked her husband, Chris Seymour, whether any of his students at Exeter Elementary might be interested in making Christmas cards for Charlie and his shipmates.

Chris, Exeter Elementary School principal, shared the idea with his teachers, and the response was incredible. Within just a few days, Exeter students had created several hundred handmade Christmas cards filled with holiday wishes and messages of encouragement.

Wanting to spread the holiday spirit even further, Chris reached out to Cassville schools, where Charlie attended school as a child, and invited their students to participate as well.

Anglea, who teaches at Southwest Middle School, invited her fifth- and sixth-grade students to join as well.

As a result of the generosity and enthusiasm of students from all three communities, the Seymour family has collected enough handmade Christmas cards for every sailor aboard the USS Shoup to receive one before Christmas.

"What began as a simple idea from a grateful mother has grown into a heartwarming community effort," a press

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SKITS puts on Peanuts-themed production



Samantha Baugus, center, as Lucy, draws a picture for Amanda Eckley, a Sally, on a bag on the head of Steve Bishop, as Charlie Brown, in the Shell Knob in the Spotlight production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" on Sunday at the Central Community United Methodist Church in Shell Knob. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Revolutionary War descendant's grave marked near Butterfield

Man rode bike by cemetery as child unaware great-grandfather was buried there

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A family name that puzzled Dan Prier for much of his life finally has an answer — one that reaches back to the Revolutionary War and a soldier who served under Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge.

Prier, who grew up in the Butterfield area, recently placed a memorial marker at Bullington Cemetery, northeast of Butterfield, honoring his great-grandfather, George Washington Prier, a grandson of Revolutionary War patriot John See.

The marker, placed outside the cemetery gate during the summer, is part of an America 250 initiative by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to recognize not only Revolutionary War patriots, but also their children and grandchildren who helped carry their families' legacies westward.

For Prier, who now lives in Raytown, the project connected several generations of family history and answered a question he had carried since childhood.

"I grew up in that area, and my dad ran the East Purdy Store from 1948 to 1960," Prier said. "I always wondered why Washington was his middle name, John Washington Prier. I thought, 'There's no Washington in our family that I know of.'"

The answer emerged through genealogical research conducted by his cousin, Carol Swanson, who joined the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and traced their family lineage to See.

Prier used her research to support his own application to join the Sons of the American Revolution.

As the family learned more about See's military service, Prier discovered that the patriot had served three years in the Revolutionary Army, including time under Washington's command and the winter at Valley Forge.

See's daughter, Polly, married Wesley Prier in Virginia. Their first child was named George Washington Prier, apparently in honor of the stories Polly had heard about her father's service and admiration for Washington.

That George eventually moved from Virginia to Indiana and Iowa before settling in southwest Missouri. Among his children was Prier's grandfather, Joseph T. Prier.

George Washington Prier's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A



Dan Prier, who grew up in Butterfield and now lives in Raytown, places a memorial marker in the area where his great-grandfather was buried, honoring him as the grandson of Revolutionary War patriot John See. Contributed photo

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NEWS BRIEFS

Fall Harvest Dinner in Eagle Rock upcoming

The Eagle Rock Community Association will host the Fall Harvest Dinner on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Thanksgiving meal is provided with only a free will donation. The meal will be at the Association's building, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. All are welcome to attend.

Tax statements mailed

Barry County Collector Skyler Bowman has announced that the 2026 Tax Statements were mailed to Barry County taxpayers on Nov. 3. Anyone that does not receive their statements by Nov. 15 should call the collector's office at 417-847-2113 to inquire about them. Reminder that if a mortgage company is supposed to pay real estate taxes through your escrow, you should not receive a bill. The 2026 taxes become delinquent on Jan. 1, 2027. Payment can be made in person at the collector's office with cash, check, debit or credit card. When paying with a debit or credit card the provider of this service will be charging a fee. Also, payment can be made online at barrycountycollector.com, and a fee will be applied when paying in this manner.

Monett Historical Society hosting monthly meeting

The Monett Historical Society monthly meeting will be on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. The Society will be joined by Matt Wilson, of the Missouri National Guard, in recognition of Veterans Day. Everyone is welcome.

Documentary to be shown at Monett Performing Arts Center

The Monett Historical Society will host a showing of the documentary film "The American Way: Life, Liberty, and Being Pursued By the Mob" on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Monett High School Performing Arts Center.

Capps Creek Road District to meet

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

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.; Thursday, Library for Everyone, 1 p.m., Kids Activity, 3:30 p.m. Refit, 5:30 p.m.; Friday, Adult Craft: Terracotta Pot Scarecrow, 1 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee required); Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m. to noon; Monday, Majong, 1 p.m., Family Painting, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee required); Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Storytime, 10 a.m., Adult Craft: Reversible Fall/Winter Decor, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee required); Nov. 18, Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Tween Book Club, 3:30 p.m.

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.

AG: 'Our office wants to continue'

Murder charges against Scott brothers dropped, investigation ongoing

By Kyle Troutman
ktroutman@cassville-democat.com

First-degree murder charges against three brothers suspected of killing a 14-year-old Seligman boy in 1999 have been dropped, with the investigation into the case ongoing.

A preliminary hearing in the cases was held on Oct. 27, with all charges against Mark Wesley Scott, Bobby Ray Scott and David Ray Scott dropped after they were filed and arrests made in July.

Danny Boyd, Barry County sheriff, confirmed on Oct. 27 the Scotts had been released, adding the Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation.

"One of the witnesses that they wanted to testify would not do it, and we are following up with some other people," Boyd said. "We can still file charges on it.

Boyd said he was not happy with the decision, nor the lack of communication.

"I was a little disappointed, because I didn't even know that they were releasing them until I got to the court," he said. "I am not real happy that there was no communication from the AG about what they had decided."

Amy Boxx, Barry County prosecutor, said the Scotts' cases were handled by the Attorney General's office as an assist.

"As they remain under ongoing investigation, I am not at liberty to comment," she said.

Isabelle Bryson, deputy communications director at the office of Attorney General Catherine Hanaway, confirmed charges were dropped and a witness declined to testify, but she declined to offer any more detail.

"Our office is continuing its investigation," Bryson said. "This is one our office wants to continue and get to the bottom of."

Boyd announced on July 23 that the Scott brothers, stepbrothers to Hocutt's girlfriend at the time, were each been charged with first-degree murder in Hocutt's death in October 1999. Authorities allege Hocutt was fatally assaulted at a Seligman residence before his body was placed on the railroad tracks in an attempt to conceal the crime.

The brothers were born in 1977, 1978 and 1980, all legal adults at the time of the alleged crime.

The arrests followed an extensive review launched after Boyd took office. Boyd said his administration began a comprehensive reexamination of the case in the fall of 2025, with investigators reviewing every report, document and piece of evidence collected during the original investigation.

10 Quilts of Valor awarded



Ten veterans received Quilts of Valor on Friday at the Cassville Senior Center. Recipients included: Charles Whitcomb, James Taylor, Marvin Henningson, Lonnie Beeson, Andrew Tillman, Sue Crain, Robert Elmore, Russell Pendergraff, Dwight Samuel and Michael Harris. A Quilt of Valor is a handmade quilt, machine or hand quilted, awarded — not gifted — to someone "touched by war." The presentation serves as an unequivocal "thank you" for their service and sacrifice. Contributed photo

Missouri Bar hosting listening session in Barry County on Nov. 17

Are your current legal needs being met?

The Missouri Bar is inviting Missouri residents from the Barry County area to help answer that question and more during a public listening session Nov. 17, beginning at 10 a.m., in the Circuit Courtroom at the Barry County Justice Center.

Organized by The Missouri Bar's Special Committee on Rural Practice, the event will provide a chance for community members to discuss the challenges and opportunities rural residents encounter when seeking lawyers and legal services.

"The Missouri Bar's mission is to improve the lives of Missourians," said Shelly Dreyer, 2024-2025 Missouri Bar president and committee co-chair. "Across Missouri, we are hearing concerns about access to legal services in rural communities. While we know there are challenges, we don't yet fully understand the scope of the issue."

Community members, local leaders, business owners, lawyers, and anyone interested in the future of legal services in rural Missouri are encouraged to attend.

Residents can also share their experiences by completing an online survey: MoBar.org/RuralLaw.

Gathered feedback will inform potential policy and program recommendations from the committee to help ensure adequate legal services for all Missouri residents.

Local woman returns from missionary service



Mar Jane Pankratz, Washburn, daughter of Gonzalo and Jessica Sanchez, recently returned from serving 18 months in the California Anaheim Mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Pankratz graduated from Exeter High School in 2023, where she participated in marching band, track and field, speech and debate, and scholarship bowl. Her hobbies are acrylic painting and graphs. Her future plans are to attend Crowder College to become an EMT and then on to a full paramedic. In speaking at the Cassville Branch, Pankratz said that her mission brought her closer to Jesus Christ "by sharing my testimony daily and by teaching others." Contributed photo



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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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Imagination Library facing short fundraising window

Organization aims to get free books to 1,210 Barry County children

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
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Imagination Library, Barry County is overcoming a steep fundraising hill this fall, aiming to raise a total of $37,752 to fund free monthly books for 1,210 children across 11 ZIP codes.

Theresa Phillips, who started the local affiliate with the Dolly Parton Foundation program in 2021, said the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education took over the program in 2024, then alerted local affiliates this summer that funding has run dry.

Phillips said the state stopped accepting new registrations on July 1. State funding is expected to run out Dec. 1, making the final state-funded books those mailed that month.

Phillips said the local organization learned in May that there could be funding problems, but did not receive confirmation that it would need to take the program back until August. The organization signed a contract to resume responsibility in the middle to latter part of that month, leaving about three months to raise the money needed for 2027.

Phillips said they chose to pursue a full year of funding, rather than raise money month by month. The program requires at least six months of payment, and Phillips said securing the full amount by Dec. 1 would ensure children already enrolled in Barry County receive books throughout 2027. The program is open to children ages birth to 5, with age-appropriate books mailed to their homes each month.

The total annual cost for the children currently enrolled in the county is $37,752, divided among 11 ZIP codes. Each child's books cost $31.20 per year, covering 12 monthly books.

For example, Phillips said Cassville has 320 enrolled children, requiring $9,984 annually to provide each with a book every month. Monett has 360 children enrolled.

"That's a really good deal," Phillips said of the annual cost per child, noting the expense of purchasing books individually.

Funding progress has varied by community. Phillips said Cassville has raised more than half of its needed amount, while the Thrifty Closet has provided funding for Shell Knob and Golden. The Eagle Rock Community Association sponsored the entire Eagle Rock ZIP code, and grants through Phil & Friends have provided support for Verona and Purdy. A donor ha also provided the remaining funding for Wheaton.

A $2,500 grant from BNSF Railway is being applied toward Monett, which currently has less than three months of funding available. Phillips said Monett will be a major focus of upcoming fundraising efforts.

Exeter, Washburn and Seligman currently have no designated funding, and Phillips said those communities need additional support. The organization is also working to fill smaller gaps between ZIP codes as donations come in.

A $2,000 Walmart Spark grant, secured by Philips for the first time, will support Cassville.

The Community Care Coalition has shifted its fundraising efforts toward the Imagination Library since learning it would resume responsibility for the program. Proceeds from its lemonade stand, a raffle at theCassville Chili & Salsa Cook-Off, and sales of color-your-own ducks, have been directed toward the book program.

Phillips said the coalition also has applied for several grants, including one through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

Other community efforts include a luncheon organized by the Cassville First United Methodist Church on Nov. 10. Roaring River State Park's Festival of Trees will also feature an Angel Tree using donated antique Little Golden Books. Visitors will be able to purchase a book, with the proceeds going to the Imagination Library.

Individuals can donate to the Community Care Coalition and designate their contribution for the Imagination Library, including specifying which ZIP code should receive the funding. Phillips said some Walmart customers also support the program through the retailer's Spark Roundup option.

People may also donate online at the Community Care Coalition website or the Imagination Library website. On the Imagination Library website, donors need to select MOBARRY as the recipient of the funds.

The Imagination Library, Barry County operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, making donations tax-deductible.

Phillips said donations will be sent to the Dollywood Foundation beginning in December, with funds designated for the appropriate ZIP codes. Because funding is tracked by ZIP code, a shortage in one area could affect how long children there continue receiving books, even if other areas have sufficient support.

"If for Monett we have three months' worth of funding, they'll get books for three months," Phillips said. "If we can't get the funding anywhere, then they'll run out."

The organization plans to reopen registration in early 2027 for children who have not been able to enroll since new registrations stopped in July. Phillips said the local program will review enrollment numbers after it takes effect in January, accounting for children who have aged out and anticipating new registrations.

Phillips said she hopes the community's support will allow every eligible child in Barry County to continue receiving books.

"I just don't want to see any of them go without," she said.

Through her work with the program, Phillips said she has met parents and caregivers whose children have very few books at home. She said the monthly deliveries provide families with opportunities to read together, including older siblings reading to younger children.

"I see how happy they are when they get theirs, and it just means a lot to me," she said.

Phillips said the organization is grateful for the response from residents and groups who have stepped forward to help.

"We're just overwhelmed by everyone that wants to help," she said. "It means a lot."

Barry County Health Corner

Family health services offered at Barry County Health Department

The Barry County Health Department offers an array of family health services, including women's health, family planning, birth control, and more. In collaboration with the Ozark Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) Family Planning, we offer the following services:

Women's Health Services

Services available for all women of child bearing age: Pap Smears (only age 21+), Breast Exams, Birth Control, Prenatal Counseling, Pregnancy Testing, Confidential HIV/STD Testing, Counseling and Treatment

Show-Me Healthy Women

Free services to women ages 21-64 who are uninsured. Services include: Pap Smears and Mammograms in addition to the services listed in Women's Health Services. In some instances, Specialist consults such as Diagnostic mammograms and ultrasounds as well cervical specialist consults.

Family Planning Services

These may include: Routine gynecological exams (pap smear, pelvic exam, breast exam), Screening and treatment of vaginal infections and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Pregnancy testing/counseling/referrals, Training on self-breast exams, Education and counseling on birth control options, Prescription and non-prescription birth control supplies.

Birth Control

Methods available include: Prescription Methods: Oral contraceptives (the pill), Birth Control Patch (Ortho Evra), Birth Control Ring (NuvaRing), Depo-Provera (injection), Implant (Nexplanon) by referral, and IUD (Intrauterine Device) by referral. Non-prescription methods: Condoms.

Fees for medical services and contraceptives are on a sliding scale based on income and ability to pay. Medicaid is accepted. No age or marital restrictions for birth control and other services (excluding pap smear, must be 21+).

ALL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ARE COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

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

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Reverence

In this week's issue, we've put a special focus on veterans — more so than we've done in years.

Our top story is about Larry Gann, a retired U.S. Army colonel who grew up in Golden and on Saturday was inducted into the Arkansas Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Our No. 2 story is a submitted one, a great piece about how Exeter and Cassville students are sending Christmas cards to every sailor on the USS Shoup stationed in the Middle East.

The final front page story is about Dan Prier, a Butterfield native who recently marked the grave of his grandfather, whose grave was previously unmarked, and whose grandfather served under our first president.

Throughout Barry County — over hundreds of years — men and women have served our country valiantly.

I'm writing this piece on Monday, and on Wednesday (today if you get the paper when we intend to deliver it), I'll be at the Cassville Performing Arts Center for the Veterans Day assembly, an incredible display year after year of reverence to the women and men who have served our country valiantly.

Every year, the programs at our schools in Barry County remind me of the sacrifices our friends and neighbors make for our freedom. To be in the presence of folks who have served 15, 20 or 30 years — or more — to our nation's well-being is nothing less than inspiring.

They don't do it for any party or any president. They do it for freedom — for you.

My grandpa served in the Navy through WWII, and I wish he was still around these days for me to hear about his campaigns stateside or abroad.

My uncle served in the Navy, fortunately void of any action but still committing 30-plus years to our nation. My cousin did the same in the Navy. My only brother has been serving abroad for a decade.

I say that to say that I'm in awe of our relatives, friends and neighbors who serve.

It takes a certain kind of person to commit to an idea, a structure, a purpose.

And, it's not only men serving abroad. In this week's issue, we have a piece on Hilda Howell, a "Rosie" who during WWII served her country valiantly — and is keen to tell you about it.

These servicemen and servicewomen show us the best of ourselves. They don't typically care about parties or politics. They love their country, and they fought for it.

Our new generation is doing the same, answering the call. The cards to the USS Shoup are for Cassville graduate Charlie Seymour and his fellow sailors. I wish I could be there to capture the moments when they first see them.

Bob Mitchell, our former publisher and owner, was a proud Navy man. I'll never forget the hours I spent at his house in Chinquapin Woods looking at photos from his days in the service where he was a photographer.

I wish back then he had a digital camera. As someone who never worked with film for a newspaper, I'm in awe of how he used his talents overseas and translated that skill to home.

So many of our veterans transfer their skills here, and often times, they struggle to exist in the place they know so well — tarnished by the memories of experiences that continually haunt them.

Of all the veterans I've interviewed over the years, the one who stands out the most was a man who served in the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. He an African American man who loved this country more than many could ever imagine. He served in Vietnam, and when I thanked him for his service post-interview, he broke down crying.

"You're only the second person who has ever thanked me," he said.

He deserved so much more.

On this Veterans Day, it's for my grandpa, my uncle, my cousins, my brother, and all the men and women who've never received those two simple words — "Thank You" — who I give the deepest reverence.

If you don't have a primary family member in the service, ask your friends or acquaintances about theirs.

You'll find pride in their stories, ones that are worth telling and passing down.

Their level of dedication is something we should all revere in this day and age.

Thank you, veterans.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

COMMUNITY VOICES

Great things in November

Great things continue to happen in Cassville as we begin November.

Our Wildcats are in the midst of postseason football, learning continues in classrooms across the district, and students are honoring those who have served our country. These efforts share a common thread: people who show up and give their best. Strong schools depend on that commitment from students, parents, teachers, support staff, business owners, volunteers and voters. Each has a part in creating opportunities for the next generation.

Recent events at Cassville Schools provide some good examples. At our Oct. 21 career fair, high school students explored possibilities beyond graduation. They had opportunities to learn about welding, military service and employment with the Department of Natural Resources, among other paths. For a teenager considering the future, a conversation with someone working in a particular field can make that future feel more within reach. Those connections matter. We want students to leave Cassville High School with a strong academic foundation and a practical understanding of where their interests and abilities might lead them. That may mean college, technical training, military service or entering the workforce.

First State Bank of the Ozarks has helped make that work possible through a $28,000 contribution supporting career exploration and workforce readiness. With support through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' Member Impact Fund, this investment is helping students develop workplace skills and plan for life after high school. I appreciate businesses that recognize the connection between investing in students and strengthening our community.

Our FFA students recently provided another example through Food for America. They helped younger students learn about agriculture, farm equipment and where their food comes from. Older students had the opportunity to teach, and younger students had the opportunity to ask questions and experience something firsthand. In a world where so much information is available on a screen, experiences like these remain valuable. Students need opportunities to explain an idea, ask a question, work with others and connect classroom learning to everyday life. Technology can support learning, but we must continue making room for conversation, curiosity and hands-on experiences.



MERLYN JOHNSON

There is also plenty to celebrate on the football field. Our Wildcats finished the regular season 8–1 and earned the top seed in their district. We are scheduled to host the district championship against Seneca this Friday night (Nov. 13). I am proud of our players and coaches for the work that brought them to this point.

The lessons extend beyond the scoreboard. Preparation, accountability and teamwork matter in athletics, just as they do in classrooms, workplaces and families. Thank you to everyone who supports our students in those efforts, including the students whose contributions come through music, cheer, clubs and other activities.

Showing up also carries a responsibility beyond our school grounds. Just last week, we were reminded that elections help determine the direction of Missouri education. The legislators elected will make decisions about school funding and the expectations placed on public schools. Those decisions eventually reach individual classrooms, including ours. I am hopeful that those who won their elections are open and willing to support our public schools to build stronger futures for our children and their families.

As superintendent, I want our elected leaders to understand what their decisions mean for Cassville students. Reliable funding helps us plan, retain quality employees and provide opportunities. Local input helps policymakers understand the needs of the communities their decisions affect. That conversation must continue after Election Day. I encourage readers to stay informed, ask questions and help our representatives understand the value of strong public schools.

We also have a responsibility as school leaders to explain our needs clearly and use the resources entrusted to us wisely.

Recently, our students offered more reminders of the responsibilities we share as citizens. Our third-grade patriotic music program was last Thursday, Nov. 5 and our high school Veterans Day program is today (Wednesday). These programs gave our students the opportunity to express gratitude and learn about service from the people who lived it. I hope our veterans know how much their example means to our schools and community.

As we move through November, I encourage everyone to find a way to stay involved. Attend a student event. Read with a child. Share your career experience. Communicate with a teacher. Thank a veteran. I am grateful for the many people who already do these things.

Your involvement helps our students see that their education and their future matter to the people around them.

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

COMMUNITY VOICES

What we carry out of the classroom

What do we teach in the college classroom?

At the very crux, we teach knowledge — the "how to" and the "what for" of a subject. Yet knowledge is nothing if it is not applicable to real life. This is part of the learning continuum, a process if you will, that models how humans acquire skills and use them in real life. It is the application process where learning success spells a lifetime of benefits to all people. It is the engine for achieving the greater good. That somehow, some way in our lives what we do serves our fellow sojourner in this broken and beautiful world.

A much better descriptor is servant leadership.

I have witnessed it as a core cultural trait in my time in Cassville. How uplifting it is to see America's Real Hometown, day in and day out, exemplify the very tenets of servant leadership. It is done by the citizenry in small and big ways, lifting a hand to others in need, encouraging and giving of the heart without expectation of payback.

Increasingly in this world, I see and hear people from all walks of life who expect it is the government to supply all our needs, as though our taxes supply us with serving our neighbor. Our government is charged with a great deal, and our republic seeks to serve a better way of life. But life's demands exceed all the stores of help that are essential in addressing what all people wish to have in times of trouble and unexpected need.



TERRY HELD

Servant leadership is the driving force of Crowder's cultural ethos. We seek to instill by example, by knowledge and application, that our students will understand the outside world needs their heart as much as it needs their knowledge and workplace skills.

In my composition and speech classes at Crowder College, I've asked students to study servant leadership. Some are writing about it, and others are preparing to speak about it. I keep coming back to a question that matters after the assignment is turned in. What will somebody else be able to do because they took the time to help?

Picture a student who goes straight from class to work and is asked to show a new employee how to close up for the night. It would be quicker to do the job alone. Showing someone the routine takes longer, especially if you give them a chance to try it and ask why things are done a certain way. The next evening, that new coworker may be able to close up on their own. A little patience on one shift can give somebody else a chance to take responsibility on the next.

Crowder's mission speaks of building a "civil, serving, literate, learning community of responsible citizens." I find myself dwelling on the word serving. It describes something we can practice while we're learning. In a classroom discussion, it might be as simple as waiting long enough for a classmate to finish a difficult thought. At a meeting in town, that same habit might lead us to ask what someone who's been quiet thinks about the matter at hand. Their answer might change the decision.

I think about this in connection with Poetry Ain't Dead. Our student poets had something to say, and Cassville gave their work a place to be heard. When the city proclaimed a Community Poetry Day, it gave public recognition to something that started with students putting words on a page. There's a lesson in that for those of us who have a say in what gets heard around town. Sometimes the most useful thing we can do with the standing we have is lend a little of it to somebody who's just beginning to find an audience.

You need examples? Serve a shift at the Crowder Pantry. There is a noble effort ongoing every day of Cassville's existence to serve our neighbor in that location. Were you at the crazy fun chili cook off, where hundreds of people turned out to support various causes and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow neighbor. Do you know the work of the Senior Citizen Center? Go, see, help.

These organizations and scores of individual citizens serve their neighbor without expectation of recognition or pay. Now, that is servant leadership. It is what the citizenry of Cassville does so well. I can only hope in my classroom I can impart the spirit of help and cooperation I have seen in Cassville... that they will understand and apply the golden rule throughout their life in the locales they live and work.

Of course, our students bring their own examples of service to Crowder. They may have learned how to teach a task from someone who trained them at their first job, or how to make room for a newcomer from a neighbor who did the same for them. In class, they get to put words to what they've seen and think about where else they might practice it. Then they go back to work, to their families, or to a meeting where somebody has been trying to get a word in. I hope one of them remembers to say, "Go ahead. I'd like to hear what you think."

Servant Leadership. Out of the classroom and into the areas we live. Making the places we live to thrive. Be the servant leader, help America's Real Hometown and surrounding areas continue to be a great place to live and work.

Terry Held is an English instructor at Crowder College, Cassville. The views expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily

50 years ago

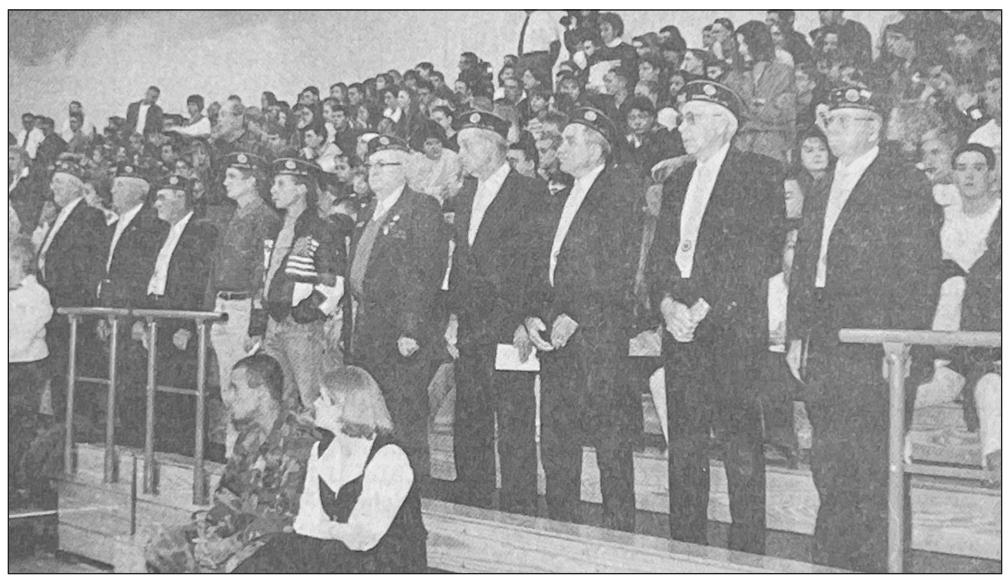
Nov. 17, 1976

– DC BUYS LAND; ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 22

In preparation for their annual stockholders' meeting November 22, the Cassville Industrial Development Corporation this week announced signing of contracts for an additional 18-20 acres for industrial sites here. Bill Wiley, president, said the IDC had completed contracts with Mrs. A.G. Sutton for purchase of land southeast of Cassville. Exact acreage will not be determined until surveys are complete. The land is located across the Sale Barn Road from FASCO Industries of Cassville. At the same time, IDC officials said they were negotiating with an industry that would use a portion of the land. Wiley said this week the 168 stockholders in IDC would be eligible to take part in the coming meeting. To be named is one director, with Kenneth Johnston holding the expiring term. In addition, members of the board include Glen Hall, Doyle Thomas and Jack Byrd. The shareholders, who own 1,790 shares, will also hear a financial statement and further reports on the industrial site acquisition. Financial status of the IDC includes about $11,000 on hand from the sale of Garrett Manufacturing Co. facilities a year ago. Purchase price of the land was in the neighborhood of $1,000 per acre. The site, located adjacent to FASCO, makes utilities easily available. Prior to acquiring the new site, the IDC was out of business for industrial land. The present park in the northwest part of town, purchased in 1962, is full. The 15 acres was bought from Barry County. Industries in the full park include Garrett, Wells Aluminum, Ace Welding and a plot sold to Forest Products for future use. Acquiring the additional land paves the way for IDC and Chamber of Commerce negotiations with an industrial prospect with which both civic organizations have been dealing for some time.

– EMPLOYEES AT FASCO SAY NO TO UNION AFFILIATION

In an election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board, plant employees of FASCO Industries, Cassville, Friday turned thumbs down on a labor union affiliation by a four-to-one majority. The vote was 88 in favor of union involvement, 342 against. The total of 430 votes were cast between a 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. voting period established by the NLRB. Voting requested by the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO of Pittsburgh, Pa., was the first such action by a Cassville industry. Morris Castleberry, plant manager, said following the ballot count, "FASCO management sincerely appreciates this vote of confidence by our employees. This even more greatly affirms our definite responsibility for a continued policy of good wage and benefit programs. We also pledge high-type and fair relations with our employees in years to come." Voting during the four-hour period was basically by departments, permitting members of two shifts to cast their ballots. Ballots were cast in the plant cafeteria under the guidance of three company- and three union-oriented employees. A two-member team of the NLRB, headed by Eric Wagner, conducted the election. Steelworker organizers also witnessed the ballot counting by Wagner, as did a large number of management personnel from Cassville's largest industry. Wagner separated the ballots in yes and no stacks and counted each before the coordinating teams of employees. Ballots were placed in stacks of 50, each verified by the company-union observers. The organization attempt began in the late summer, just shortly after FASCO had completed their first year of operation here. Initial meetings were held in Memorial Park with interested employees attending upon completion of their shifts. Campaign efforts throughout the plant, including buttons, found a majority similar to the outcome of the voting against affiliation with the union group. The electric motor manufacturing firm, with Missouri plants in Ozark and Eldon and two in North Carolina, are complete open shops, that is, none are associated with organized labor. Nearing their 15-month anniversary in Cassville, FASCO Industries will soon put to use a 50,000-square-foot expansion of their original 150,000-square-foot plant. Employment levels, which have touched all Barry County communities and extended into adjoining areas, reached above the 500 mark during the first year of operation. Voting was permitted by those employees who had one year tenure as of October of this year.



30 YEARS AGO: LOCAL WAR HEROES WERE HONORED — Veterans were honored Monday during the eighth annual Veteran's Day Assembly hosted by Cassville High School. Students recognized area veterans with a variety of patriotic songs and performed as well as CHS choirs. Vocal solos were performed by Leslie Fletcher and JoBeth Harris. Narrations were delivered by Lindsay Cowan, Roxie Mitchell, Jonea Rima and Max Akers. The assembly ended solemnly as Justin Velton and Zach Ball performed "Taps.". Democrat file photo

40 years ago

Nov. 19, 1986

– INDIAN ARTIFACTS AT PARK PROBABLY LONG AGO DISTURBED

More than likely, any solid evidence of Indian residence on the bank of Flat Creek in Cassville was probably disturbed long ago. That's the initial finding of Jack H. Ray, research associate for the Center of Archaeological Research at SMSU in Springfield. Ray and an associate, Linda Keely, began excavations Tuesday in the park. The SMSU department associate was contracted by city government to satisfy earlier findings by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. All the concern relates to a state grant for Cassville to acquire more park land and make improvements. An examination of the site in late September by DNR people discovered evidence that Indian culture probably existed in the park area of Flat Creek in a pre-European era. Ray's initial shovel dig at the park shows signs of probable artifacts. But he said the area had been disturbed. Evidence in the overburden top layer of soil shows signs of a former residence, probably the Turner family. Whether final efforts that will continue through about noon Thursday will find intact deposits or undisturbed artifacts, Ray wouldn't say at the first part of his assignment. City Clerk Charli Jo Ledgerwood and Police Chief Ray Burnette were his first visitors Tuesday morning. As Ray and Keely worked in the initial area, he said, "At this point it doesn't appear there will be sufficient findings to involve the grant. However, one solid deposit or undisturbed site can change all this." Outdoor Recreation Grants of funds, administered by DNR, cannot be used to disturb any solid artifact findings. The SMSU crew is under contract with the city for a maximum of $2,500 to complete the survey in advance of that which could be scheduled by the state agency. Mayor Rolland Meador explained earlier that city haste in the project was to get the park expansion underway as early as possible. City plans are to make additional fund requests for the park expansion area. If successful, these funds would be used for development of the expansion area. Finding of further evidence of artifacts at the scene would not jeopardize the project, only cause a delay, officials said. Should strong evidence or an actual find be discovered, Ray explained, it would probably result in a specific area being placed on a national list of finds. Both Ray and Keely strongly [original text incomplete] that Indian cultures had been in the park area of Flat Creek long before the white man even knew this country existed. But the fact that the area had been disturbed so heavily by man or nature led the exploration pair to believe little concentrations of artifacts would be found. While he was in the process of making the survey of the area, probably requiring three diggings, Ray agreed to host some Cassville school classes during the project. Ledgerwood said she would contact school officials when the SMSU pair decided their progress wouldn't be hampered by a visitation. The Cultural Resources Survey results will be reported to the DNR by Ray within the next few weeks. He said that unless further evidence is discovered, the report should permit work to continue on the park project in the near future.

– EAGLE ROCK TOPS FIELD IN STATE COMMUNITY BETTERMENT

All those efforts in the Table Rock Lake community of Eagle Rock, that have made the area a better place to live and created activity, won first place in the Missouri Department of Economic Development Community Betterment program this year. A three-member delegation from Eagle Rock was at Lake Ozark Monday to accept the award. With a plaque and $500 first prize in hand, Imogene Dunklin, executive director of the C-B group; Jewell Farwell, project director; and Dorothy Green, representing the Eagle Rock extension club, returned home Tuesday evening. "It was an enjoyable experience as we accepted the first prize in Category One from Governor John Ashcroft," said Mrs. Farwell. In all, seven categories were recognized as first-place winners. Eagle Rock's recognition was before about 700 persons, representing more than 80 communities of the state. Efforts during the past year that have fostered improvement in the lake community, recreation activities for a growing resident number, bolstered craft fair activities, continued to improve facilities, add to library facilities and increase health activities brought the recognition. Projects have been guided by Eagle Rock Community Association, a newly formed Chamber of Commerce and the Extension Club. "It's the hard work of the community that brought us this recognition," said Mrs. Farwell. Earlier this year, the community's efforts for improvements attracted a $10,000 grant from Commerce Bank of Barry County, also boosted by a state program that encourages funds of this type to growing communities. Eagle Rock, at the western end of Table Rock, is the avenue of travel between Roaring River State Park and attractions in Arkansas. A reservoir crossing on Highway 86 opens a wide access for tourism. The Barry County community is also experiencing commercial growth with location of a shopping center on Highway 86 between Eagle Rock and Golden. A high percentage of population growth in a number of lake subdivisions in the area consists of retirement families. In recent years, two areas, Chain-O-Lakes and Emerald Beach in that immediate area, have attained village status for governmental purposes. Eagle Rock's participation in the C-B program is a first in several years. Cassville took a second- and third-place finish in their category in the middle 1970s. Cassville is also a Five-Star Community Betterment participant in the state program.

30 years ago

Nov. 13, 1996

– SW WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES FUNDING AFTER THREE-YEAR WAIT

The Southwest Rural Water District, located in southern Barry County, will receive $4.7 million in funding from USDA Rural Development (formerly FmHA). The announcement was made public on Monday. The funding will allow the district to proceed with construction of the project that will provide water service to residents in eight Barry County townships. The project has been under development for more than four years. One half of the funds received by the district will come in the form of a $2,350,900 grant. The other half will be provided as a 35-year loan. Voters approved a $4.5 million bond issue to support the project in November 1993. The loan money will be used to purchase the bonds, and user fees will provide the payback. Don Cupps, attorney for the district, said the project, which encompasses a 119-square-mile area, is currently the largest rural water project in the state. It extends from Bates Corner, south of Cassville, to the rural areas of Washburn and Seligman. A portion of the service area extends into McDonald County. When asked why the funds were a long time in coming, Cupps attributed the delay to the size of the project and funds "being tight." Before construction contracts can be let on the project, Cupps said the district must obtain approximately 800 easements to allow for construction and maintenance of the water system. The district already has secured 125 easements. To coordinate the acquisition of easements, the district will open an office in Cassville beginning Nov. 20. The office will be located at 203 W. Seventh St., immediately north of the First Baptist Church. The office location was chosen for its proximity to records located in the Barry County Courthouse. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. Charli Jo Ledgerwood was selected by the district to coordinate easement acquisition. Cupps said a secretary will also be hired to handle phone calls and general follow-up. Ellis and Cupps, the district's attorneys, and Archer Engineers, the project engineering firm, will be available by appointment to answer questions. The district office's telephone number will be 847-4437. Cupps said once the easements are acquired, the district hopes to advertise for bids in the spring. If all goes according to schedule, construction could begin by late spring or early summer, Cupps said. Of the total project cost, $3,671,480 is earmarked for construction, which includes drilling two wells and installing approximately 450 miles of water lines. The remaining $1,013,100 covers engineering, legal and contingency fees. Barry County townships that will be served by the district are Liberty, Exeter, Ash, Flat Creek, Sugar Creek, Roaring River, Mineral and Washburn. The townships cover approximately one-sixth of the county. Water district directors are Danny Wall, Steve Knight, Marty Hall, Carol Hutchens and Marvin Henningson. Knight serves as district president. Dennie Fletcher is treasurer of the district, and Raeleen McCurdy serves as district secretary. Discussion about formation of a water district in southwest Barry County began in 1991 after as many as 40 percent of the water samples taken from private wells in the area were testing "unsatisfactory for human consumption." The district was legally organized in August 1992 by a vote of district residents. Initially, almost 450 people have signed water use agreements. Both residential and commercial customers will be served by the district.

– CLOSE TO 400 STUDENTS WILL COMPETE IN CHS-HOSTED SPEECH TOURNAMENT

Cassville High School will host its annual novice invitational speech tournament on Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7. According to tournament coordinator Glenda Ward, CHS plans to welcome approximately 400 speech competitors from 25 schools. Each year, school personnel and community members serve as judges for the tournament. Judges from previous years are being contacted, but speech coach Steve Mann said other volunteers are needed. It takes nearly 200 individuals to judge preliminary, semi-final and final rounds. Competitive events will include dramatic interpretation, humorous interpretation, prose and poetry reading, duet acting, original oratory, extemporaneous speaking, team debate and Lincoln-Douglas debate. Cassville speech students cannot participate in their home tournament, but they will be scheduling competitive rounds, assigning judges and timekeepers, tabulating results and serving in the hospitality room and student snack bar. The student chairman of the tournament is Jonea Rima. The judges committee consists of Roxie Mitchell, Krista Smith and Sunni Stumpff. Timekeeping chairmen are Amanda Sisney and Julie Assing. The hospitality room for the volunteer judges and guest speech coaches is organized by K Cardin, who is assisted by students Brandy Lancaster and Toni Hendricks. Several area businesses and restaurants are being contacted to help provide the food necessary to serve dinner, breakfast, lunch and snacks to the guests. The snack bar for visiting students will be operated under the direction of Margie Selig and Linda Quinalty.

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Contributed photo

Obituaries



Lavonne "Kay" Bowers

Lavonne "Kay" Bowers, age 87, of Joplin, Missouri passed away Thursday, November 5, 2026 at Solace House of the Ozarks in Joplin, Missouri.

She was born to Louis and Narcissus Bertschy in Bentonville, Arkansas. One of eleven children, Kay grew up in Bentonville, where she attended school and graduated from Bentonville High School in 1957. During her senior year, she was given the memorable distinction of being named "Prettiest Girl."

Following high school, Kay moved to Kansas City, Missouri. She often reminisced about her fun-filled days in the "Big City," telling stories about living with her roommates, enjoying life, and spending everything they earned on new clothes. It was during this time that she met the love of her life, Jerrell Bowers. They were married on July 4, 1959.

Kay was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jerrell Bowers; her parents, Louis and Narcissus Bertschy; and her siblings, Leola King, Evelyn Garnett, Margie Lamb, Vivian Allen, Calvin Bertschy, Leon Bertschy, Verna Dodd, and Ivan Bertschy.

She is survived by her husband, Ferrell Bowers; brothers, Dick Bertschy (Danette) and Doug Bertschy (Shirley); her children, Troy Bowers (Jamie), Greg Bowers (Anita), and Patti Brinkley (John); and her bonus daughters, Kelly Cox and Tracy Taylor (Joe).

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Jacob Bowers (Mathieu), Kaytlyn Roberts (Brandon), Nicholas Bowers (Brianna), Samantha Brenner (Zack), Madison Flores

(Allyn), Jackson Dahn (Kayla), Joseph Bowers (Katie), and Michael Dahn (Jillian).

Her bonus grandchildren include Clint Brinkley, Abbey Brinkley (Andrew), Ethan Burkett, Grant Burkett (Taylor), Zach Taylor (Shelby), Olivia Kothmann (Wilks), Eli Taylor (Emma), Ryan Truman (John), and Miles McNeill (Tara).

Kay was also blessed with six great-grandchildren: Finn Dahn, August Bowers, Vivian Dahn, Sylvie Bowers, Hudson Roberts, Junie Bowers, and an expected great-grandchild due soon. Please join us in a celebration of Kay's amazing life at the Harrisonville United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Bright Futures of Harrisonville.

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

FBLA collects good, raises funds for food insecurity

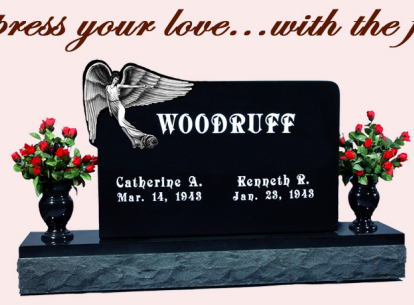


On Oct. 29, Cassville FBLA members went 'trick-or-treating for a cause' to support Bright Futures. This is one of a few different Service Learning opportunities the group has scheduled throughout the year. Members raised a few hundred dollars in food items, as well as monetary donations totaling $630. Cassville FBLA is hopeful these donations will help mitigate food insecurity in the community, and thanks those who contributed.
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Pyle, Stough named Students of the Quarter



Seniors Trenton Pyle and Kami Stough have been selected as the CHS Students of the Quarter for the first quarter. Pyle is a member of FCCLA, the Special Olympics team and is involved in his church. He is the son of Joel and Christina Pyle. Stough is involved in FBLA, NHS and a member of the volleyball team. She is the daughter of Joel and Kandice Stough. Rockin W Excavation is sponsoring the Student of the Quarter program at CHS. The business has provided each award recipient with a goodie bag, including a T-shirt, candy and a gift certificate to a local restaurant. From left: Troy Wenzel, with Rockin W Excavation; Pyle; Stough; and Tyler Willis, CHS Principal.
Contributed photo

Purdy grad joins CFO's Ozarks Teacher Corps

Ruby Knight, a 2024 graduate of Purdy High School, has joined the Ozarks Teacher Corps, a special scholarship program managed by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to recruit teachers for rural school districts.

Knight is currently studying education at Missouri State University and plans to teach high school business education.



KNIGHT

As a member of the Ozarks Teacher Corps, Knight recently attended a place-based education workshop at Roaring River State Park near Cassville. Place-based education connects the subjects that students learn in the classroom to the communities in which they live and is a key component of Ozarks Teacher Corps training.

The Ozarks Teacher Corps is part of the CFO's Rural Schools Partnership, an initiative that links rural schools and the communities they anchor. Teacher-education students attending Missouri State University and Drury University in Springfield, Missouri Southern State University in Joplin and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau may apply to join the Corps, which offers a $4,000 scholarship, renewable for a second year. To join, scholarship recipients must agree to teach for at least three years upon graduation at a rural school district in the region. Established in 2010, the Ozarks Teacher Corps has become a model for similar programs across the country.

"At the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, we believe that schools are the hearts of rural communities," said Beth Hersh, director of scholarships for the CFO. "Through place-based education, Ozarks Teacher Corps members can help their future students develop deeper connections to the people, places and experiences that make their communities special."

CFO scholarship applications opening Jan. 1

Applications for scholarships administered by the CFO, including the Ozarks Teacher Corps Scholarship, will open Jan. 1, 2027. The CFO administers about 450 scholarship funds that provide $1.8 million in scholarships every year for students from central and southern Missouri seeking higher education. For more information, go to cfozarks.org/applyforscholarships.

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is the region's largest public charitable foundation serving donors, nonprofit partners and 55 regional affiliates — including Cassville Community Foundation and Monett Area Community Foundation — with $635 million in assets under management as of June 30, 2026. The CFO's mission is to improve the quality of life for everyone in central and southern Missouri through resource development, community grantmaking, collaboration and public leadership. Learn more at cfozarks.org.

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Jan Peterson • Shell Knob • Oct. 9, 1942–Oct. 28, 2026
Alfonso Cortez • Purdy • Jan. 27, 1935–Nov. 2, 2026
Rebecca Crawford • Rocky Comfort • Dec. 8, 1958–Nov. 2, 2026

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State, national officials speak at Republican Rally



Missouri State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick, of Cassville, speaks at the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School on Nov. 2. Fitzpatrick was reelected to his position on Nov. 3. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Judy Dummit, of McDowell, siles as she speaks to Gary Schad, Barry County northern commissioner, who helped serve her plate at the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School on Nov. 2. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins recognizes his wife for her support during the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School on Nov. 2. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



State Rep. Scott Cupps, R-Shell Knob, speaks at the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School on Nov. 2. Cupps was reelected on Nov. 43 to his final term in the Missouri House. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison, R-District 7, speaks at the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School on Nov. 2. Burlison was reelected to his seat on Nov. 3. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cupps keeps State Rep. seat, Fitzpatrick reelected Auditor

Barry County sees 44.18% turnout in Nov. 3 General Election

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A total of 44.18% of registered Barry County voters cast ballots in the Nov. 3 General Election, contributing to State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick, of Cassville, and State Rep. Scott Cupps, R-Shell Knob, retaining their positions.

Statewide, Fitzpatrick received 1,058,853 votes (50.920%), while Democratic challenger Quentin Wilson received 967,009 votes (46.503%) and Liberterian Dustin Coffell garnered 53,581 (2.577%). In Barry County, Fitzpatrick received greater support with 8,178 votes (78.31%) to Wilson's 2,064 votes (19.93%) and Coffell's 183 votes (1.75%)

Across District 158, Cupps, who was seeking his final term in the Missouri House, received 8,651 votes (75.886%), while Democratic challenger Christopher Foster, of Purdy, garnered 2,796 votes (24.114%). In Barry County alone, Cupps received 7,804. votes (75.22%) to Foster's 2,571 (24.78%).

A major draw to the voting booths on Nov. 3 were the four Constitutional Amendments and one Proposition on the ballot.

Amendment No. 3, which if passed would have implemented abortion restrictions and banned gender-transition procedures for minors, failed statewide by a 55-45% margin. In Barry County, 6,797 votes (64.55%) were cast in favor of the Amendment, and 3,733 votes (35.45%) were cast against.

Amendment No. 6, which requires 80% support in both chambers of the state legislature to change a citizen-approved initiative and require said changes go before voters, passed statewide by a 60-40% margin. In Barry County, voters cast 5,680 ballots (54.66%) against the Amendment and 4,711 (45.34%) in favor.

Amendment No. 7, which would have created a state savings account with the goal of using interest to eventually eliminate and replace state income taxes, failed statewide by a 61-39% margin. In Barry County, voters sided with the state with 5,266 votes (51.14%) against and 5,032 (48.86%) in favor.

Amendment No. 8, which gives Constitutional protection to elected county sheriffs and requires a quo warranto proceeding initiated by the Attorney General for removal, passed statewide with a 51-49% margin. In Barry County, voters again sided with the state, casting 6,678 votes (64.48%) in favor and 3,680 votes (35.53%) against.

Finally, Proposition A, which would have implemented a new Republican-proposed congressional redistricting plan, failed statewide by a 62-38% margin. In Barry County, voters were opposite of the state with 5,264 votes (51.17%) in favor and 5,0244 votes (48.83%) against.

In local issues, the cities of Purdy, Exeter and Washburn had questions on the ballot.

In Purdy, voters declined a 2% use tax, with 96. votes against (54.24%) and 81 in favor (45.76%).

In Exeter, voters approved a $3.7 million bond issue for work on the water and sewer system, with 125. votes in favor (77.64%) and 36 votes against (22.36%).

In Washburn, voters declined a 1% sales tax for the General Fund, which would have raised the total sales tax in the city from 1% to 2%. The measure failed by 4 votes, with 54 against (51.92%) and 50 in favor (48.08%).

Numerous Barry County positions were also on the ballot, all uncontested Republicans. They included:

- Johnnie Cox, Associate Circuit Judge Division I, 8,821 votes
- Robert "Bob" Foulke, Associate Court Judge Division II, 8,672 votes
- Steve Blankenship, Presiding Commissioner, 8,757 votes
- Kimi Deal, County Clerk, 8,714 votes
- Craig Williams, Circuit Clerk, 8,801 votes
- Danielle Still, Recorder of Deeds, 8,839 votes
- Gretta Tripp, Treasurer, 8,740 votes
- Andrew Cole, Prosecutor, 8,808 votes
- Skyler Bowman, Collector of Revenue, 8,944 votes

The only national race on the ballot was U.S. Representative District 7, where Republican Eric Burlison retained his seat. District-wide, Burlison garnered 157,599 votes (62.152%) to Democrat Missi Hesketh's 89,710 (35.379%). Libertarian Kevin Craig received 6,100 votes (2.406%), and write-ins accounted for 163 votes (0.064%).

The only two other candidates on the ballot were state judges. Statewide, Judge Paul C. Wilson retained his Missouri Supreme Court position by a 63-37% margin. In Barry County, voters cast 6,333 votes (67.92%) in favor of retention and 3,078 (32.71%) against. Southern District Court of Appeals Judge Matthew P. Hamner also retained his judgeship, garnering a statewide margin of 73-27%. In Barry County, voters cast 7,130 votes (76.36%) in favor and 2,207 votes (23.64%) against.



Wendy Ann Ownby (Rauh) has been in the spa and wellness industry and licensed by the State of Missouri for 30 years and holds a degree in Business Administration. She is educated through the International Institute of Reflexology-THE INGHAM METHOD of REFLEXOLOGY. Continued Education in Advanced Ingham Method of Reflexology.

She also continued her education in New York City with Laura Norman Holistic Reflexology "Approved National Certification Board of Reflexology" and is certified in Face and Ear Reflexology. As a former owner of Sisters Wellness- Lake of the Ozarks Missouri (Featured in Lake Lifestyles Magazine) she continues the vision of health and wellness for herself and others. One of her favorite quotes is from 3 John.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." A lifelong learner. Wendy is always working to further her education of the natural body systems. She strives to see others live healthy, meaningful lives.

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Students in Mrs. Comman's second-grade class at Exeter Elementary School create Christmas cards for sailors aboard the USS Shoup in the Middle East, where Exeter Elementary Principal Chris Seymour's son is serving in the U.S. Navy. Contributed photo



Students in Beta Club at Cassville create Christmas cards for sailors aboard the USS Shoup in the Middle East, where Exeter Elementary Principal Chris Seymour's son is serving in the U.S. Navy. Contributed photo

Cards: Most meaningful gifts not always wrapped in paper or beneath a tree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

release said. "Through their creativity and kindness, these students are reminding hundreds of sailors serving far from home that they are appreciated, remembered, and thought of during the holiday season.

"Sometimes, the most meaningful Christmas gifts aren't wrapped in paper or placed beneath a tree. Sometimes, they're handmade with a little paper, a few words of encouragement, and a whole lot of heart."

Induction: Gann credits wife, Paula, for support over 35-year military career

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

officer.

Gann was promoted to captain in 1990 and assigned as the intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery. He served in that role during the brigade's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Storm.

The unit mobilized on Thanksgiving Day 1990 and went to Fort Sill, Okla., before deploying. Gann returned home July 1, 1991.

Following Desert Storm, Gann held several command and staff positions, including commander of Service Battery and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, and battalion operations officer. He later served at Arkansas National Guard Joint Force Headquarters as the state environmental officer and state safety officer.

In 2003, he was assigned as commander of the 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery. In 2006, he returned to command the battalion and serve as rear detachment commander while the 142nd Field Artillery had multiple deployments.

Gann also served in two major domestic missions. He spent nine months in New Orleans as the Arkansas National Guard's officer in charge following Hurricane Katrina. He later spent 18 months in New Mexico as officer in charge of Task Force Razorback during Operation Jump Start, a National Guard mission supporting border security efforts.

While overseas deployments were an important part of his career, Gann said he particularly valued the National Guard's role in responding to needs at home.

"The National Guard, which is where I was most of my career, they do have an active mission in wars, which we've seen over the last 25 years," he said. "But, their primary duty, secondarily to that, is serving stateside."

Gann said the dual mission distinguishes the National Guard from active-duty military service.

"We train for war, and we train for stateside missions to assist the state governors in protecting the state citizens," he said.



Larry Gann, right, retired colonel in the U.S. Army, accepts a plaque recognizing his induction into the Arkansas Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Presenting the honor was Roger McClellen, retired brigadier general. Contributed photo

Gann retired May 1, 2014, with the rank of colonel. His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal and Airborne Parachutist Badge.

For Gann, the Hall of Fame induction was meaningful not only because of the recognition, but also because it brought him back together with people who shared his military experience.

"To be in the same class as two of my very dear friends, and the spouse of another good acquaintance in the Guard, was an honor to be with those guys," he said.

Gann said his path from a small-town high school graduate to a colonel was made possible in part by educational opportunities through the military. He was the first person in his family to graduate from college, and tuition assistance was one of the reasons he initially enlisted.

He encouraged young people considering military service not to limit what they believe they can accomplish.

"Don't set your limits low," he said. "The opportunities are there for anybody that wants to work hard, educate themselves and do the right thing."

Gann said the National Guard can provide an opportunity for people who want to serve their country while also pursuing education and other goals.

"You don't have to go active duty," he said. "The National Guard is a very good opportunity to serve your country and help better yourself and help better the citizens around you."

Gann also emphasized the role his wife, Paula, played throughout his military career. He said military service affects the entire family, particularly when a service member is away and a spouse must manage responsibilities at home.

"We do our job and we're out there doing it, but then when we're gone, the one who has to take care of everything while we're gone is the spouse," he said. "They're still dealing with everything they deal with, plus everything we dealt with. They're doing it by themselves.

"My wife, Paula, is the rock."

Gann and Paula live in Verona and also have property in Cassville, where they spend time with their children and grandchildren, golf and enjoy time on the lake.

Marked: Experience connected Prier to many relatives still living in area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

name also carried into the next generation, when Prier's father was named John Washington Prier.

"Basically, my great-grandfather's grandfather was a patriot," Prier said. "Finally, I get back to here's the story of why this guy was so important and even important in American history, because his grandfather was an American patriot, and I had no clue about that."

The connection also helped Prier understand the family's roots in Barry County. His great-grandfather George was the first Prier in the family line to settle in the area, arriving from Iowa in the late 1800s. His descendants spread throughout the county, creating a large network of cousins.

Prier said he recognized many of those family connections from growing up in the area, including classmates who were descendants of Prier relatives.

"It was kind of neat to get that connection that he was the source of all the Priers that were in the area," he said.

The SAR traditionally marks the graves of Revolutionary War patriots. For the nation's 250th anniversary, the organization expanded the effort to include descendants of those patriots, recognizing the role their children and grandchildren played in settling communities across the country.

According to the SAR's America 250 program, the effort is intended to connect the history of the nation's founding generation with the descendants who helped establish communities and states as the country expanded west.

The program seeks to place grave markers on the burial sites of sons, grandsons, daughters and granddaughters of Revolutionary War patriots.

Prier learned that his great-grandfather was buried at Bullington Cemetery, and he had passed the cemetery many times as a child without realizing what it was.

"One of my best friends from school was like a half a mile down the road, and I'd ride past that cemetery on my bike," Prier said. "I never even knew it was a cemetery because it was overgrown and it wasn't identified as a cemetery plainly enough that I even knew that."

The cemetery has not been used for new burials in more than 100 years, and Prier said there are no grave markers for his great-grandparents. Rather than place the medallion where a specific grave could not be identified, he installed it just inside the cemetery gate.

Prier said the experience was especially meaningful because it connected him to the many relatives who remained in the area. Hestill has family in Barry County, including cousins in Eagle Rock and other relatives scattered throughout the region. His half brother, Winfred, who will turn 90 on Nov. 13 and operated the Ball and Prier store and tire company in Golden, was unable to attend the marker placement because of a board meeting with Carroll Electric Cooperative in Arkansas.

Prier said the family has also had other members serve in the military, including his brother's years in the National Guard and his brother-in-law's service in the Pacific during World War II.

He recalled that his own draft lottery number during the Vietnam War was 253. At the time, Barry County never called more than the first 50 numbers, so he was not drafted.

"I would have served if I had to, but I didn't need to because they weren't going to call my number anyway," he said.

Prier said he takes pride in relatives who served and remembers friends who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I'm very proud of the fact that the families that did have members serve," he said. "I've always been very blessed to know that they were good people and that they went willingly to serve and to, in this case, die."

The marker project has also encouraged Prier to learn more about the lives of his ancestors, including stories passed down about See's childhood.

According to family history shared by Prier, See was about 4 or 5 years old when his family's farm in western Virginia was attacked by Native Americans. His father was killed, and See and his mother were taken by the Indigenous group. He reportedly lived with the group until his teenage years, was later rescued by an uncle, then eventually returned to live with the Native Americans before entering the Revolutionary Army as an adult.

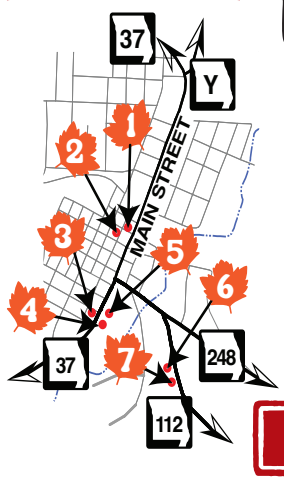
Prier also shared a family story that See learned methods of using boiled tree bark from the people with whom he lived. The story says he used that knowledge to create a substance that soldiers could apply to their feet to help keep them warm during the winter at Valley Forge, when many lacked adequate footwear.

Prier said he has not been able to verify that account, but it is part of the family history he has heard.

For those interested in their family histories and possible patriots in their lineage, Prier said genealogical research can be pursued through services such as Ancestry.com, although subscriptions may be required. His cousin Carol completed much of the research supporting his SAR application and has identified seven or eight other Revolutionary War patriots in different branches of their family.

Prier said he would be willing to contribute toward a permanent headstone for his great-grandfather if the cemetery could be cleaned up. For now, the medallion at the cemetery gate provides a visible connection to a family story that had remained largely unknown to him.

"It's just tracing back and finding the nuances of the way people live and the things that they did with their lives," Prier said. "I have been really kind of honored and impressed by some of the things that I found about the family and particularly about that patriot."

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Veterans Day Tribute



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A flash of color beneath the sky:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
Hats off!
The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State:
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation, great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong:
Pride and glory and honor, all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
And loyal hearts are beating high:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!

By Henry Holcomb Bennett (1863-1924)



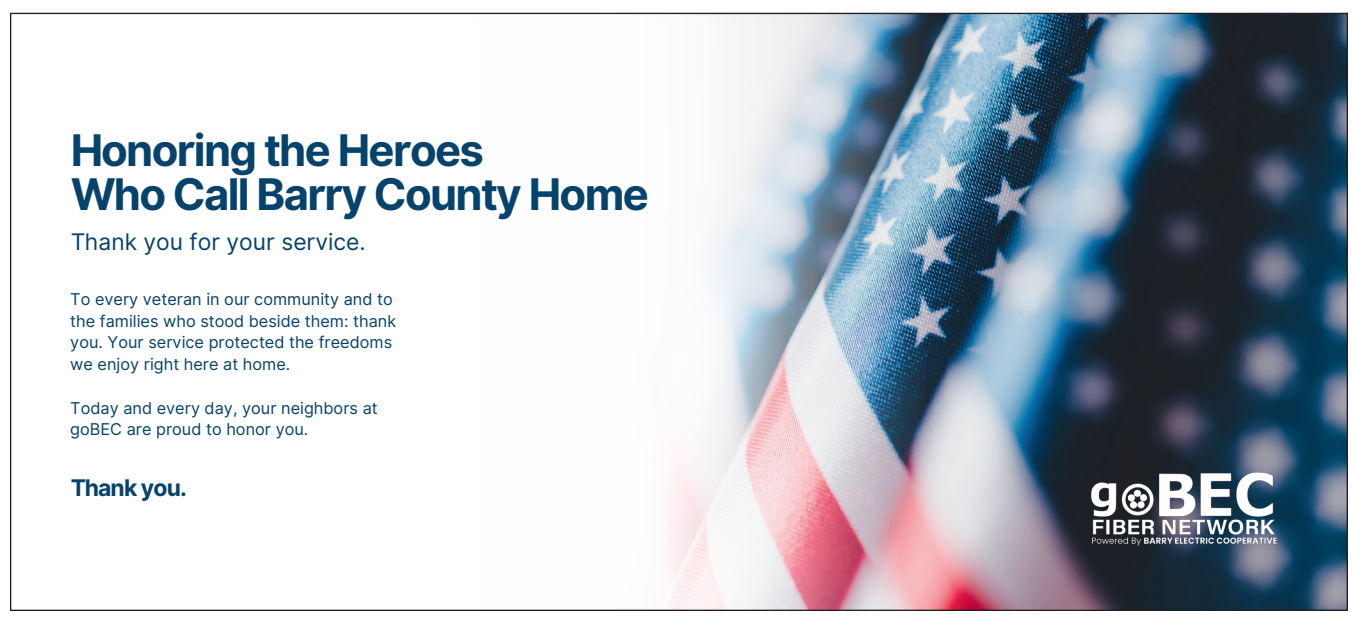












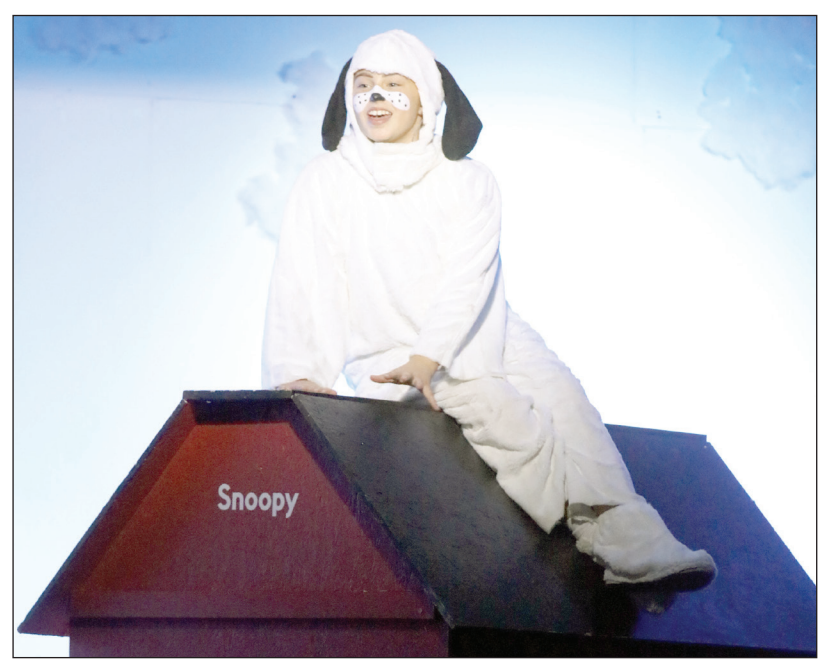
SKITS puts on Peanuts-themed production



The full cast of Shell Knob in the Spotlight's "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" performs the play at the Central Community United Methodist Church in Shell Knob on Sunday. They include, from left: Amanda Eckley as Sally, Andy Miller as Schroeder, Lynne Carrithers as Linus, Samantha. Baugus as Lucy, Steve Bishop as Charlie Brown and Emmy Bishop as Snoopy. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Amanda Eckley, left, a Sally, performs with Lynne Carrithers, center, as Linus, and Steve Bishop, as Charlie Brown, in the SKITS production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Emmy Bishop, as Snoopy, performs a song in the SKITS production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" on Sunday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Hilda Howell, left, celebrated her 100th birthday, Saturday, at the Monett History Museum. The event was hosted by her granddaughter, Leilani Kelly, middle, and daughter, Gwen Kelly. Contributed photo

Local 'Rosie' celebrates 100 years

Howell enjoys talking about memories from younger years

BY SHEILA HARRIS
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Hilda Howell — who lives in the historic Corsicana community west of Purdy with her daughter and son-in-law, Gwen and Dennis Kelly — turned 100 on Saturday.

The Kellys and Howell's granddaughter, Leilani Kelly, celebrated Howell's memorable milestone by hosting a surprise birthday party in her honor at the Monett Historical Museum's event center.

In April 2024, Howell traveled to Washington D.C., where she was one of a delegation of women of her generation who accepted the Congressional Gold Medal, on behalf of the group known collectively as "Rosie the Riveter." The Rosies, as they are called, stepped forward during WWII to do the necessary jobs traditionally performed by men, including aircraft manufacturing, ship-building and munitions production.

In addition to the collective medal, the 27 members of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA) who were able to make the trip to D.C. were presented with individual, newly minted Rosie the Riveter commemorative coins.

Howell was the only Rosie from Missouri in attendance for the special presentation ceremony in Washington D.C. in 2024.

Hilda Campbell, as she was known as a teenager during WWII, lived in rural area south of Los Angeles, California, when the United States entered World War II. Every day, after school, Campbell worked in a makeshift Firestone facility established at local junior college, where she sealed the rubber on the inside of aircraft fuel tanks.

After the war ended, Campbell married returning serviceman, Harreld Howell. The couple made their home in Oklahoma City, until Harreld's passing in 2012, after which she moved to Barry County to live with her daughter, Gwen Kelly.

Aside from using her two large walking sticks, purchased 20 years ago at a Love's truck stop, Hilda Howell gets around without assistance and loves talking about her memories from her younger years.

Her granddaughter, Leilani Kelly, is taking notes.

"I take Grandma out for coffee or ice cream, and I record 30-minute question-and-answer sessions with her for podcasting," Kelly said.

Although Hilda Howell says she wasn't altogether surprised by her birthday party, she was pleased by the opportunity to visit with friends and family for her special occasion.



CASSVILLE Democrat
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Sports

SECTION B
Publisher Kyle Troutman
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NOT DONE YET



Cassville's Carlos Barrientos (No. 13) tracks down a fumble in the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Wildcats trounce Mountaineers, will host Seneca for district title

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

For the second consecutive year, Cassville will face Seneca in the Class 3, District 6 championship — this time at Wildcat Stadium.

Cassville made a statement in its district semifinal Friday, turning turnovers into points and rolling past Mt. Vernon, 62-0. It was the third consecutive shutout for the Wildcats, who have not been scored on since the fourth quarter of the season's only loss to Lamar on Oct. 2.

Cassville scored touchdowns on offense and defense, building a 55-0 halftime lead before adding one more score in the third quarter.

Cassville Coach Clay Weldy said the difference from the teams' previous meeting, a 26-0 Wildcats win, came down to execution and ball security.

"The last time we played them, it was just a weird setting," Weldy said. "We played on a Saturday, and it was kind of a dead environment. We had 15 days off between games, and we had a game that we were supposed to play that Friday before that we lost. That was kind of heartbreaking to our kids, and we were in a funk."

Cassville committed five fumbles in the earlier meeting, including three turnovers, but played a much cleaner game Friday.

"Tonight we played sharper," Weldy said. "I think that was the biggest difference in the games. We took care of the ball and played sharp."

The Wildcats opened the scoring with a 5-yard touchdown run by Jaren Stearns to cap a 74-yard drive. Stearns rolled out and connected with Carlos Barrientos for an early first down, while Easton Hughes and Kellen Weldy helped move the chains before Masin Bryan broke loose for a first down at the 24. Stearns finished the drive with a run into the end zone, putting Cassville ahead 7-0 with 5:14 left in the first quarter.

After the defense forced a quick punt, Cassville needed only a few plays to score again. Kamden Beebe gained 7 yards, and Hughes broke through a large opening on the left side to reach the 2-yard line. Beebe scored on the next play for a 14-0 lead.

The Wildcats' defense then got into the scoring column. With Mt. Vernon's quarterback facing pressure, Spencer Drollinger intercepted a pass and returned it for a touchdown, extending the lead to 21-0 with 1:22 remaining in the first quarter.

Cassville added three more touchdowns in a second quarter that saw the Mountaineers struggle to hold onto the ball. After a fumble and recovery exchange gave Mt. Vernon possession in the red zone, the Wildcats forced another turnover, recovering a loose ball at the 11-yard line. Bryan broke through tackles and scored from there to make it 28-0.

On Mt. Vernon's next possession, Zach Myers stripped the ball and returned it for another defensive touchdown. The score pushed Cassville's advantage to 35-0 just 22 seconds after Bryan's touchdown.

The Wildcats continued to capitalize on short fields. On their next possession, Beebe picked up a first down at the Mountaineers' 38, and Kellen Weldy broke

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Easton Hughes finds room to run in the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville completes season of rejuvenation

Young Lady Wildcats grow throughout 15-win season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Things looked a little different for the Cassville softball team this season after making program history with a fourth-place finish in Class 3 in 2025.

The Lady Wildcats turned in a 15-18 record, falling 3-1 to Aurora in the Class 3, District 6 semifinals, but coach Jordan Savage said the team's development and steady improvement made the year a success and promising looking toward 2027.

"Overall it was a successful season as a program because I believe our kids were able to learn and improve on a daily basis," he said.

The Lady Wildcats showed that resilience in their season opener against Glendale, rallying for a walk-off 6-5 victory. Savage said the comeback helped establish an important message for the season — the opportunity to compete.

"I think it showed that if we continue to do the right things, no matter the situation, we can give ourselves a chance in every game," he said.

Savage said there is always room for improvement, but he believes the program has established a standard of working hard and finding ways to get better every day.

Cassville had just one senior on its roster, pitcher Tomi Blankenship, giving the Lady Wildcats a young group that will return with valuable experience next year.

"We had a very young group this year, so I believe we will bring a lot of experience back next year which will allow us to continue to build on what they did and allow us to hit the ground running," he said.

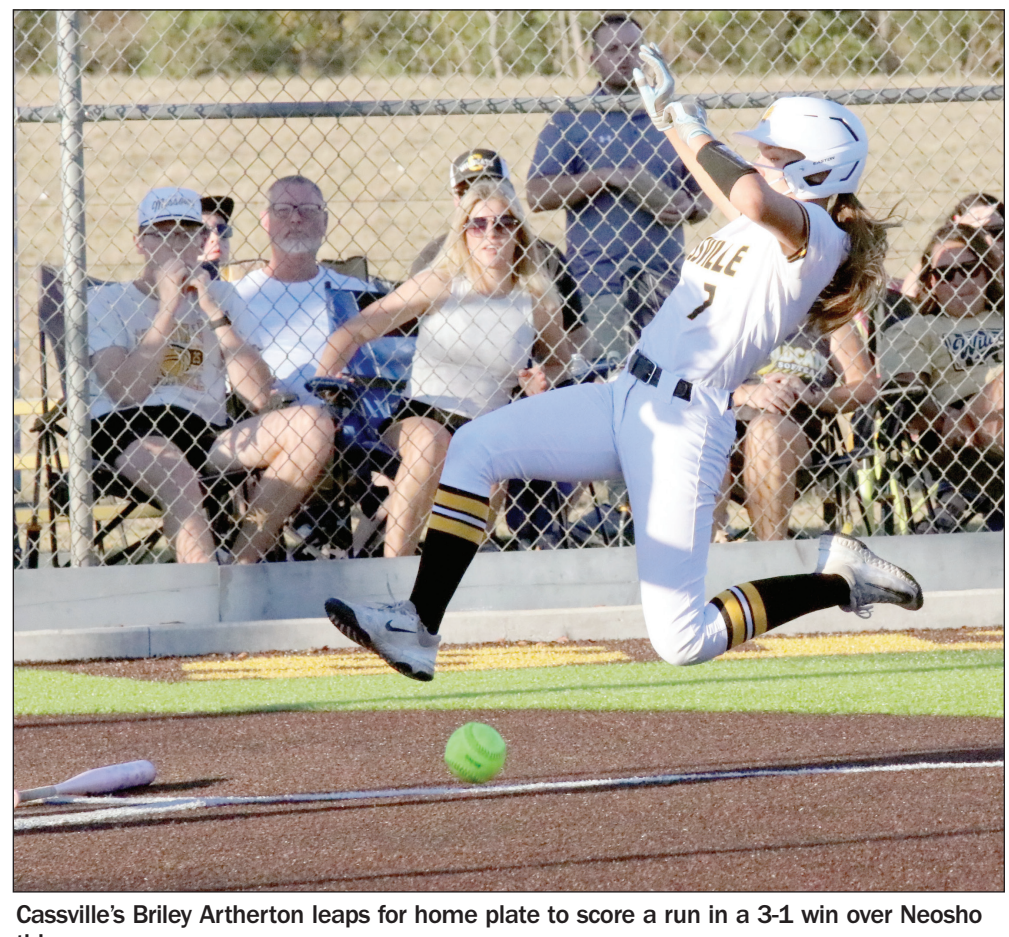
Blankenship earned a First Team All-Conference recognition as a pitcher and Second Team honors as an outfielder.

"I have enjoyed coaching her the last 3 seasons, and I am excited to see what she does in the future," he said.

Blankenship was among nine Cassville players recognized in the All-Conference selections.

Briley Artherton earned First Team honors in the infield, while Lynkin Carter was named First Team in the outfield. Madi Yockey earned Second Team recognition as a pitcher and Honorable Mention in the infield. Addy Ramaeker was named Second Team as a catcher, while Ava Gates earned Second Team

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B



Cassville's Briley Artherton leaps for home plate to score a run in a 3-1 win over Neosho this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



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Blake Fields
Attorney at Law
605 Main St., Cassville, MO
(417) 847-9999
email@blakefieldslaw.com

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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

PETS

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

FREE CATS/KITTENS: Some gentle, some feral. Text only to 417-489-2898.

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.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD: Seasoned firewood, $50 per rick, you haul. 479-800-3050.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

THOMAS CORN,
PLAINTFF,
VS.
L.B. CORN,
OPAL CORN,
SHIRLEY CORN &
TERRY CORN
their heirs, grantees, devises, successors, consorts, and assigns,
DEFENDANTS,
26BR-CC00151

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

Defendants, L. B. Corn, Opal Corn, Shirley Corn and Terry Corn 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:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 21 North, Range 28 West, Barry County, Missouri, being further described as follows:

Beginning at a point East 652.55 feet and South 905.49 feet from the Northeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 15; thence South 138.66 feet to the Northerly right of way line of Missouri Highway No. 37, thence along said right of way line North 86°34'00" West 9.00 feet; thence continuing along said right of way line on a curve to the right, said curve having a radius of 116.30 Feet and an are length of 117.52 feet, thence leaving said right of way line North 12°18'12" East 141.52 feet; thence South 83°11'54" East 96.43 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.36 acres, more or less, and subject to all rights of ways, easements and restrictive covenants of record or fact.

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 28th day of October, 2026 judgment by de fault 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.

1st Publication: October 28, 2026

2nd Publication: November 4, 2026

3rd Publication: November 11, 2026

4th Publication: November 18, 2026

A true copy from the record

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Circuit Court this 20th day of October, 2026.

CRAIG WILLIAMS,
Circuit Clerk
By Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———————

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

IN THE INTEREST OF
A.O.H.
and A.X.H,
Minors.
Case No. 26BR-PR00148

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: KAYLEE STEPHENSON

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile

Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is guardianship of the minor children:

A.O.H. and A.X.H.

The names of all parties in this action are

LAWRENCE HOUSE,
SHEILA HOUSE and
BRITTEN HOUSE,

and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is

J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,

P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise

appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28th 2026, judgment by default will be entered 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 the seal of the Circuit Court on this 21st day of October, 2026.

First publication: October 28, 2026

Second Publication: November 4, 2026

Third Publication: November 11, 2026

Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———————

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF
O.R D. (DOB: 11/04/2013)

DEE ANN DUBSON, and
JASON ALEX DUBSON, SR,
Petitioners,
VS.
DEBRA KEISLING, and
JASON ALEX DUBSON, JR.
Respondents.
Case No._ 26BR-JU00084

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
DEBRA KEISLING and JASON ALEX DUBSON, JR.

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile

Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is termination of parental rights and adoption of the minor child, O. R. D

The names of all parties in this action are JASON ALEX DUBSON, SR. and DEE ANN DUBSON, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is

J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,

P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered 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 the seal of the Circuit Court his 20th day of October, 2026.

Craig Williams
By Kami Stanton
CLERK

First publication: October 28, 2026

Second Publication: November 4, 2026

Third Publication: November 11, 2026

Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———————

NOTICE TO BIDDERS BARRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Barry County Health Department is accepting written bids for janitorial cleaning services beginning January 1, 2027, at the following locations:

· Cassville Office: 90 Barry County Drive, Cassville, MO 65625 – Weekly cleaning services.

· Monett Office: 801 N. Lincoln, Monett, MO 65708 – Biweekly cleaning services.

Interested contractors may request the complete scope of work and cleaning specifications by emailing info@barrycountyhealth.com.

Bidders must provide two pricing options:

1. Cleaning services with all supplies provided by the contractor.

2. Cleaning services with all supplies provided by the Barry County Health Department.

Bids must include separate pricing for each location. Proof of general liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance coverage is required.

All bids must be received no later than November 30, 2026, and may be submitted by mail or email to:

Barry County Health Department Attn: Janitorial Services Bid P.O. Box 207 Cassville, MO 65625 Email: info@barrycountyhealth.com

The Barry County Health Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to the department, subject to applicable procurement requirements and Board of Trustees approval.

1st insertion 11/04/26
43-44

———————

NOTICE OF ELECTION: FILING DEADLINE PURDY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT PURDY, MISSOURI

The Purdy R-II School District will accept Declarations of Candidacy from persons interested in running for a position on the School Board in the April 6, 2027 election. Two vacancies, each for a 3 year term, will be filled at the election. The positions that are currently up for election are held by Reuben Henderson and Josh Conner. Qualified candidates may file in the Superintendent's Office located at 201 S. Gabby Gibbons Drive in Purdy, Missouri. The names of the candidates shall be placed on the ballot in order of Filing. Filing will begin on December 15, 2026 at 7:30 A.M., and will continue thru 4:00 P.M., on January 5, 2027 during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday thru Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. If school is canceled due to inclement weather the office will be closed. The office will be closed for the holidays from December 21, 2026 thru January 1, 2027.

Dr. Travis Graham
Superintendent
1st insertion, 11/04/26
43-46

———————

NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Greasy Creek Road District will have 1 (one) Commissioner available for election

in the April 6, 2027 General Municipal Election.

Road Commissioner for a term of 3 (Three years.)

The opening date for candidate filing is December 15, 2026

and the closing filing date is January 5, 2027

Candidates may file for this office at the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk,

Cassville, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

The office may be closed should inclement weather occur.

Barry County Clerk's office will be closed December 24-25, 2026

Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order in which they file.

Only insertion 11/11/26
44

———————

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
J.J.W., by
Next friend REBECCA JEAN WEBB
CaseNo:26BR-DR00142

JUDGMENT

Now on this 30 day of November, 2026, the Court takes up the Petition for Change of Name of Minor filed by REBECCA JEAN WEBB, as Next Friend of J.J.W., a minor child. Petitioner appears by and through her attorney of record, BLAKE B. FIELDS of the Law Office of Blake B. Fields, LIC

The Court, having reviewed the Petition and being fully advised in the promises, finds that the requested change of name is proper sed will not be detrimental to the interests of any other person

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the name of the minor child, J.J.W.,

is hereby changed to

J.J.S.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the change of name shall be published as

required by law, unless publication is otherwise excused by applicable law or court order

SO ORDERED. This 30th day of October, 2026

1st insertion 11/11/26
44-46

———————

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
J.R.W., by
Next friend REBECCA JEAN WEBB
CaseNo:26BR-DR00143

JUDGMENT

Now on this 30 day of November, 2026, the Court takes up the Petition for Change of Name of Minor filed by REBECCA JEAN WEBB, as Next Friend of J.R.W., a minor child. Petitioner appears by and through her attorney of record, BLAKE B. FIELDS of the Law Office of Blake B. Fields, LIC

The Court, having reviewed the Petition and being fully advised in the promises, finds that the requested change of name is proper sed will not be detrimental to the interests of any other person

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the name of the minor child, J.R.W.,

is hereby changed to

J.R.S.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the change of name shall be published as

required by law, unless publication is otherwise excused by applicable law or court order

SO ORDERED. This 30th day of October, 2026

1st insertion 11/11/26
44-46

———————

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND FILING DEADLINE MCDONALD ROAD DISTRICT

The McDonald Road District will have one (1) Commissioner position available for election in the April 6, 2027 General Municipal Election.

One (1) Road Commissioner for a three (3) year term will be available.

The opening date for candidate filing is December 15, 2026 and the closing filing date is January 5, 2027.

Candidates may file for this position at the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, Cassville, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm (closed December 24-25, 2026). The office may be closed should inclement weather occur.

Candidates will be listed on the ballet in the order in which they file.

Only insertion 11/11/26
44

———————

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

A Division of the Department of Public Safety
Water Patrol Division - PO Box 568 - Jefferson City, MO 65102

NOTICE OF HEARING

For further information please contact:
Water Patrol Division
(573) 751-5071
November 4, 2026

EMPHASIS: Water Patrol Division Schedules Buoy Hearing

The Missouri State Highway Patrol, Water Patrol Division announces the following

information pursuant to Section 306.124 RSMo.

The Water Patrol Division is conducting a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday,

November 16, 2026, at Osage Beach City Hall, 1000 City Parkway, Osage Beach,

Missouri, for the purpose of hearing testimony relating to uniform marking of water

areas on Table Rock Lake in Barry County. All person having submitted requests

will be notified of time and place.

The public is invited to attend the hearing. If assistance is required due to a hearing

or physical disability, please notify the Water Patrol Division, at 573-751-5071, so

accommodations may be made. Additional details on the exact location of

applications may be obtained from the Water Patrol Division's website.

Buoy applications for individual docks and/or commercial docks will be heard for the

following property owners:
Damon Webb, Tim Sinclair
Only insertion 11/11/26
44

———————

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
REBECCA JEAN WEBB
CaseNo:26BR-DR00141

JUDGMENT

Now on this 30 day of November, 2026, comes Petitioner, REBECCA JEAN WEBB by and through her attorney, BLAKE B. FIELDS, and submits to the Court her Petition filed herein, which is duly verified by Affidavit, praying for a change, according to law, of said Petitioner's name from REBECCA JEAN WEBB to S REBECCA JEAN SCHALLERT and due consideration being had in the premises, and the Court being satisfied that the desired change would be proper and not detrimental to the interests of any other person; that no money judgments are pending or unsatisfied,

IT IS ORDERED that the prayer of said Petition be granted, and that said Petitioner's name be and hereby is changed from REBECCA JEAN WEBB to REBECCA JEAN SCHALLERT and that a copy of this Order be spread upon the records of this Court which is now accordingly done.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that public notice of such change of name be given by

publication, according to law.

SO ORDERED, this 30 day of October, 2026

1st insertion 11/11/26
44-46

PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
K.K.S.,
Minor,
Estate No. 26BR-PR00145

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
KELEIGH ELIZABETH RAY

You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is termination of parental rights and adoption of the minor child, K. K. S.

The names of all parties in this action are ROSEMARY WALL and CHARLES WALL, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is

J. Michael Riehn,
Attorney at Law,
P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after OCTOBER 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered 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 the seal of the Circuit Court his 16th day of OCTOBER 2026.

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

First publication: OCTOBER 28, 2026

Second Publication: NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Third Publication: NOVEMBER 11, 2026

Fourth Publication: NOVEMBER 18, 2026

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———————

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

In the Estate of VIRGINIA A MEEK,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00104

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
VIRGINIA A MEEK,
Decedent:

On August 10, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed personal representative of the estate of VIRGINIA A MEEK, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The name and business address of the personal representative is:

PHYNES ANTHONY MEEK,
651 S. BRIDGEWOOD CIRCLE, NIXA, MO 65714

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

MARC EDMONDSON,
PO Box 491, CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-846-0022.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

GARAGE SALE
335 Glenwood Circle (Southern Hills)
Saturday, November 14th at 8am
Home goods, tools, dishes, queen sleigh bed, Funko Pops, built-in top quality kitchen appliances, gas cooktop, clothes (womens/mens/kids/baby)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

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: January 2, 2026
Date of first publication: October 28, 2026
Date of second publication: November 4, 2026
Date of third publication: November 11, 2026
Date of fourth publication: November 18, 2026

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

Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

— — — — —

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
P.L.H.B.,
A Minor,
Estate No. 26BR-PR00144

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
KELEIGH ELIZABETH RAY
AND
WAYLON LEE BRYSON, JR.
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is termination of parental rights and adoption of the minor child, P. L. H. B.
The names of all parties in this action are ROSEMARY WALL and CHARLES WALL, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,
P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise
appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered 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 the seal of the Circuit Court his 16th day of October, 2026.
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
By S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
First publication: October 28, 2026
Second Publication: November 4, 2026
Third Publication: November 11, 2026
Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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

In the Estate of
JAMES D. SIZEMORE,
Estate Number: 19BR-PR00131
Deceased

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
JAMES D. SIZEMORE,
deceased:
You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final
Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in
interest to the personal/real estate of the decedent and of the extent and character of their
interest therein and for distribution of such property, on or about December 3, 2026 or as
may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final
Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days
after the filing of such Final Settlement.
SAM MADSEN
Personal Representative
DONALD L. CUPPS, Attorney
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417)847-2734
Dates of Publication –10/28/2026, 11/04/2026, 11/11/2026, 11/18/2026
THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE IS NOT A COURT APPEARANCE DATE.
It is an estimated date as to when the Final Settlement will be filed with the court.
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

— — — — —

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

In the Estate of ROSA JOAN CHAPMAN,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00151

Notice of Letters Testamentary, Granted (Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
ROSA JOAN CHAPMAN,
Decedent:
On October 28, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individuals were appointed personal representatives of the estate of ROSA JOAN CHAPMAN, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.
The names and business addresses of the personal representatives are:
EDWARD JOSEPH CHAPMAN,
1092 PRIVATE ROAD 2019,
PIERCE CITY, MO 65723
CAROL LYNN MORIN,
1105 PRIVATE ROAD 2019,
PIERCE CITY, MO 65723
The personal representatives' attorney's name, business address and phone number are:
CORDELIA F. HERRIN,
702 WEST STREET, P.O. 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:
February 6, 2026
Date of first publication: November 4, 2026
Date of second publication: November 11, 2026
Date of third publication: November 18, 2026
Date of fourth publication: November 25, 2026

Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
Receipt of this notice by mail should not be construed by the recipient to indicate that the recipient necessarily has a beneficial interest in the estate. The nature and extent of any person's interest, if any, can be determined from the files and records of this estate in the Probate Division of the above referenced Circuit Court.
1st insertion 11/04/26
43-46

— — — — —

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

In the Estate of KEITH SANVERN BRISCO,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00137

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of KEITH SANVERN BRISCO,
Decedent:
On OCTOBER 30, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the
estate of KEITH SANVERN BRISCO, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.
The personal representative's name and business address is:
JENISE E. CASKEY, 245 LAFAYETTE CR 205 , BRADLEY, AR 71826
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address, and phone number is:
DONALD LYNN CUPPS, ELLIS CUPPS AND HERRIN 702 WEST STREET PO BOX 276,
CASSVILLE, MO 65625, (417) 847-2734
The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone
number is:
DONALD LYNN CUPPS, ELLIS CUPPS AND HERRIN 702 WEST STREET 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: JULY 12, 2026
Date of first publication: NOVEMBER 11, 2026
Date of second publication: NOVEMBER 18, 2026
Date of third publication: NOVEMBER 25, 2026
Date of fourth publication: DECEMBER 2, 2026
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
Clerk Signature
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 11/11/26
44-47

— — — — —

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

In the Estate of DIANE FRANCES MCCARTHY,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00107

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of DIANE FRANCES MCCARTHY,
Decedent:
On AUGUST 24, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following
individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of DIANE FRANCES MCCARTHY,
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:
KIMBERLY SOTO, 35801 LINDEN LANE , WILMINGTON, IL 60481
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
JENNA REED FOGLEMAN, 224 S 2ND ST, ROGERS, AR 72756, 479-621-0006
The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name, business address, and phone
number is:
ATHENA THACKER, 310 E 5TH STREET PO BOX 412 , PINEVILLE, MO 64856, 479-621-0006
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: FEBRUARY 26, 2026
Date of first publication: NOVEMBER 11, 2026
Date of second publication: NOVEMBER 18, 2026
Date of third publication: NOVEMBER 25, 2026
Date of fourth publication: DECEMBER 2, 2026
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
Clerk Signature
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 11/11/26
44-47

— — — — —

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

In the Estate of
MARY LEE SHORTELL,
Estate Number: 26BR-PR00051
Deceased

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARY LEE SHORTELL, deceased:
You are hereby notified that the undersigned Personal Representative will file a Final Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in interest to the personal/real estate of the decedent and of the extent and character of their interest therein and for distribution of such property, on or about December 17, 2026 or as may be continued by the Court, and that any objections or exceptions to such Final Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days after the filing of such Final Settlement.
/s/ Donald L. Cupps /s/ Barbara White
DONALD L. CUPPS, Attorney BARBARA WHITE
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz Personal Representative
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417)847-2734
Dates of Publication – 11/11/2026, 11/18/2026, 11/25/2026, 12/2/2026
1st insertion 11/11/26
44-47

TRUSTEE'S SALES

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
1st insertion 10/21/26
41-44

— — — — —

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the note described in a certain Deed of Trust made on January 20, 2025 by Grantor,
TERRY A SUMPTER,
an unmarried individual, also known as TERRY SUMPTER, as recorded on January 22, 2025 at 12:35:43 p.m. in Book 25, Page 321, Instrument No. 202500332 in the records of the Barry County, Missouri Recorder and describing the following real property:
Lot 6, Spring Creek, a subdivision in Barry County, Missouri. Subject to all easements, restrictions and reservations, if any, now of record.
Lay Address: 21102 Farm Road 1252, Shell Knob, Missouri 65747
at the request of the legal holder of the note who has elected to declare the entire indebtedness due and payable, and in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Trust, the undersigned Trustee will on the 1st day of December, 2026, to-wit: at 10:00 a.m., sell the property at public venue to the highest bidder for cash at Barry County, Missouri Courthouse, 700 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625, to satisfy the note and costs.
ANGELA HARNESS, Trustee
Publication: Cassville Democrat
First publication date: November 4, 2026
Last publication date: November 25, 2026
1st insertion 11/4/26
43-46

— — — — —

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by
Charles J. Hamann,
dated May 30, 2025, and recorded on June 2, 2025, Document No. 202502825, in Book No. 25, at Page 2757 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Barry County, Missouri, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on December 7, 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:
Lot numbered Nineteen (19) in Crystal View Addition to the City of Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof, commonly known as 101 N Spring St, Cassville, MO, 65625
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: November 11, 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. 258072-1087558).
1st insertion 11/11/26
44-47

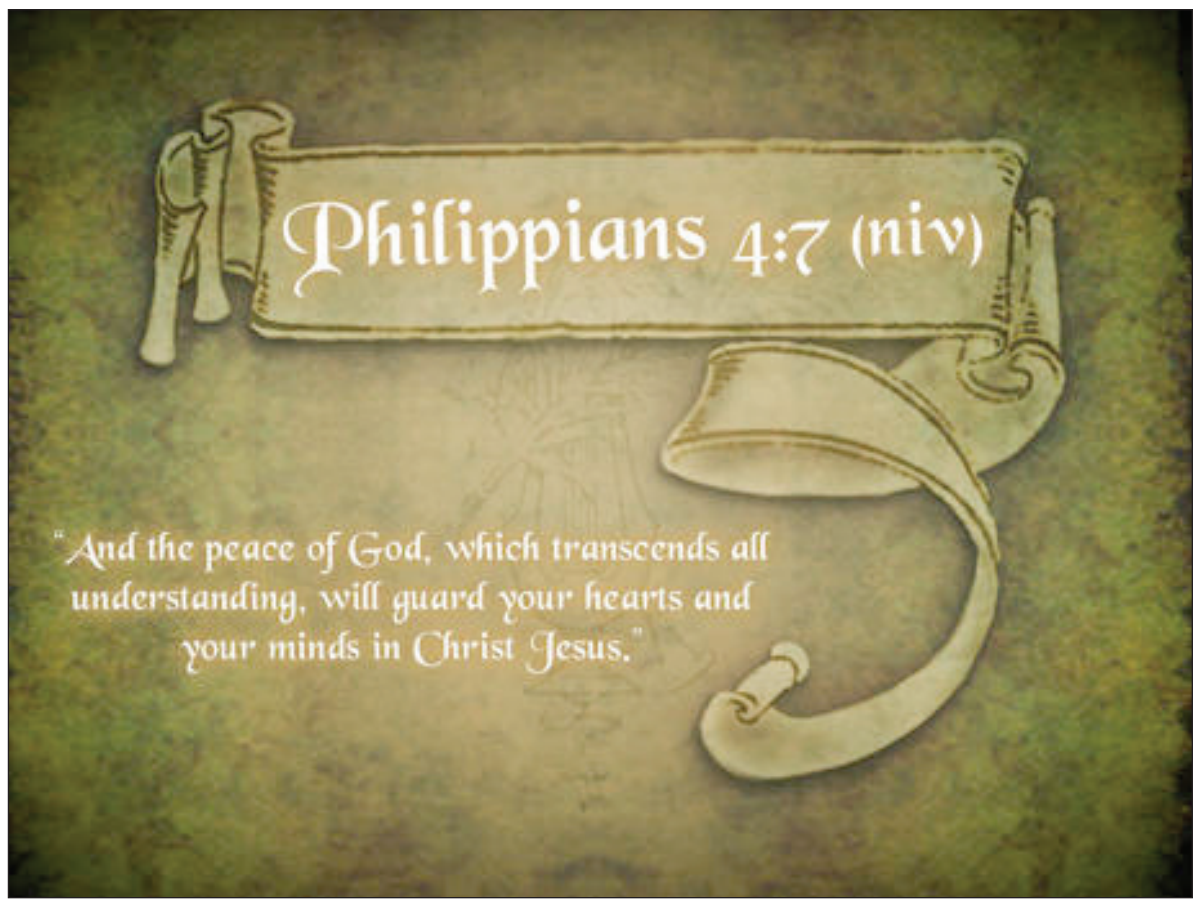
Hnem sisters earn volleyball recognitions



Southwest High School volleyball players Olivia and Abi Hnem both earned postseason awards. Olivia was named to the First Team for the Ozark 7 Conference, and Abi was Honorable Mention. Additionally, Olivia was named Honorable Mention for Class 2, District 10. Olivia led the team in digs (465), receptions (520), and serve percentage (97.2% on 357 out of 367). She also had 56 aces. A senior captain, Olivia finished her career with more than 1,400 digs and 1,500 receptions as a three-year libero. Abi, a junior setter and captain, led the team in aces (87) and assists (256). She also served at a 96.4% clip, added 399 receptions and 244 digs. Contributed photo

CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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



BIBLE VERSE:

"'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'"

— ISAIAH 1:18

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Cassville's Masin Bryan dives into the end zone for a score in the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Football: Wildcats look for second win over Indians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

loose for a 37-yard touchdown run to make it 42-0 with seven minutes left in the half.

Another Mt. Vernon fumble, recovered by Barrientos at the 24-yard line, set up Cassville's next score. After Hughes and Bryan helped move the ball, Hughes took a delayed handoff and worked his way into the end zone from 6 yards out for a 49-0 lead.

The defense delivered its third touchdown of the half when Hughes intercepted a pass and returned it for a score. A bobbled snap prevented Cassville from converting the two-point attempt, leaving the Wildcats ahead 55-0 with 1:46 remaining before halftime.

Wylan Farris added another interception in the end zone to end Mt. Vernon's final possession of the half.

Weldy said the defensive performance has been building over the past several games, with players consistently creating pressure and making plays on the ball.

"We've been playing really well the last several games," he said. "We've had a couple shutouts here, and our guys are flying around, making plays for us, getting picks and getting pressure on the quarterback."

Cassville added its final touchdown in the third quarter after recovering a Mt. Vernon pooch kick. With the Wildcats' reserves on the field and a running clock in effect, Mquade Farris led the drive, breaking through for a first down at the 4-yard line before scoring from 1 yard out. The touchdown made it 62-0 with 4:41 remaining in the quarter.

The Mountaineers moved into Cassville territory late in the game but could not convert the drive into points. The Wildcats stopped a fourth-down hook-and-ladder attempt, then ran out the clock with their reserves.

Barrientos said the team entered the week focused on improving after its bye and was pleased with the offensive response.

"We talked all week about getting better throughout the week and working on ourselves," he said. "It feels good to get the win and put up a lot of points. Our offense really did a lot better than we have been doing, and that was one of our big emphases this week."

Barrientos also credited the defense's consistency and the work of the coaching staff in putting players in position to make plays.

"Our defense has been good all year," he said. "We've just really been improving every single week of practice. Everybody has a job, and everybody does their job. That's what happens when we all do our job."

The Wildcats now turn their attention to Seneca, which they will host Friday in the district championship. Cassville defeated the Indians, 28-25, in Week 3 of this season, and Barrientos said the team is eager for another opportunity.



Cassville's Kamden Beebe tries to avoid a tackle in the Wildcats' win over Mt. Vernon on Friday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

"We're ready," he said. "We've been waiting since that week we played them here this year, and we had the close win. We know we should have beat them by a lot more than we did. We created our own problems, and we had to come back from that. We snuck out with the win. This time, we're hoping to put some more up there and make it not as close."

Weldy said the focus will remain on playing to Cassville's strengths rather than making major changes for the rematch.

"We need to be the best version of ourselves," he said. "If we take care of the football and play a better version of what we do compared to what they do, that's what we want to do. We're going to put it out there, relax and have fun. We've been there before now, so hopefully we play a little better this time."

Cassville will also have the advantage of hosting the championship, something Weldy said the team earned through its regular-season performance.

"Earning the home games is a big deal," he said. "We did that in the regular season, and it helped. We got a win against them here, so that gave us the home game here. When we play in front of our home crowd, it's always an advantage for us."

Barrientos said the Wildcats' priorities for the week are straightforward: protect the ball, avoid penalties and maintain the defensive intensity that has carried them through the postseason.

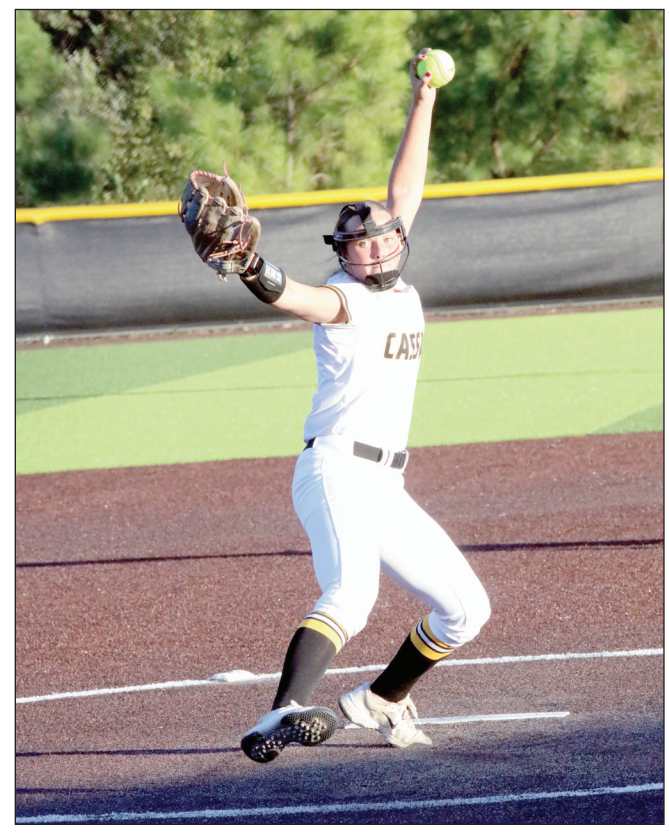
"We're just not done yet," he said. "Not done yet."

On Friday, Stearns went 2-for-3 through the air for 26 yards, adding 2 carries for 3 yards and a score on the ground. Six other Wildcats had carries. Farris led rushers with 79 yards on 11 carries and a score, and Hughes as close behind with 75 yards on 8 touches and a score. Kellen Weldy had 43 yards on 3 carries, Bryan tallied 39 yards on 4 carries, and Beebe put up 24 yards on 4 carries, with all three backs finding paydirt. Kyler Artherton rounded out rushers with 17 yards on 5 carries.

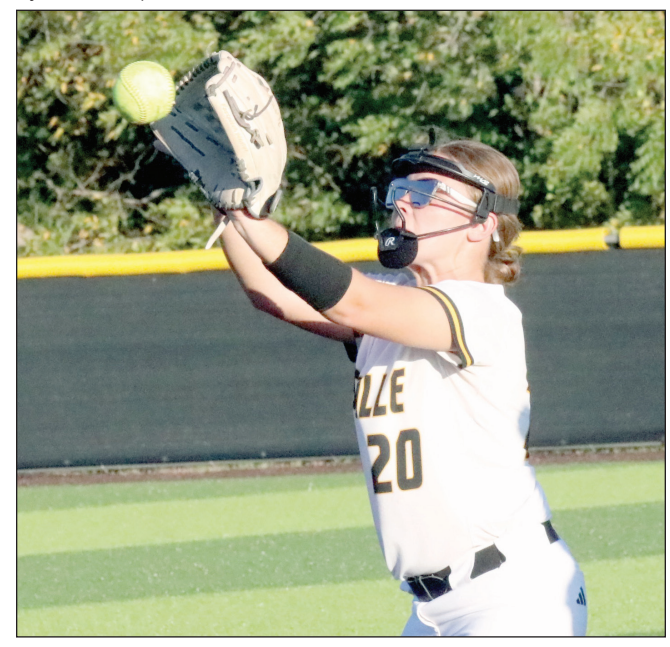
Barrientos caught both passes from Stearns to give the Wildcats the 306 total yards on offense.

Defensively, Braydyn Sizemore led with 5 tackles, 1 assist, 0.5 tackles for loss, 1 sack and 2 fumbles caused. Hughes had 3 tackles, 0.5 sacks, a fumble recovery and a pick-6. Myers and Bodie Hodge caused fumbles, with Myers returning one for a score. Bryan also logged a sack in the game.

Cassville will host Seneca on Friday for the Class 3, District 6 title. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.



Cassville's lone senior, Tomi Blankenship, delivers a pitch for the Lady Wildcats in a win over Neosho this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Bri Still catches a line drive for an out in a win over Neosho this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Softball: Learn and grow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

utility honors. Kynzleigh Scott received Honorable Mention in the infield.

Looking ahead, Savage said the program's focus will remain on effort, learning and growing together rather than changing its approach.

"Our goal will always stay the same, which is to bring an incredible work ethic day in and day out while trying our best to learn and grow together as a team," he said.

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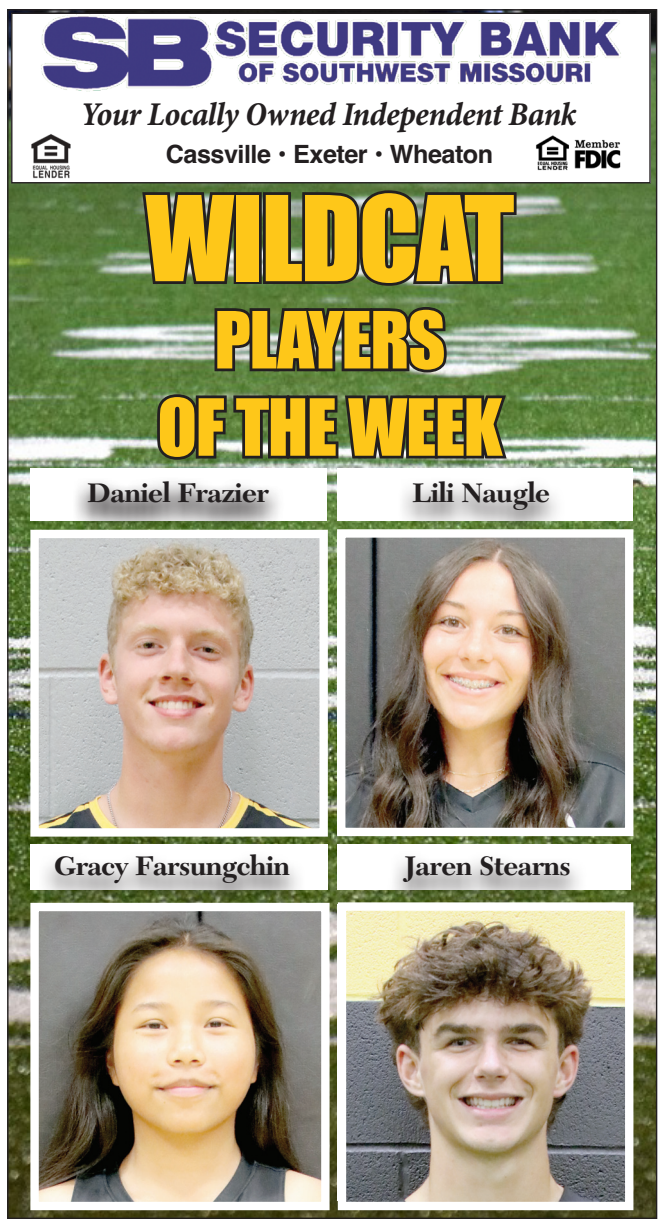
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Weekly Menu

WEEK OF NOV. 9 - NOV. 13, 2026

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Chili	Chicken Strips	Baked Pasta w/ Meat Sauce	Thanksgiving Lunch! Turkey or Ham	Beef Stroganoff
Roasted Potatoes	Roasted Sweet Potatoes	Italian Veggies	Mashed Potatoes or Sweet Potatoes	Whole Grain Pasta
Spinach	Country Veggies	California Veggies	Stuffing & Roll	Roasted Veggie Medley
Whole Grain Roll	Whole Grain Roll	Garlic Strick	Green Beans or Casserole	Fruit
Assorted Cookies	Pineapple Upside Down Cake	Chocolate Cream Pie	Carrots Dessert Buffet	Assorted Desserts

Salad Bar

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

BOWL $2.00

PLATE $4.00

AD SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES

• White Funeral Home • Freedom Bank • Cassville Democat

SERVING HOURS: 11:00 AM — 12:30 PM

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

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