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PURDY COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER USE TAX PROPOSAL — PAGE 3A



<<< WILDCATS ROLL ON TO SEMIFINALS

Cassville tops Mountain Grove, heads to St. Pius X on Saturday — 1B

CASSVILLE Democrat

NOVEMBER 25, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

How do you make a turkey?

We asked a dozen Cassville kindergarten students how a turkey should be made. Here are their recipes:


ELMORE

I usually put nothing on my turkey. I would cut it and put it in the oven. We usually cook it for 5 minutes at my house.
— Ariya Elmore


HENBEST

First I would put the turkey in a big bowl then I would add eggs, chicken, bacon and salt. Next I would put it in the oven. I would turn the oven on to 50 and when it is done we will take it out. I might need a little help from my mom making the Thanksgiving turkey.
— Bonnie Henbest


RAMAEKER

I would put it in the microwave for 19 seconds. I would use chocolate to give the turkey a mouth and 2 eyes. Then we would eat it!
— Dax Ramaeker

I would cook it like normal people cook it by making a fire and putting the turkey on a stick. Then I would put the turkey above the fire and twist it.
— Elias Roland


ROLAND

Before I put it in the oven, I would put bbq sauce, salt, tomatoes and onions on it. I would cook it in the oven for 15 minutes and then I would eat it. I would cut it up and put it on a sandwich.
— Elizabeth Walker


WALKER

I would cook it in the oven. I would put sausage on it then eat it. It would be delicious!
— Gerlens Lebrun Duval


DUVAL


THOMPSON

I would get the turkey and cook it as long as it needs to cook. Then I would put salt on it and take it out of the oven when it is done cooking. I would let it cool off then eat it!
— Kinzlie Thompson


GIBSON

I would cook it in the oven then take a turkey baster and suck up the juice on the bottom and put it on top of the turkey. After it cooks, I would let it cool, cut it up, then feast on it.
— Kyler Gibson


DUROSSETTE

I would rather eat chicken. I would go to Walmart and buy chicken and then I would put the chicken in hot water with salt and cook it. When it is done cooking, I would eat it with a knife and fork.
— Landon Durossette

I would cook it normally. I would put the stuffing in it then put the shot stuff in it and then bake it in the oven for 21 seconds. I would play in the living room while it was cooking. After I am done playing, I would set the table and then I would probably be tired and need a drink of water.
— Roan Lowe


LOWE

I think my grandpa is going to bring the turkey this year. If I had to make it, I would have to ask my mom how to do it. I think I could learn how if I asked my mom or searched it on YouTube.
— Rosily Par


PAR

I would put pepper on it and then I would roast it for 2 minutes. I would also put it on a big plate with vegetables around it.
— Rowyn Beagle


BEAGLE

Missouri Bar probes local lawyer scene

Listening session at Judicial Center aims to gather info across state

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A representative from the Missouri Bar held a listening session at the Barry County Judicial Center on Nov. 17, aiming to gather information to be used by a committee to improve access to legal needs in rural areas.

Andy Briscoe, Government Relation Director with the Missouri Bar, led the session, which was open to the public and attended by six people, including Associate Judge Johnnie Cox, four employees of Ellis, Cupps and Herrin law office and one member of the public.

Briscoe said many rural areas of the state are suffering from a shortage of attorneys, and in response, the Missouri Bar is collecting surveys from rural judges, lawyers and residents, as well as hosting meetings across the state. All that information will be submitted to the rural practice committee, with the goal to propose actions that will help increase access to legal services in rural areas.

"We are casting a wide net and gathering as much information as possible," Briscoe said.

The session began with basic landscape questions, like how many lawyers are in the county and if that's enough.

Cox estimated about 15 attorneys work in Barry County, and more than half grew up in the area. Attorney Cordelia Herrin said 15 is not enough, and when she started practicing, there were at least six more. She said the county could use at least five more, with the majority of work revolving around family law and general litigation.

Cox said many lawsuits are filed by attorneys from outside the county. He said Springfield- and Joplin-based attorneys are in Barry County often, as well as one from Pineville. However, local attorneys are still in court more frequently.

"Barry County predominately sees local attorneys or attorneys within the 39th Circuit," he said.

In response to another Briscoe query, the attendees also agreed they believe people seeking legal guidance are relying more heavily on Google and AI.

WebEx was another topic of conversation. Attorneys in the room said they are not fans, and some judges will allow it while others do not. The group recognized it could be useful in special cases, but in-person appearances are preferred.

"If you hire an attorney, they should come to court — that's what we get paid for," said Harry Schwartz, attorney at Ellis, Cupps, and Herrin.

"Court is not sitting in your pajamas and watching Netflix while you look at the courtroom on your iPad," Cox said.

Regarding how attorneys work in the are work together, Schwartz, who moved to the area a few years ago from

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NEWS BRIEFS

Haven hosting Open House for new Buddy Center

The Haven of the Ozarks Animal Shelter, located at 9617 Farm Road 2190 between Exeter and Washburn, will host an Open House for the new Chuck Singleton Buddy Center on Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a Ribbon Cutting and lunch served at noon. Dog adoptions will be $10 on at the event.

Eagle Rock Community Association hosting events

Join the Eagle Rock Community Association on Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. for the annual Tree Lighting in the ERCA Pavilion, located at 27824 Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. There will be hot cocoa, snacks and a take-home ornament for all who attend. Dec. 12 is the Eagle Rock Lego Club meeting. All are welcome to attend. Activities are at the Eagle Rock Community Center start at 10 a.m. There will be circle time, snacks and a holiday build with Ms. Kara. On Dec. 19, the Friends of the Library will be hosting "Brunch with the Grinch" at the Eagle Rock Community Center. There will be pancakes from 10-11 a.m. Activities start at 10:30, as well as a visit by the Green Fellow. For more information on any of the events, people may contact the Library at 417-271-3186.

Wheaton Road District to meet

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

Free Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 5

A Free Pancake Breakfast will be offered at First Christian Church in Cassville on Dec. 5 from 9-11 a.m. Free coats will also be available. The church is located at 905 Old Exeter Road in Cassville.

Extension Council nominations sought

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

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Thursday and Friday, closed for Thanksgiving.; Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m. to noon,; Monday, Majong, 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Storytime, 10 a.m., Adult Craft: Holiday Star, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee required).

Barry County Community Garden meetings to resume in February

The Barry County Community Garden monthly meetings will resume in February. People may watch for updates on the Garden's Facebook page. Anyone wanting more information may contact Melissa Hamilton at 417-592-0432.

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.

Cassville students, in the PAC, with the theatrics



Faced with blackmail at a dinner party, invitees surround Wadsorth, center, played by Kasen Sanders, during the Cassville High School Production of "Clue" on Thursday at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Dinner party members in the Cassville High School Production of "Clue" strain to hear what Wadsworth might be saying in the other room during Thursday's production. Performers include, from left: Mrs. Scarlett, played by Ella Wheeler; Mr. Green, played by Zeb Blankenship; Mrs. White, played by Emma Bowling; Mrs. Peacock, played by Zenna Stirewalt; and Plum, played by Arya Munday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Mrs. Peacock, right, pled by Zenna Stirewalt, talks with Mrs. White, played by Emma Bowling, during the dinner party scene of the Cassville High School Production of "Clue" on Thursday at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Colonel Mustard, played by Jonah Quinlan, speaks about his time in Washington, D.C., during the Cassville High School Production of "Clue" on Thursday at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Wadsorth, left, played by Kasen Sanders, and Mr. Green, played by Zeb Blankenship, perform a scene in the Cassville High School Production of "Clue" on Thursday at the Performing Arts Center. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



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Purdy City Council to reconsider use tax proposal

Christmas parade set for Dec. 12

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat

Purdy City Council members looked ahead to future needs at their November meeting.

Council members pondered what to do after voters again rejected the proposal to authorize a use tax for the city. Purdy is the only Barry County city without a use tax. The measure failed 81-96. Council member William Hughes suggested the higher turnout resulted in the measure's failure. Attorney Toni Hendricks agreed to review ballot language in cities that passed use taxes to see if the proposal could be presented differently.

Hughes observed opposition seemed to stem from people not realizing they were already paying a use tax to the county, but none of it was coming back to the city.

The sentiment among the council was to try again at the April 6, 2027, election.

Council members approved the ordinance calling for the April election. Seats open are currently held by Hughes, Kathy Davis and Mayor Brian Bowers. Filings open Dec. 15 and run through Jan. 5.

Clerk Sasha Gomez reported the 15-year-old computer program used for water, sewer, and trash service will expire in May, costing $1,800 a year. Gomez said the program was "outdated" and had issues. She presented three bids from other vendors. Two ran between $9,500 and $18,960. The lowest cost $400 a year from the Missouri Rural Water Association (MRAW) and was tailored for use by small towns and offered unlimited tech support.

Bowers noted the staff watched the tutorials for the Missouri Rural Water program and found it user-friendly. With that, the council voted to switch to the MRWA and to begin preparing for the transition in January.

Work revising city codes underway for much of the year had ended. General Code of Rochester New York, provided printed volumes of all the revisions for review. Gomez said she had not placed it on the city's website for public dissemination. Hendricks called the final package "beautiful," but advised having all council members present for a final vote. With Heather Van Note absent and Heath Postlewait present only by phone, passage was delayed until the next meeting.

Council members agreed to again participate in the annual Christmas parade at 2 p.m. on Dec. 12. Public works foreman Kevin Cook agreed to outfit the city's red-and-white dump truck to carry council members in the procession. Cook received authorization to buy 150 feet of Christmas lights for $382 to match those used on Ed Mareth's buildings for placement on the railroad caboose in the park. He noted these lights had magnetic clips and screw-in replaceable bulbs, closer to heavy commercial grade, giving the option to buy more strands for expanded decorating in the future.

Cook planned to pick up a 10-foot Christmas tree to place by the caboose in the park in another week.

Police Chief Jackie Lowe reported officers from Wheaton and Cassville would help him manage traffic for the parade.

Cook reported the wastewater lagoon had no shut-off valve on the pipe from the lagoon to the lift station, making maintenance difficult. After gathering bids to install a shut-off and having two running between $18,000 and $25,000, Cook received an $8,520.26 bid from Preferring General Contracting of Neosho. Stopping the flow would enable crews to clean the lagoon of decomposing grass that resulted in black effluent going to Monett. Council members authorized the purchase.

With water efficiency hovering at 59 percent, Cook said he found and fixed a water break in a three-quarter-inch line that sent around 90,000 gallons into a sewer line. The next day, water loss dropped by almost half. A resident complaining of low water pressure led to the discovery. Cook expected to see a big rebound by next month.

Cook also reported the city's 2012-vintage Grasshopper mower with a 61-inch cut was nearing the end of its life with broken motor mounts and a possible cracked frame. He borrowed the school district's mower to finish work this fall. With bids submitted, council members agreed to review the situation in March for the next mowing season.

Bridgewater Roofing completed repairs on three wellhouses and the park picnic pavilion. For an additional $2,500, Bridgewater replaced several sections of "spongy" wood from the pavilion, along with rotted fascia. New rafters were wrapped in wood. Cook said Bridgewater also agreed to donate new guttering for the pavilion "to help the town."

Chief Lowe reported a relatively light month. He had seven incidents involving dogs, returning several to their proper homes.

Council members set the next council meeting for Dec. 9.

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW



KYLE TROUTMAN

Thankful reflections

This week, families across the county, state and nation will gather together for time together and to give thanks for the little things we have in life.

After a few years doing our own immediate family Thanksgiving, this year, we will welcome back about 20 or so members of my extended family for our Turkey Day. As we prepare for the big visit, I've been reflecting on things for which I am thankful this year.

First and foremost, I am thankful to you, our readers. We've gone through numerous changes in the past several months, including changing printers multiple times, raising our subscription rates and flipping the switch on our website to activate a paywall.

Through all of these challenges and changes, our readers have been magnificent. Turning on a paywall generally comes with its own myriad of challenges. One of the biggest is usually the struggle to help readers understand the reasoning and being on board with paying for content that had previously been free.

I've heard horror stories from other publishers and even experienced some of that push back myself at a previous publication, so for our transition to go so seemingly well, I am very thankful.

Akin to that, I'm thankful we are still able to do what we do here in Cassville and Barry County. The closure of the Barry County Advertiser this summer came as a surprise to many of us, and it's always sad to see a community publication shutter its doors. Even through the challenge of our printing press shutting down at the same time, we were able to work with other publishers in the region and land at a print shop that delivers a fantastic product and is equally fantastic to work with.

While the switch did come with downsides of less color in the print edition and a slightly higher cost, I am thankful things seem to be on the right track these days.

I am also thankful for our print subscribers' patience. Some weeks, it seems to be a struggle for papers to get to the mailboxes of our subscribers. More times than ever, my wife, Jordan, and I have personally delivered papers in town to folks that for one reason or another did not get theirs. I'm thankful to live in a community so close that we are able to do that when we can.

Beyond the back end of the publication, I'm thankful for all the opportunities we have for meaningful news and event coverage in our area. We have so many non-profit organizations that do so much good in our area, and there are very few weeks I struggle to find events at which to take photos. Though it can be a challenge to be on the go so much, I'm thankful to have an abundance of opportunities rather than be sitting in my office trying to figure out what to cover week by week.

Alongside the community events and work, I'm thankful for all of our sports programs and the jobs local coaches are doing to mold not just the skills, but also the character, of our children in athletics.

Speaking of being on the go, that's where I'll be on Saturday — heading to St. Pius X (Kansas City) to cover our Wildcats in their first state semifinal appearance since 2020. As I cover the Cassville football team each week, I'm thankful for the culture they have built within the program and the way they have risen above so much adversity this season.

After we beat Monett in Week 1, I told Jordan to be prepared for a long November. As much as it adds to the workload, I'm thankful to be a part of the ride and wish the Wildcats the best of luck against the No. 1 ranked Class 3 team in the state.

Finally, as we go into this week's holiday, I am beyond thankful for my wife and children. This line of work is frequently a challenge for me and them, and I wish there was more time in the day and less time spent away from them. I'm thankful to have their support and understanding when things don't always go as planned or when things take up more of my time than I would like.

As Thursday approaches, I hope you reflect some on what you are thankful for, be it family and friends, a new job, the success of a sports team or wherever you find comfort.

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

The spirit of Thanksgiving: A heart full of gratitude



JON HORNER

It is easy to fall into the mindset of what we lack. We can always find something we wish we had, something we wish were different, or something we believe would make life just a little better. There can be a tendency to focus on what is missing that we simply overlook the many blessings already surrounding us.

Are things here perfect? Absolutely not. And the truth is, they never will be here or anywhere else. Every community has its challenges, every town has room for improvement, and every one of us has something we would like to change.

With those thoughts in mind, I have often wondered if God placed the Thanksgiving season in our lives to serve as a good reminder to pause, shift our perspective, and appreciate what we do have.

When I look around our community, I see so much to be thankful for.

I'm thankful for the excitement and pride that have come from the Wildcats district football championship. Those moments are about so much more than a final score. They represent all of the hard work when no one is watching, dedication, teamwork, school spirit and a community coming together to cheer on this talented ensemble and the coaching staff.

I'm thankful for the many events and programs on the calendar in the weeks ahead. As the holiday season approaches, our communities come alive with opportunities to gather, celebrate, serve, and make memories. I've remarked many times that our holiday sense of community is similar to the mood from a predictable Hallmark movie, except we don't all wear matching flannel shirts.

I'm thankful for the beautiful traditions that help make this time of year so special. The Nativity scene that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. The Snowflake Christmas lights that bring a magical sparkle to our streets and brighten the winter evenings. And the area Christmas parades that truly bring out the sense of community and joy.

The Snowflake Christmas lights and the Christmas parade bring back wonderful memories of my dear friend, Michael LeCompte, as we spearheaded the snowflakes lighting project back in 1993.

This time of year always reminds me of fun times in school, like the time my dear best friend, Paul Preddy, and I dressed up as pilgrims for one of the legendary Faye Priest Thanksgiving programs. I'm so grateful for those memories with my classmates and wonderful teachers.

I'm especially thankful for initiatives in our community like Share Your Christmas and the incredible volunteers and leaders who give their time, energy, and hearts to make a difference for others. Their generosity reminds us that the greatest gifts aren't always wrapped in pretty paper. Sometimes they come in the form of a thoughtful gesture, giving a family a helping hand, and the knowledge that someone cares.

As we move through the holiday season, I hope we can all make a conscious effort to focus less on what we lack and more on what we have. Instead of looking for what is wrong, let's recognize what is right. Instead of taking our traditions for granted, let's participate in them. Instead of waiting for someone else to make a difference, let's find ways to contribute ourselves.

Most importantly, let's remember that the spirit of Thanksgiving doesn't have to end when the holiday is over. Gratitude is something we can carry with us every day.

As I reflect on my own blessings, I am thankful for my wonderful family, my friends, my church, my coworkers, the place I have the privilege of working, and the town I am fortunate enough to call home. I am thankful for the people who make ordinary days meaningful and for the opportunities to be part of something bigger than myself.

No, everything isn't perfect. It never will be. But when I stop and count my blessings, I realize just how much I have to be grateful for.

I am so blessed. And for that, I am truly thankful.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving and a holiday season filled with gratitude, joy, and the true spirit of community.

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

STATE VOICES

Missouri Republicans, voters didn't leave conservatism. We did.

Missouri Republicans learned this month what happens when a party trades its principles for a personality. Ann Wagner represented the 2nd Congressional District since 2013. She entered the summer with roughly $4.2 million in the bank against her opponent's $242,000.

She lost by nearly five percentage points to Fred Wellman, who will be the first Democrat to hold the seat since the early 1990s. In Jefferson City, Democrats broke the Republican supermajorities in both the House and the Senate.

There will be excuses about a "national blue wave" or a court ruling that kept the 2022 district lines in place. Both mattered, but neither fully explains what went wrong. The blue wave was built on millions of individual votes and verdicts, and Republicans should pay attention to the concerns behind them: what groceries cost, what gas costs, and whether Washington is making their lives more secure or less.

The good news is that the Republican Party already has answers.

They are our own. Our Republican Legacy, co-founded by former Missouri Sen. John Danforth, rests on five principles: the Constitution, unity, fiscal responsibility, free enterprise and peace through strength. Three of them speak directly to the concerns voters expressed at the ballot box.

Start with free enterprise. Soybeans are Missouri's most valuable crop, worth roughly $2.9 billion in 2025. China, once the largest buyer, sharply curtailed purchases of American soybeans during the trade war. Even after a deal, its tariff on our soybeans stood at 13 percent at the start of this year, versus 3 percent on beans from Brazil and Argentina. Washington picked a fight, and Missouri farmers got the bill.

Tariffs are taxes, and Americans bear the costs. When the government imposes tariffs that hurt farmers and then writes them relief checks, that is not conservatism. It is the crony capitalism Republicans once spent careers opposing, with political favors picking winners and losers instead of markets.

The same goes for peace through strength. Reagan's phrase never meant reaching for force first, and it never meant walking away from friends. It meant being strong and reliable enough that adversaries think twice and allies sleep well.

Today, our allies, from Kyiv to Seoul, have reason to wonder whether America's word still holds. Whatever one thinks of the war with Iran, Missourians are paying for it at the pump, and Wagner's challenger made her support for it a campaign issue.

Peace through strength is the opposite of drift and bluster: steady alliances, credible deterrence and the patience to keep wars from starting in the first place.

Then there is unity, and Missouri voters sent a message Republicans should heed. Wellman held 13 town halls, campaigned in every corner of the district and talked about restoring faith in government rather than demonizing the other side.

In St. Charles County, where Wagner won by about 16,000 votes in 2024, her margin shrank to roughly 4,000. That shift should force Republicans to consider whether voters are growing tired of politics built on division. Even Wagner's concession pointed the way: she called Wellman late Tuesday night, and he described her as gracious. Unity used to be something Republicans did better than anyone. It can be again.

Republicans do not need to become Democrats to win again. We need to remember who we are. Missouri does not have to look far for an example. Jack Danforth served three terms in the U.S. Senate and later represented our country at the United Nations. He believed in a strong defense and open markets, and he saw public service as earning the trust of people who did not always agree with him.

That is the Republican Party many Missourians still recognize, and the one I believe they could support again.

Rebuilding will not happen in one election cycle. It starts with recruiting candidates willing to be honest with farmers about what trade wars cost them, who will stand with our allies even when it isn't popular, and who understand that elected office means answering to the people back home, not to the powerful.

It requires county committees that welcome back the Republicans who drifted away rather than purging them. And it demands accepting the voters' verdict instead of looking for someone else to blame.

Missouri voters did not abandon conservatism on Nov. 3. They abandoned a party that had stopped practicing it. The way to win them back is simple, if not easy: start practicing it again.

Lynn Schmidt is the Missouri state chair for Our Republican Legacy. She is a political scientist and freelance columnist and lives with her family in St. Charles.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Court is not sitting in your pajamas and watching Netflix while you look at the courtroom on your iPad."

— CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE JOHNNIE COX ON THE CONTINUED USE OF WEBEX IN COURTROOMS

Missouri Press Association 1867 · ISWNE The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors · Ozark Press Association

50 years ago

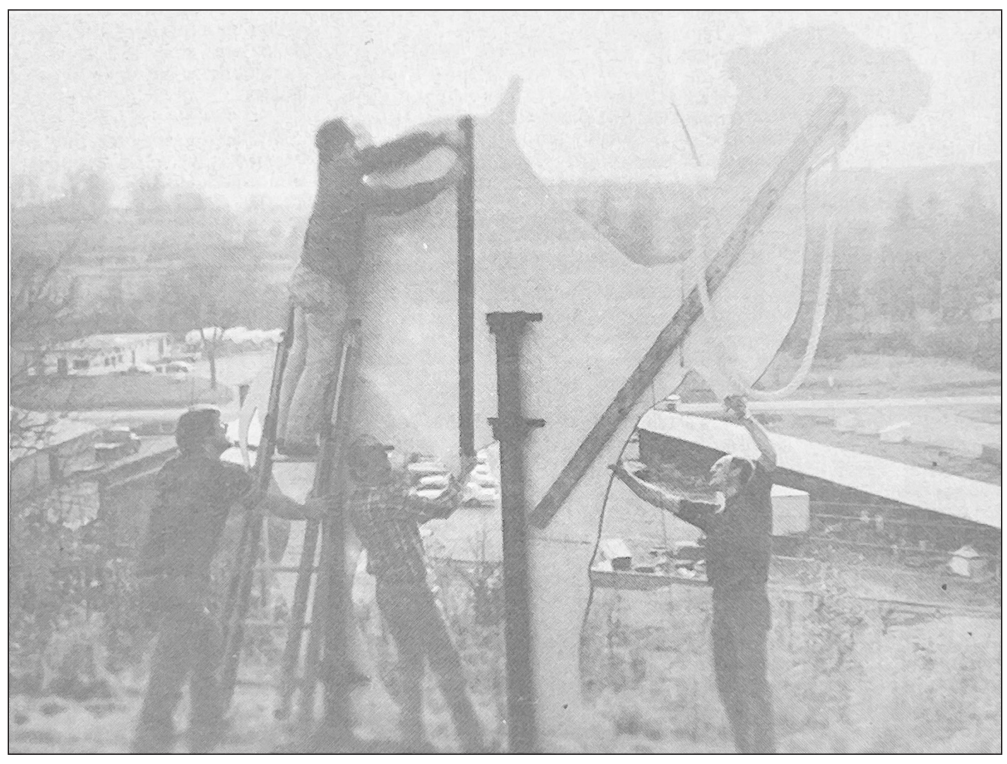
Dec. 1, 1976

– NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY DEDICATION IS SUNDAY

In a joint announcement this week, the City of Cassville and Barry County Court said an open house and brief dedication ceremony for the new Neighborhood Facility at Third and Main here would be this Sunday. The abbreviated program will begin at 2:30 p.m., said Presiding Judge Nolan McNeill and Mayor Bill LeCompte. The 8,100 square foot building that has housed industry and served as a catch-all for storage, was recently remodeled under a $76,000 grant from the Housing and Urban Development Commission. Local participation in the funding amounted to about $7,000 toward the total price of $83,460. Cooperating agencies said HUD officials, Thomas Kilbride, regional director and James Fletcher, area director, from Kansas City would be invited to the opening. County Clerk Howard Bounous, who coordinated the project upon directions of the court, will issue the invitations. Design and planning of the complete exterior and interior of the project was through Miller-Newell and Associates, George Ulmer of Cassville the local engineer. Included in the project was a face lifting of the exterior of the former implement building, purchased by the Cassville Industrial Development Corporation in 1961. The structure was bought by the city three years ago when additional fire equipment storage was necessary. Under the remodeling program, a community facility has been provided for large gatherings, plus a number of conference rooms, also available to the public. A section of the building is also designated for use by the South Barry County Ambulance District office and unit storage. Completely heated and air conditioned, a section of offices will be provided for the Chamber of Commerce. Entrances are provided on both the Main Street and West Street sides of the building. A large-paved parking lot is also located on the rear or west side. Entrances are accessible by ramps for the convenience of senior citizens. Mayor LeCompte and Judge McNeill said the program would not be lengthy Sunday. The event is being sponsored to officially open the building to use by the public. As the coordinating agency, the City of Cassville is in the process of drawing guidelines for use of the facilities by the public. Cassville retained the fire department segment of the building. The city also followed the remodeling of the entire building in this department. Other agencies officially using the building have not set dates for their moves. These will be announced following the official acceptance by the sponsoring groups and HUD, the funding federal agency.

– SHARE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR AREA POSTS INITIAL FAMILIES

Once again Barry Countians will have the opportunity to share Christmas with those who would otherwise have little or nothing for Christmas. The "Share Your Christmas" project is sponsored by Barry County Family Services, Volunteer Advisory Board, Cassville Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Center and Ministerial Alliance. The Irwin-Easley American Legion Post will again have toys available. Clothing, gifts, toys, household items and food may be brought to the Cassville city hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may specify a recipient for your donation or simply make your donation. Checks and money may be left with Bill Ward at the Chamber of Commerce or with Dottie Davis at the Family Services Office. Mrs. Karen Griffin, chairman of the program, stated volunteers are needed to sort clothing and pack boxes. Please contact her at 847-3443 if you would like to help. The Christmas baskets will be delivered on December 22. You can help make Christmas much brighter this year for a family and also find for yourself the joy of giving. The following is a description of some of the families with the remainder of family situations to be published next week. Family 1: This family of eight children has a special need for linoleum for the living room and kitchen, size 14'x16', as the present floor coverings are in bad shape. The father has a monthly income of $100 from odd jobs. The family could use some bedding. The family could use clothing. Sizes are as follows: Father, shoe 8, pants 30-30. Mother, shoe 6, clothes 11. Daughter, age 16, shoe 8, clothes 10. Son, 17, shoe 8, clothes 16. Son, 15, shoe 8½, clothes 16. Son, 13, shoe 8, clothes 14. Son, 11, shoe 6, clothes 10. Daughter, 9, shoe 2, clothes 9. Son, 7, shoe 2½, clothes 7. Son, 6 months, shoe 1½, clothes 1. The children will not have much Christmas without your help. Some toys they would enjoy are a football or other sports equipment for the four older boys, purse or makeup for the 16-year-old girl, suitable toys for the younger children. Family 2: The special need of this family of seven children is a wood heating stove as their present one is in poor condition and could present a fire hazard. The father has only part-time employment making about $82 weekly. Some special clothing needs are as follows: Father, coat size 36. Mother, coat size 14. Daughter, 16, coat size 7. Daughter, 14, coat size 10. Daughter, 12, coat size 5. Son, 9, boot size 2. Daughter, 7, boot size 11. Twin daughters, 4, boot sizes 5½. The older girls would enjoy purses, clothes, etc. The younger children need boots and toys such as dolls for the twins and 7-year-old girl and toys for the 9-year-old boy. Games the children can play together would be appreciated..



40 YEARS AGO: FROM THE CAMEL'S BACKSIDE — Almost silhouetted against an afternoon sun, volunteers were installing characters of the Cassville Nativity Scene Monday. The larger-than-life figures are in place, and will be lighted Saturday night before the Christmas parade. Involved in the project, from the left, are Dan Loveland, Dick Moger, Ron Hurlbut and Bill Shiveley. The 16 characters came out of storage earlier Monday for the fourth year of the scene's presentation. Democrat file photo

40 years ago

Dec. 3, 1986

– TAX PAYING PROCESS SLOWER THIS YEAR; $2 MILLION DUE

Barry Countians still owe nearly $2 million in taxes after the first month of collections. That's the record of Misha Hull, collector of revenue. Mrs. Hull said this week collections are off compared to last year. Her office is charged with collecting $2,624,104.55 this year, down somewhat from the $2,713,069 charge of last year. She said the November collections this year amounted to $428,740, compared to $538,771 for the first month during the 1985 collection season. A factor to be considered is lowered charges in some departments due to levy rollbacks. This is especially evident in the school collection department, where the total due is down $120,000 this year. This relates to the figures of $1,532,071 due school districts this year, compared to $1,654,309 last year. Another way the county will be loser, in all agencies of government, is railroad and utility collections. The total this year will be $158,685.17 due, compared to $167,379 last year. Mrs. Hull noted the loss to county government levels, amounting to about $9,000, results from lower taxes handed the companies from the Missouri Tax Commission. Mrs. Hull said her office should collect about $1,900,000 of the tax fund during this month. "December is always the big collection month," the collector noted. She also said about 10 percent of the total due would be classified as past due. The office is making the collections on some 35,000 tax statements mailed the second week of November. Those persons who have not paid their taxes might be reminded they have the month of December to get their bills paid. That's before fines and penalty additions start to pile-up against the billing. Mrs. Hull said the penalty was four percent beginning January 1, 1987, and then consists of two percent a month until the total reaches 20 percent a year. After three years, the property can be placed on the back tax list for sale at public auction. Breakdowns of property divisions in Barry County this year includes $2,007,770.83 for real estate, $457,648.55 for personal taxes and $158,685.17 for railroad and utility. The collector's office is open during the noon hour Monday through Friday to assist taxpayers. The collector said there were no plans at this time to have extra hours on Saturdays.

30 years ago

Nov. 27, 1996

– POLITICAL HISTORY MAKER IS A NATIVE OF EAGLE ROCK AREA; MOTHER AND SON BOTH SERVE IN OKLAHOMA STATE LEGISLATURE

A Cassville graduate made political history in the state of Oklahoma when she won a seat in the state house of representatives at the same time that her son is serving as a member of the state Senate. The post she gained in November was once held by her mother. Mary Lou Easley, a member of Cassville High School's class of 1954, and her son, State Senator Kevin Easley, both of Tulsa, drove to opening legislative caucus activities following the general election. Mary, elected to represent the house district where her son began his political career, is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tice Prier of Eagle Rock. Her husband Truman's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bee Easley, also of the lake community. Other family members are scattered throughout the hills of Table Rock Lake country. Mrs. Easley has two aunts in this area, Mrs. Julia Cooper and Mrs. Gerald Thompson, both of Eagle Rock. The Easleys, married 38 years, have spent 30 years of their life together in the Tulsa area. She's retired from a 29-year career teaching honors English in a Tulsa high school. Truman is a maintenance crew chief with American Airlines. Ironically, it was Truman's interest that gave his wife a gentle shove to seek public office. After the Oklahoma governor vetoed vocational technical training legislation that Truman felt was important to the area, their discussion settled around the possibility of working to revive the proposal. Armed with Truman's encouragement and an obvious family interest in politics, Mary, 60, jumped into the political arena for the first time. When the votes were all counted on Nov. 5, Mary had won the race, defeating a two-term Republican incumbent in a race that Democrat colleagues labeled a "giant killer." The Easley family's political roots in the south Tulsa district run deep. Kevin, now 36, was only 24 when he first won a seat in the house. He served six years at that post before the former oil company employee and graduate of Tulsa University took a step up and was elected to the State Senate in 1990. His Senate district includes a small portion of his mother's district. Senator Easley now says he's looking forward to the first bill he and his mother will write jointly. The mother and son pair share an interest in education and nursing home reform. Success in the election was the result of a combined family effort. Truman and Mary knocked on over 8,000 doors in a house-to-house effort. Son Kevin was also pulling political strings in his district, which includes part of his mother's representative area. Heavy endorsements came from Tulsa police and fire fighter organizations. Mary's campaign literature asked one key question: "When's the last time your State Representative made a difference in your life?" Her platform tackled key issues of crime, education, utility costs and nursing home reforms. Mary says she's ready to go to work for her district and the state of Oklahoma. Her plans include using a work ethic approach that could well have come out of the hills of Barry County. She labels herself a "problem solver," one that "won't play on fears" but rather "stress solutions." Born and reared in the Roaring River area, the Easleys were around in the pre-Table Rock Lake days of this area's development. Both were active in various activities in high school. Mary received a bachelor's degree in both English and business from Friends University. Her master's in English came from Northeastern State University at Tahlequah. With the family well entrenched in Oklahoma law making circles, people may be wondering about Truman's plans for the future. The 1955 graduate of CHS says he's not planning to run for public office. He's content to play a "very supportive role" in Mary's campaigns.

– CLUB FOR ASPIRING ASTRONAUTS LAUNCHED AT CASSVILLE SCHOOL

A new extracurricular activity has been launched at Eunice Thomas Elementary School in Cassville. Nearly 60 excited fourth graders crowded into Wendy Miekley's classroom Oct. 29 for the first meeting of Young Astronauts. A second meeting held last week attracted an even larger crowd. Young Astronauts is a club for students interested in science and math. One of the projected purposes of the organization is to strengthen students in those two subject areas. Cassville's Young Astronauts include: Brian Allen, Sunnie Arnold, Bridget Aschwege, Jordan Ball, Kyle Banks, Kari Barker, Melissa Beeson, Crystal Boles, Cody Booth, Tiffani Dynelle Briggs, Sam Canfield, Charlie Casper, Cody Clark, Heather Coberley, Jimmy Coffman, Holly Cole, Kenan Couch, Kenny Coupland, Kayla Craig, Ashley Crider, Steven Cupps, Laura Davidson, Amanda Ennis, Ami Epperly, Krystal Epperly, Megan Fuller, Nick Gonzales, Gavin Grimm, James Grubb, Rachel Gummert, Jason Harling, Ryan Hutchens, Lucas James, Pierce King, Anthony Kirkpatrick, Danielle LeCompte, Nikie Mattingly, Marcus Medina, Veronica Miller, Bridget Mitchell, J.R. Perez, Stormy Pettit, Savanna Potarf, Samantha Sater, Rachel Selby, Christian Smith, Casey Squires, Ashley Stephens, Brittany Stockton, Staci Stockton, Laci Stubbs, Ryan Thomas, Vincent Tichenor, Eric Ulmer, Shannon Watson, Chris Wolf, Mike Woods and Jamie Wright. Eric Ulmer likes the Young Astronauts Club because "it's about science and has math in it and rockets and that kind of stuff." "It's got a pledge," said Ulmer. "We do a lot of fun stuff." The idea for the club came after Miekley attended a meeting in Springfield for teachers interested in space and involved in the organization, Space Summit of Missouri. Space Summit supplies Young Astronauts with material. "I think it's a great way to get kids involved," said club sponsor Jill LeCompte. "Anybody can come. I think it's good for kids. We've really enjoyed it." The current Cassville chapter is for fourth graders only but other chapters can be developed for different grade levels. Club members have named the new segment, Pilots of Space-Stellar Chapter. "The reason I want to be involved in it is because it sounds like fun and I'm interested in space," said club member Brittany Stockton. Mr. David Hay, a retired teacher from the St. Louis area, was the guest speaker at the club's November meeting. Hay is an experienced model rocketeer. He demonstrated some rocket launches on the football field and shared some hands-on science experiments with the students. Accompanying Hay was Conita Gaines, founder and former sponsor of Young Astronaut groups. Both Gaines and Hay are members of the Aerospace Summit of Missouri. Members of the Young Astronauts will be ordering Alpha rockets at Hay's recommendation. Club members will assemble and launch the rockets at future meetings. Participation in rocketry is optional and those who don't build a rocket can enjoy watching others, Miekley said. At the first meeting of the club a paper airplane contest was conducted. At the December meeting students will assemble and display rockets in preparation for a January launch. "I like science," said Samantha Sater, another club member. "I think spaceships and all that other stuff is really cool. I think building a model airplane is really neat." Ryan Hutchens is involved in the club because he "wants to learn about flying spaceships and astronauts." Young Astronauts' sponsors are Wendy Miekley and Jill LeCompte. The next group meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 17 in the elementary school cafeteria

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Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Melissa McCall, a charming 1-year-old brown and orange talkative tabby girl ready for my forever family to snuggle up with! I'm already litter box trained and good with other cats, so I'm an easy addition to any household. At just 5.4 pounds, I'm the perfect petite companion for cuddles and companionship. My adoption fee is $65, and I can't wait to meet you — come by the shelter soon! Adopters can complete an application at www.havenoftheozarks.org/adopt. No appointment is needed. The Haven is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. All Haven of the Ozarks pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. For more information, people may email havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or call at 417-835-3647. Contributed photo



Obituaries



Delores Odean Atkison

Delores Odean Atkison, age 88, of Exeter, Missouri passed away Sunday, November 15, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas.

She was born February 11, 1938 in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, the daughter of Jess Leonard and Imogene (White) Hoosier. In Norwalk, California on June 26, 1954 she was united in marriage to Eugene Joe Atkison, who preceded her in death on August 13, 2018. They were married for 64 years. Also preceding her in death were her parents and son, Robert Leonard Atkison.

Surviving are her daughters, Joyce Ann Bishop and husband Gary of Gravette, Arkansas and Nevada Jean Coones and husband Mike of Cassville, Missouri; brother, Leonard Gene Hoosier and wife Charlotte of Cleveland, Oklahoma; six grandchildren; ten great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Delores attended school in California. She and Eugene moved to northwest Arkansas in 1967. Delores was employed in the health field as a clerk in medical records for many years. She enjoyed reading, tending to her flowers, and being outdoors. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Delores was a member of Believers Full Gospel Fellowship in Washburn, Missouri.

Graveside services were held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, November 19, 2026 at Bentonville Cemetery in Bentonville, Arkansas, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Carroll Williamson conducted the services.

The family received friends from 11:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites friends to plant a tree in memory of Delores.

PAID OBITUARY

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



Karen Louise Holder

Karen Louise Holder, 82, of Cassville, Mo., passed away Saturday, November 21, 2026, at her home.

She was born September 15, 1944, in Joplin, Mo., to James and Pauline (Embrey) Corn, who preceded her in death.

Also receding her in death was her brother, Fred Corn.

Survivors include her two sons, Jeff Holder and his wife, Tammy of Point Lookout, Mo., and Brad Holder and his wife, Laura of Butterfield, Mo.; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren, with two more on the way, and many other relatives and friends.

She graduated from Wheaton High School in 1962. She continued her education at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., attending for one and a half years.

In the summer of 1962, Karen was reacquainted with a childhood friend, Joe Holder, who would become the love of her life. Together, they raised their two sons on Joe's family farm in Butterfield, Mo. She and her family moved to Kentucky in 1971, upon their return to Mo. in 1973, Karen began working as a bank teller at Commerce Bank. She thoroughly enjoyed her career and remained with the bank for 36 years before retiring in 2009.

She accepted the Lord and was saved and baptized at the age of 15½. In 1973, she became a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Cassville, where she enjoyed being part of the "senior" Sunday school class.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 25, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Danny Heupel and Rich Cummings will conduct the services. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Butterfield, Mo.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 P.M. until service time Wednesday, November 25, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Baptist Church or Hospice Compassus in memory of Karen.

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Franky Glenn Parson

Franky Glenn Parson, 62, of Washburn, Mo., passed away Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at Mercy Hospital Northwest Ark. in Rogers, Ark.

He was born April 29, 1964 in Little Rock, Ark., the son of Herbert and Opal (Jones) Parson, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his son-in-law, Lucas Moore.

Survivors include his wife, Marcella Holloway; his son, Damon Parson and wife Cortnie of Neosho, Mo.; daughter, Sheri Pruitt and husband Seth of Lamar, Ark. and one granddaughter.

He graduated from Huntsville High School in Huntsville, Ark. He devoted over 20 years of his life to serving as a pastor at Bible Way Holiness Church. He was also co-owner of New Century Countertops and spent his entire life raising cattle. He was a member of Landmark Pentecostal Church of Garfield.

Services were held Saturday, November 21, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother J.J. Austin and Brother Shane Pharris conducted the services. Burial was at Roller Cemetery in Washburn, Mo.

Contributions may be made to Landmark Pentecostal Church of Garfield Missionary Fund in memory of Franky.

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Annual reporting requirements for CAFOs

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Annual reports for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are due by Jan. 28, 2027, for the reporting period of Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2026.

A link to the CAFO Annual Report Form is available online at https://dnr.mo.gov/document-search/concentrated-animal-feeding-operation-annual-report-mo-780-1953. After accessing the form, download and save a copy to your computer.

This form must be filled out on a computer or mobile device, as the form contains important links to the department's CAFO website you will need to access. These links will assist you with important data required in the report.

The department understands that the requirement for electronic submittals is still new to many CAFO owners and operators; as such, we have staff available to answer questions about the form or help navigate the Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (eDMR) system, accessed through the department's Missouri Gateway for Environmental Management (MoGEM) online portal system.

For questions on how to complete the CAFO Annual Report form, please contact the Operating Permit Section at 573-522-4502 or email address at cafo@dnr.mo.gov. They can answer questions that you may have about the fields in the form or how to find your watershed.

For questions on how to submit the CAFO Annual Report electronically, please contact the eDMR Hotline at 573-526-2082 or email address at edmr@dnr.mo.gov. Additional information and links to the eDMR system may be found online at https://dnr.mo.gov/water/business-industry-other-entities/reporting/electronic-discharge-monitoring-reporting-system-edmr.

Bar: Internships a suggestion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Kansas City, said it's a positive environment.

"When I started in Kansas City, you had to watch your back," he said. "When I moved here, I had to earn my stripes, but once you get that respect here, it's given. Ninety percent of us work together because we know we ill see one another again later.

Briscoe continued the conversation by asking what could be done to help attract attorneys to rural areas.

Paid internships and unpaid externships for college credit were ideas attendees supported, noting that law schools tend to give preference to larger firms over rural firms, and such opportunities could prove meaningful to a soon-to-be graduate.

Herrin and Schwartz said messaging is also important, helping new attorneys understand the advantages of rural life as a business owner or at a smaller firm versus a corporate firm with longer hours and a more demanding workload.

"There's not a lot of us here, so we are overworked, but if the Bar wants us to be involved [going to law schools to discuss rural lawyer life], we will," he said. "It would also be beneficial to have a law school class on how to start a business."

Cox also noted that local attorneys tend to be involved in their communities, versus out-of-town attorneys that only do business in the courts,

"Local lawyers sponsor local teams and buy advertising, and you don't see lawyers from Springfield doing that," he said.

Briscoe said the shortage is a problem the Bar hopes to solve, but it will take time.

"We didn't get here overnight, and we're not going to get out of this overnight," he said. "I expect the committee will try a few things for a few years and see how that goes, then reassess from there."

Members of the public wishing to get involved in the Bar's effort may fill out a survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rurallegalsurvey.

The survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

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CASSVILLE AREA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

Do you know?



SCOTT MITCHELL

It used to drive my dad crazy when he would try to teach me an important lesson or show me how to do something the right way, and before he could even finish, I would respond with, "Yeah, I know!"

Another thing that drove him nuts was when I would say, "Because THEY say..." without ever being able to explain who "they" were or where "they" got their information.

Looking back, I can see a lesson in both of those habits that applies to our walk with God today.

In John 14:23, Jesus says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."

Notice the words, "keep My word." Jesus is talking about more than simply knowing what He said. He's talking about obeying what He said.

There's a big difference between knowing what the Bible teaches and actually living it out. We can attend church, listen to sermons, read our Bibles, and even memorize Scripture, but none of those things excuses us from doing what God tells us to do.

Sometimes I wonder how often our Heavenly Father must feel like my dad did when I would interrupt him with, "Yeah, I know!" We hear what God says, but instead of obeying, we act as though we already know enough.

And what about our "they say" excuses? How often do we hear someone offer an alternative to what Scripture clearly teaches, and rather than standing on God's Word, we follow what somebody else says?

Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us to trust in the Lord rather than lean on our own understanding. And James 1:22 tells us to be doers of the Word, not merely hearers.

We don't need to find another way around what God has commanded. We need to be willing to do what He has already told us.

Prayer, Bible reading, and attending church are all important, but they should lead us toward obedience, not become substitutes for it.

So the next time God's Word teaches us something, let's resist that urge to say, "Yeah, I know," or "But THEY say..." Instead, let's ask ourselves, "Am I actually doing what my Father has told me?"

We can do better. Our Heavenly Father commands it. And if we truly love Him, our lives ought to show it.

Scott Mitchell is the pastor at Solid Rock Baptist Church, located at 13704 Farm Road 1040 in Exeter. He may be reached at 417-846-6619.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

— PSALM 100:4-5

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Best Of Barry County

PERSON OF THE YEAR: TERESA PHILLIPS

Efforts to keep Imagination Library going in Barry County recognized

BY SHEILA HARRIS
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

Readers of The Cassville Democrat voted for Teresa Phillips as 2026 "Person of The Year."

"There's not a person more deserving of the honor," said Morgan Williams, Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce director, who works as a volunteer with Phillips for Barry County's Imagination Library.

Phillips was instrumental in bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to children in Barry County beginning in 2021. Through Parton's early childhood literacy program, the Dollywood Foundation mails a free, age-appropriate book to children under the age of five, every month.

After the State of Missouri took over management of Parton's library in 2023, Phillips and board members of the Barry County Imagination Library formed a non-profit group with a broader umbrella: the Community Care Coalition (CCC). The CCC provides books and library services to homebound individuals through the Books on Wheels program and maintains literacy resources in various locations throughout the county, in the form of Little Libraries.

In addition to Little Libraries, the CCC teams with Roaring River Adventures and the Cassville Chamber for various events, including the season Festival of Trees fundraiser at Emory Melton Inn.

Phillips has also been instrumental in forming another CCC project — the Open Minds Initiative: an educational program for individuals incarcerated in the Barry County Jail. The program, which is going into its second year, offers traditional classes that students need to pass their High School Equivalency Test, as well as classes in Life Skills.

"We have a 10 to 12-week curriculum," Phillips said.

Phillips teaches classes, along with Cheryl Williams, CCC board member, and her husband, Jim Williams.

"When Teresa sees a need, she goes after it," Cheryl Williams said, in reference to Phillips' initiation of the Imagination Library and the Open Minds Initiative at the jail. "I'm very proud of her for being voted as Person of The Year."

Earlier this year, the State of Missouri decided to no longer fund the Imagination Library, so Teresa Phillips once again took on the position of affiliate and fundraiser for the Barry County chapter.

"The amount of time Teresa gives back to the community is unreal," Williams said. "She works nights and weekends, in addition to her other full-time job. I don't know anyone else who has a heart that gives so unconditionally. The fact that she's embarrassed by the recognition proves to me that Teresa is doing what she does for the right reasons."

Congratulations, Teresa Phillips!



Teresa Phillips, right, accepts her Person of the Year award from Kyle Troutman, Cassville Democrat publisher. Readers of the publication voted Phillips Person of the Year in the annual Best of Barry County contest. Jordan Troutman/cassville-democat@outlook.com



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Person of the Year — Teresa Phillips
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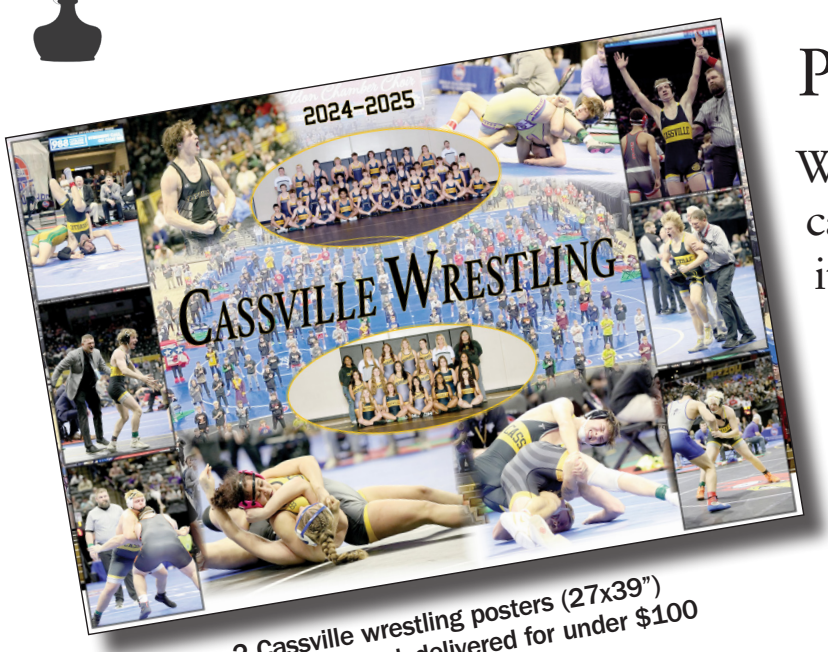

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Woman charged with kidnapping

Juvenile able to escape, call police after mile-long walk

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A Monett woman is facing two felonies and a misdemeanor after allegedly kidnapping a juvenile from a park in Cassville on Nov. 18.

Jamie Chappell, 41, of Monett, is charged with first-degree kidnapping (a Class A felony), first-degree harassment and misdemeanor fourth-degree assault.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Officer Anderson, with the Cassville Police Department, on Nov. 18, Chappell allegedly approached a teenaged victim from behind at the Cassville City Park between Flat Creek and Mill Street claiming to be the victim's biological mother and ordering the victim to come with her.

When the victim refused, Chappell allegedly threatened to kill the juvenile if the child did not comply. Chappell then allegedly grabbed the victim by the wrist, and when the juvenile attempted to pull away, tightened her grip and forcibly removed the victim from the park.

Chappell allegedly took the victim approximately one mile south along Highway 76/116 to the Barry County Museum.

Donnie Privett, Cassville Police chief, said at that point, the juvenile was able to escape and ran to a relative's home, from where the 9-1-1 call was made.

Anderson said Chappell allegedly committed harassment by engaging in threatening and intimidating conduct toward the victim by threatening to kill the juvenile. Anderson said in the statement Chappell's conduct was intended to cause emotional distress and resulted in the victim fearing for their life and safety.

During a subsequent follow-up at the victim's residence, the juvenile completed a voluntary written statement and reiterated fear for their life because of Chappell's alleged threats.

Anderson also said Chappell committed assault but the way she grabbed the victim's wrist, tightened her grip and continued to force her to comply.

Anderson said in the statement Chappell had an active failure to appear warrant through the Monett Police Department, and he also noted Chappell was allegedly under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Chappell was booked into the Barry County jail at 8:08 p.m. on Nov. 18, and Privett said the 9-1-1 call was made at at 6:27 p.m. Chappell has been arraigned and is being held on a cash-only bond of $50,000.

Christmas tree lit in Purdy



Lea White, left, and 5-year-old Waylon White enjoy snacks at Purdy's 4th annual Christmas in The Park tree-lighting event Friday night. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



The Christmas tree blazed to life during a special tree-lighting service Friday night at Purdy's 4th annual Christmas in The Park. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Randy Henderson, of First State Bank, gives the welcoming address at Purdy's 4th annual Christmas in The Park tree-lighting event Friday night. Henderson's welcome was followed by a message from Rick Sharp, the pastor at First Baptist Church in Purdy, then music led by Andy Goodson. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



From left, Tracie Sharp, Rhonda Mattingly, Autumn Manwarren and Teagan Manwarren serve cookies and cocoa to those who attended Purdy's 4th annual Christmas in The Park tree-lighting event Friday night. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com



Ashley Terry, left, and 2-year-old Jovi Terry take a close-up look at the Christmas tree after a tree-lighting service at Purdy's Christmas in The Park Friday night. Sheila Harris/sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

November sales taxes rebound

Cassville's use tax sum hits record for year

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Cassville Democrat

After a lackluster October, sales tax receipts for Barry County bounced back in November.

The seven cities collecting sales taxes took in $837,230.40, up 7% from last November. That followed a 6% drop in October. The rise did not erase the red ink from October in many cases, though the drops were less substantial after factoring in use tax totals. Five of the seven cities recorded gains.

Cassville's 1% tax for its general fund generated $115,925.04, up $1,341.88 for a new November record. The increase represented a quarter of the decrease seen in October. It was the third gain in five months, keeping general fund collections more than $65,000 ahead of last year.

Cassville's use tax collections for the month shot up by 56% for the highest sum all year. The use tax boost alone was enough to wipe out all of the drop in October. Overall, Cassville's tax collections were up more than $15,400 from last November.

Seligman saw its 1% general fund tax yield $13,180.39, up $1,293.12 from last November. Like Cassville, it was the third gain in five months. That put general fund collections for the year up by more than $5,000. Seligman's use tax, on the other hand, fell to less than half the amount that came in a year ago. Combining the sales and use taxes, Seligman's collections were down $3,337 from last November.

Purdy saw its fifth consecutive monthly gain. The city's 1% general fund tax received $7,458.45, up $2,553.25 from a year ago, the best November showing since 2020. That raised the general fund total for the year by more than $7,000 from last year's pace.

Exeter's 1% general fund tax received $2,421.95, up $950.52 from last November, the third gain in five months. Exeter's use tax collections dropped slightly, but for the year, total tax collections are up by more than $5,000.

Wheaton's 1% general fund tax generated $5,075.71, down $1,326.47, or 20%, from last November. It was the third consecutive monthly drop. Wheaton's general fund sum for the year is down by more than $2,000. Use tax collections are down by more than $5,000 or a third. That puts Wheaton's total tax collections for the year down by more than $6,300.

Washburn's 1% general fund tax took in $2,794.82, the lowest November total since 2022, down $708.67 from a year ago. Receipts have been down in four of the last five months. With two months of no revenues in 2025 due to a freeze imposed by the State Auditor's office, general fund revenues are now more than $2,000 ahead of last year's collections.

Monett offered the biggest shift of the month. The city's two sales taxes at 1% produced $218,138.49, the third-highest November on record, behind the 2022 and 2023 sums. The total was up $20,827.76, the biggest single-month increase since June. That set the general fund total for the year ahead of last year's pace by almost $86,000.

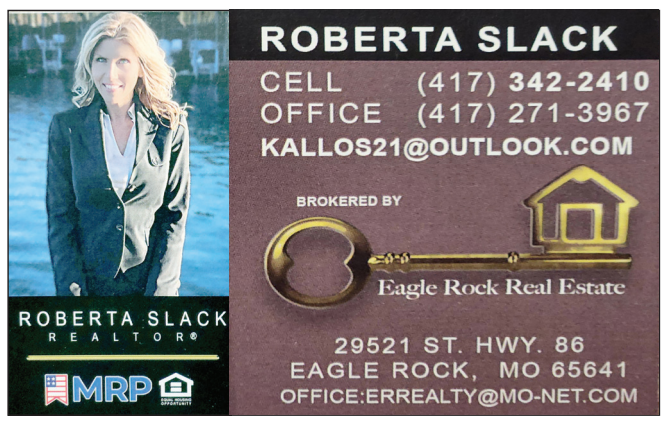
Monett's use tax in November was up by almost $18,000. That put total collections for the month ahead of last November by almost $67,000. For the year, Monett's sales and use tax collections are up by more than $557,500.

With the strong municipal showing, countywide taxes also saw a respectable rebound from October.

Barry County's two half-cent taxes supporting general operations and road maintenance each brought in $259,068, both up more than $11,118 from last November. Both represented November records. The gains, however, were less than a third of the drop in October. Use tax collections, on the other hand, rose by more than $66,000 from a year ago. Factoring in use tax revenues, Barry County's gains in November were more than double the drop in October. Just looking at the two taxes collected for the general fund, revenues for the year are up by more than $113,000.

The .375% sales tax collected by the Emergency Services Board to run central dispatching and 911 services took in $194,300.71 in November, up $8,358.20, or 4.5%, from a year ago. That put the 2026 sum ahead of last year's pace by almost $68,000.











CASSVILLE Democrat
NOVEMBER 25, 2026

SPORTS

SECTION B
Publisher Kyle Troutman
417-847-2610
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

"CATS ARE ROLLIN', BABY"



On the first play from scrimmage of the second half, Easton Hughes breaks free for a 73-yard touchdown run, the go-ahead touchdown in a 19-7 win over Mountain Grove in the Class 3 quarterfinals. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Cassville bests Panthers, heading to KC for semis

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A Class 3 quarterfinal win over Mountain Grove on Saturday has set up a state semifinal the Cassville football team has been waiting for all season — against No. 1 St. Pius X (Kansas City).

The Wildcats trailed by a point at halftime but punched in two scores in the second half to secure a 19-7 victory and first semifinal berth since 2020, when Cassville fell on the road to Maryville, 30-28.

Masin Bryan, senior running back and linebacker, said the chance to play St. Pius X is what the Wildcats have wanted all season long.

"We've been waiting for this team since Week 1," Bryan said. "It's a big opportunity to let everyone know who we are."

On Saturday at home against the Panthers, the Wildcats' win relied on two long Easton Hughes touchdown runs — 73 yards in the third and 42 yards in the fourth.

The win came after a challenging first half in which Cassville moved the ball but struggled to finish drives, turning it over twice inside Mountain Grove territory. The Wildcats also had to adjust defensively to a feisty Mountain Grove option attack.

Cassville's defense set the tone early, stopping Mountain Grove on its opening possession after the Panthers moved into Wildcat territory. Brayden Sizemore recorded a sack to force a punt, and Cassville took over at its own 35-yard line.

WILDCATS FOOTBALL
Record: 11-1
Last result: 19-7 victory over Mountain Grove
Next up: St. Pius X (Kansas City) on Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Wildcats put together a promising drive, with Kellen Weldy picking up a first down on a pitch and Carlos Barrientos catching a screen pass for another. Quarterback Jaren Stearns then broke free on a keeper and reached the Mountain Grove 10, but a Bryan fumble on the next series gave the ball back to the Panthers at the 6.

Cassville's defense held, forcing another punt from the end zone. On the ensuing drive, Kamden Beebe picked up a first down at the 16, Hughes gained 5 yards and Stearns kept for 2 before Hughes fought through the defense to reach the 3, and Beebe finished the drive with a short touchdown run. The extra point was no good, putting Cassville ahead 6-0 with 10:19 remaining in the first half.

Mountain Grove answered with its best sustained drive of the half. The Panthers used their option game to move downfield, converting multiple first downs before the quarterback broke loose for a 26-yard touchdown. The extra point gave Mountain Grove a 7-6 lead with 5:45 left before halftime.

Cassville's next possession ended in another fumble, giving the Panthers the ball at the Wildcat 19. The defense again limited the damage, however, getting a stop and taking over at its own 29 with 50 seconds remaining. Beebe broke loose for a run to the Mountain Grove 41, but a pass by Stearns fell incomplete as time expired.

Weldy said his halftime message was focused on calming the team and eliminating the mistakes that had kept Cassville from taking control.

"I didn't scream or yell at them," he said. "I just told them if we hold on to the football, I think we'll be all right offensively and defensively. We made a few adjustments. Our guys started flying around, and I just said we do what we're doing all year. We'll be fine. We need to calm down a little bit."

The Wildcats did just that coming out of the locker room. After Mace Bredeson returned the second-half kickoff to the 27, Hughes found a hole and raced 73 yards for a touchdown and a 13-7 lead with 11:41 left in the third quarter.

Cassville followed the score with a successful onside kick by Dade Zajak, recovering the ball at its own 49. The Wildcats couldn't capitalize on the opportunity, and Mountain Grove took over after a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B

Wildcats turn loss into motivation

Cassville soccer team improves over last year's finish

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A tenet of sports is to learn from losses, and the Cassville boys soccer team being on the wrong end of a mercy-rule game against Logan-Rogersville this season put that principle to the test.

Coach Curtis Ray said the 8-0 defeat at Logan-Rogersville was a turning point in a season that ultimately became about more than wins and losses. After working through internal issues that affected the team for much of the year, the Wildcats began playing with a stronger sense of unity during the final weeks.

"Without being punished like that, I do not believe we would have faced the peak adversity within ourselves and forged through to become more of a team," Ray said.

That growth helped Cassville finish the season with a 9-12-1 record, moving from third to second in the conference and from a No. 6 seed in last year's district tournament to No. 4 this season.

After a first-round district exit a year ago, Cassville won its opening game 3-2 over Clinton before falling in the district semifinals to eventual district champion and Class 2 semifinalist Helias Catholic, 5-1. Ray said the Wildcats played well enough to compete in that matchup, another indication of the progress made throughout the season.

WILDCATS SOCCER
Record: 9-12-1
Last result: 5-1 loss to Helias Catholic in the Class 2, District 6 semifinals
More: 8-0 loss to Logan-Rogersville serves as motivation to solve issues

Ray gave the team a B for its overall performance, saying while some goals remained out of reach, the team took significant steps forward.

The biggest improvement, he said, was not necessarily on the field, but in the team's culture.

"We made huge strides in the culture of 'family,'" Ray said. "We couldn't get out of our own way for much of the season due to internal issues, but that was resolved during the last few weeks, and the boys truly played like a family."

There were plenty of exciting moments along the way, including golden-goal victories over Bolivar and Aurora in the regular season, and Clinton in the district quarterfinals, as well as a penalty-kick shootout win against Aurora.

However, Ray said the adversity of the Logan-Rogersville loss ultimately helped shape the team's direction more than any single victory.

Offensively, Ray said Cassville still has work to do. The Wildcats emphasized scoring during the summer and carried that focus into the season, getting off to a promising start

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B



Cassville's Preston Driskill looks for a pass into the box during a win over Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Hugh Thao controls a ball near the touchline in a match at home against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

PISTOL PETE
Who: Peter Littlefield, 2023 Cassville graduate
What: Is one of two Oklahoma State University students who portray Pistol Pete, the school's mascot
More: Along with working football, basketball and wrestling events, Pistol Pete makes appearances at community events, weddings and even funerals

Pete Portraying Pete

Cassville graduate spending senior year as Oklahoma State University mascot

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Local fans of Oklahoma State University may see a familiar face on the Cowboys' game days — kind of.

Peter Littlefield, a 2023 graduate of Cassville High School, is one of two OSU students who portray the university's mascot, Pistol Pete. The role puts him in the middle of game-day traditions, alongside student-athletes and in front of thousands of fans, while also giving him opportunities to represent the university at a variety of events — including weddings and funerals.

Littlefield's journey from Cassville to Stillwater took a different route than most. He attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla., for two years, playing football as a freshman before switching to livestock judging as a sophomore.

"I gained in-state tuition to Oklahoma State, going to a sister school to the university, and so the only reason I'm at OSU's primarily because I was able to come with in-state tuition," he said. "But, OSU is where I wanted to go."

Littlefield said he initially thought he might attend the University of Arkansas because of its location and cost, but Oklahoma State, where both of his parents and older brother attended, remained his preferred destination.

"It's a university and a community that I care about a lot, so I wanted to do everything possible to go to OSU," he said.

Littlefield is double-majoring in agricultural education and agricultural leadership. He is a senior and plans to complete both degrees in 2028 before pursuing a master's degree at OSU.

His path to Pistol Pete began years earlier, during his sophomore year at Cassville, when he briefly served as the high school's mascot, Wilbur, for a couple of games.

"That was just something I did just on a whim, and it was kind of fun," he said.

The idea resurfaced while he was at NEO. Friends joked that his name — Peter, though many call him Pete — made him a natural fit for Oklahoma State's mascot. One of his best friends at the junior college encouraged him to look into the opportunity, noting that Littlefield also fit the general physical profile of previous Pistol Petes.

"There's not a specific requirement, but a lot of the Petes are similar in terms of size," Littlefield said. "I kind of fit that script, and they were like, 'This is something you should look into.'"

He began researching the position and became interested in the history and tradition behind it.

"I kind of got drawn down a rabbit hole of, like, this is actually really cool," he said. "Just the history behind it, the tradition, what it means to not just the people that are Pistol Pete, but the community, the university. There's a lot of people that care about the whole background of Pistol Pete."

The mascot is based on a real person, Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, a U.S. marshal who lived south of Stillwater during the days of Indian Territory. Eaton also became a troubleshooter for the Texas Cattlemen's Association.

Littlefield said Eaton's character and way of life helped shape the mascot's identity. In 1923, Eaton was asked to lead the Armistice Day parade in Stillwater. Oklahoma A&M students saw him lead the procession and decided the cowboy represented the kind of identity they wanted for their university.

Littlefield said the university's mascot represents more than a costume or a game-day personality.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B







Football

11/28 St. Pius X (Kansas City) (C3 State semifinals) Away 2:00 pm

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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 RENT: House for rent, two-bedroom country home in Seligman area. Call 479-372-1615.

FOR RENT: 3br/2ba trailer house in Butterfield across the street from George's. $1,200 per month. Call Kurt Hilton at 417-342-2376

FOR SALE

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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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

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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

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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

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

In Re: The Marriage Of:
Eddie Diaz, and Herminia Diaz,

EDDIE DIAZ,
Petitioner,
VS.
HERMINIA DIAZ,
Respondent.
Case No. 26BR-DR00168

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to Respondent, HERMINIA DIAZ

You are hereby notified that there has been commenced an action against you in the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is a Petition for

Dissolution of Marriage

The names of the parties to said action are stated above and the name and address of the Attorney for Eddie Diaz, Petitioner, is

Ryan F. Ricketts, Attorney at Law,
278 S. Hwy. 60,
P.O. Box 517,
Marionville, Missouri 65705.

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 date of first publication; judgment by default will be rendered against you.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court on NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Craig Williams
Circuit Clerk
BY KATIE CORREIA/DC
FIRST PUBLICATION: NOVEMBER 18, 2026
SECOND PUBLICATION: NOVEMBER 25, 2026
THIRD PUBLICATION: DECEMBER 02, 2026
FOURTH PUBLICATION: DECEMBER 09, 2026
1st insertion 11/18/26
45-48

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BID REQUEST FOR PLEASANT RIDGE SPECIAL ROAD DISTRICT

The Pleasant Ridge Special Road District is accepting bids for grading, road patching, backhoe work, right of way mowing, brush cutting, snow removal, removing tree limbs overhanging District roadways, and any other work deemed necessary by the Pleasant Ridge Special Road District Road Commissioners for the calendar year of 2027. Bids may be for any part of this work or all work combined. The contractor is required to carry liability and any other required insurance in sufficient amounts (as determined by the Road Commissioners) for coverage of any damages caused by the contractor to property of any other person or the Road District.

The deadline for receipt of all bids is December 21, 2026, by Noon. All bids must be received by that date to be considered. Bid Information may be picked up at the office of Kaup Bookkeeping, 121 Main St., Crane, MO during normal office hours. Telephone number is 417-723-5536. The bids may be mailed to Pleasant Ridge Special Road District, PO Box 477, Crane, MO 65633. Or the bids may be dropped off at the office of Kaup Bookkeeping, 121 Main St., Crane, MO 65633, during normal business hours. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 am to 5 pm. The office may be closed due to inclement weather.

The Pleasant Ridge Special Road District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids for any reason.

Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given to all citizens and interested parties that the Cassville Board of

Aldermen will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, December 29, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

in the City Council Chambers of Cassville City Hall, 300 Main, Cassville, Missouri 65625

regarding the setting of and possible changes to water and sewer rates.

Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF ELECTION AND FILING DEADLINE EXETER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Exeter Fire Protection District hereby notifies the public that the opening filing date for the General Municipal Election, which will be held on April 6, 2027, has been set to begin December 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and close on January 5, 2027.

There are TWO(2) directors positions to be elected for a six year term each.

Individuals interested may do so at the Barry County Courthouse at the office of the Barry County Clerk, Joyce Ennis, Monday thru Friday during the office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Offices may be closed should inclement weather occur.

Offices will also be closed December 24, 25, and December 26,2026

And January 1, 2027.

In addition to completing a Declaration of Candidacy, interested individuals will be required to pay a $100.00 Filing fee.

Only insertion 11/25/26
46

AUCTION, AUCTION AUCTION

Friday, Dec. 4, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, Mo. (1007 Main Street, Cassville MO). From the Cassville Square go North on Main Street to auction

Misc Office Furniture & Supplies – Native American Items – Guns – Misc Small Metal Toys Such As: Trucks, Graders, Pavers, Misc Construction Items





Property #1: Large Building, Formerly Hutchens Construction Office. Currently the office for Emory Sapp & Sons. Many years ago it was the Barry County Library. This is a very nice large building with many offices, multiple restrooms, a breakroom, large conference rooms, upstairs storage plus a rustic upstairs office with hardwood floors and tongue & groove wood ceiling, very nice room. Central Heat/Air, all city utilities, on a large corner lot on Main St & 10th St. The lot is paved and landscaped. Let your imagination run wild, all kinds of possibilities here. Sells at 10:00 A.M. on Friday Dec 4th to the highest bidder. **Property #2:** 1 acre m/l, vacant lot on Mill St. Turn by DeGraffenreid Insurance, lot is on the right, next to Gautney's Old Garage, now "On the Water Powersports" Selling from the 1007 Main Street location right after property #1. Sells to the highest bidder! **Note:** Real Estate Investors, Flippers, & Entrepreneur's, Fantastic opportunity here. Real Estate sells to the highest bidder. Real Estate sells promptly at 10:00 A.m. Friday Dec 4th from 1007 Main St, Cassville. See the terms for closing procedure. To view the property before auction day call 417-847-2507. Please real all Terms & Conditions. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds on or before Dec 31st, 2026. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material..

Owner: EMC Holdings, LLC



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State Champion Auctioneer
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Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion Auctioneer
#2352

ESTATE AUCTION

Monday, Dec. 7, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: Cassville, MO. From Cassville go South on Hwy 76 (112) for 1.7 miles. Turn left on Hwy 76 & 86 and go 2.6 miles. Turn Right on Hwy 86 and go 3/10 miles to auction. (14641 Private Road 2193, Cassville MO)

REAL ESTATE – COLLECTIBLES – MOWER – GUNS – FURNITURE & APPLIANCES – HOUSEHOLD – MISC




Real Estate: 4 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide home. From a sm front deck enter this home into a nice size living room with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan & windows. From here on into the dining area that joins the kitchen. Lots of windows and the kitchen features Whirlpool side by side Refrigerator/Freezer, built in Maytag dishwasher, Amana elect range/oven and hood plus a center kitchen island with double SS sink & sm bar area. Just off the kitchen is the utility room with a door leading out to a large back deck on the east end of the home is the master bedroom with walk in closet, master bathroom with tub & shower. On the West end of the home is a full bath & 3 more bedrooms. **Outside Amenities:** Sm front deck. Large back deck, a large, detached garage with automatic door opener, asphalt & concrete circle drive plus a storage building. All this on a large lot consisting of 1.3 acres m/l. **Note:** If your looking to buy a rental before the end of the year or a place to live, don't miss this auction. To preview the real estate before auction day call 417-847-2507. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds in 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

Owner: Ronald Anderson



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State Champion Auctioneer
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Auctioneer:
Parker Stumpff
AR State Champion Auctioneer
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NOTICE OF ELECTION ARROW POINT VILLAGE

Notice is hereby given that Arrow Point Village, Inc. will hold an election Tuesday, April 6, 2027, for the purpose of electing two (2) Board of Trustee members for a two (2) year term.

Opening filing date is December 15, 2025, and the closing date is January 5, 2027.

Prospective candidates may file a Declaration of Candidacy form with any Board of Trustees between the above stated dates.

Done by the order of the Board of Trustees of Arrow Point Village, Inc.

Only insertion11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Butterfield Road District

Will have (1) 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 11/25/26
46

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CHAIN-O-LAKES VILLAGE NOTICE OF ELECTION AND FILING DEADLINE

Notice is hereby given that Chain-O-Lakes Village with hold an election on Tuesday, April 6,

2027 for the purpose of electing three (3) members to the Board of Trustees, for two (2) year

terms. Open filing date is December 15, 2026 and will close on January 5, 2027.

Prospective candidates may file a Declaration of Candidate form with the village clerk,

Patricia Dacus-Mills, at 27018 E. Lakeview Lane, Eagle Rock, MO. Please call 251-504-7558

to arrange a time to file

Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF ELECTION FILING DEADLINE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASSVILLE R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT
1501 Main Street
Cassville, Missouri

The Cassville R-IV School District will accept declarations of candidacy for the Board of

Education beginning December 15, 2026, through January 5, 2027. The election is

scheduled for April 6, 2027.

Two (2) positions for three-year terms and one (1) position for a one-year term will be

filled at the election.

Candidates may file at Central Office, located at 1501 Main Street, Cassville, Missouri,

during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The

office will be closed for Christmas break from December 21, 2026, through January 3,

2027, and will reopen on January 4, 2027. On the final day of filing, January 5, 2027,

the office will remain open until 5:00 p.m.

Candidate names will appear on the ballot in the order in which declarations of

candidacy are filed, in accordance with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

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traditional filing method.
1st insertion 11/25/26
46-47

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Exeter Special Road District
Will have (1) 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 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

Notice is hereby given that the General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2027 in the South Barry County Ambulance District for the following purpose:
To elect one Director from District 1 for a term of three (3) years.
AND
To elect one Director from District 4 for a term of three (3) years.
The opening date for candidate filing is December 15, 2026 and the closing filing date is January 5, 2027.
Candidates may file for these positions at the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, Cassville between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office may be closed should inclement weather occur.
Candidates will be listed on the ballot on the order in which they file.
Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Monett R-1 School District encourages qualified persons interested in running for a position on the School Board to file to be a candidate in the April 6, 2027 election. Interested persons may file at the Monett Administration Office located at 710 9th Street in Monett, Missouri. For more information contact Ana Espinoza or Leigh Lemaster, 417-235-7422.
Filing will begin on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. With the exception of the first and last day of the filing period, filing will not occur on holidays or days when school is closed. The office may be closed should inclement weather occur. Below is the complete list of filing dates and times:
First Day to File
Dec.15 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 16 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 17 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 18 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Jan. 4 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Last Day to File
Jan. 5 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m
There are two (2) positions available for terms of three (3) years each. Candidates will appear on the ballot in the numerical order of filing.
If elected or appointed to the Board, candidates are required by law to successfully complete 18.5 hours of Board training within one year of the date elected or appointed. § 162.203, RSMo.
Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Shell Knob-Viola Road District
Will have (1) 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 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Verona R-VII School District will have two School Board
positions available for election in the April 6, 2027 General Municipal Election.
School Board Officer Term: 3 Years
The opening date for candidate filing is December 15, 2026 and the closing filing date is January 5, 2027.
Candidates may file for office at
Verona R-VII School District
Central Office
101 E. Ella
Verona, MO 65769
Filing Dates and Hours:
December 15-22nd 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
December 28-30th, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Office is closed on Fridays.
During inclement weather please call 833-402-9580 to verify office is open.
Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order in which they file.
1st insertion 11/25/26
46-47

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NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR THE CITY OF WASHBURN MO

Notice is hereby given that December 15, 2026 through January 5, 2027; are filing dates for the Candidates to file for the offices of: One(1) Mayor position for Two (2) Terms in the City of Washburn and Two (2) Aldermen at Large Positions for Two (2) Terms in the City of Washburn. The Election will be held on April 6, 2027.
Qualified Applicants for Offices shall file for candidacy with the Washburn City Clerk at Washburn City Hall during business hours. Candidates are requested to provide: picture identification, voter registration, proof of residence, and cannot have outstanding debts to the City of Washburn. Applicants must file an affidavit (form 5120) stating that they are not delinquent on state income taxes, personal property taxes, or real property taxes with MO Dept. of Revenue; this document must accompany the candidate's declaration of candidacy and requires a notary.
Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order they are filed.
1st insertion 11/25/26
46-48

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NOTICE OF ELECTION FILING DEADLINE

WHEATON R-III SCHOOL DISTRICT
WHEATON, MISSOURI
The Wheaton School District encourages qualified persons interested in running for a position on the school board to file as a candidate for the Tuesday April 6, 2027 Municipal Election.
The District will accept filings at the Wheaton Central Office located at 116 McCall Street, Wheaton MO 64874.
Filing will begin at 8:00 AM on Tuesday December 15th and continue during the District's regular business hours which are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The schedule for filing is as follows:
December 15-17th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, December 18th from 8:00 AM to Noon, January 4, 2027 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and Tuesday January 5, 2027 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
Filing will not occur on holidays when Central Office is closed which are as follows: December 21 through January 1, 2027.
There are 2 three-year term Board Member positions available
Only insertion 11/25/26
46

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NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES

The Wheaton Special Road District #29
will have (1) 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 11/25/26
46

PROBATE

**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
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

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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

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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

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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

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

In the Estate of:
CHARLES WALTER PRESLEY JR,
Deceased
26BR-PR00156

NOTICE OF HEARING

To all persons who claim any interest in the property
CHARLES WALTER PRESLEY, JR.,
deceased, as an heir of said decedent or through any heir of said decedent:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above court by Patricia
Ormsby, for the determination of the heirs of Charles Walter Presley, Jr., deceased, and of their respective interest as such heirs in and with respect to the following described personal property located in Barry County, Missouri, that the decedent owned at the time of his death:
$23,409.85 in a PEERS Retirement Account
Petitioner's attorney is Harry D. Schwartz,
whose business address is 702 West Street,
P.O. Box 276, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
You are hereby required to appear to answer said petition on December 18th 2026, at
8:45 o'clock a.m. in the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri,
at Cassville, at which time and place said petition will be heard. Should you fail therein,
judgment may be entered in due course upon said petition.

Cassville Democrat Publication Dates:
First Publication: November 18, 2026
Second Publication: November 25, 2026
Third Publication: December 2, 2026
Fourth Publication: December 9, 2026
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
1st insertion 11/1/26
45-48

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

In the Estate of KENNETH E SMITH,
Deceased.
Case Number: 26BR-PR00130

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of KENNETH E SMITH,
Decedent:
On OCTOBER 30, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of KENNETH E SMITH, 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:
ROBERT L FRITS,
809 S.E. 28TH STREET, SUITE 3 ,
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
SCOTT TIDWELL,
809 SW A ST, SUITE 105,
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712,
479-553-9800
The non-resident personal representative's designated agent's name and business address is:
JEREMY K BROWN,
502 S. PEARL AVE.,
JOPLIN, MO 64801
All creditors of said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5B



Cassville's Mace Bredeson bats a ball on a kickoff return before taking it to the 28-yard line during the Wildcats' win over Mountain Grove on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Cassville's Masin Bryan intercepts a pass to help seal a 19-7 victory over Mountain Grove in the Class 3 quarterfinals on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Football: Wildcats have been eyeing St. Pius X game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

fourth-down stop.

The Panthers then faced a fourth-and-8 situation on their next possession and tried to keep the ball with a fake punt. Cassville was ready, stopping the play and taking over at its own 47.

Mountain Grove's offense continued to struggle against the adjustments, and the Wildcats repeatedly forced punts. Bryan provided a boost on special teams with a punt return to midfield, while the defense kept the Panthers from putting together another scoring drive.

Weldy said Cassville changed its defensive fronts and asked its safeties to attack more aggressively in the alleys. The adjustments helped the Wildcats contain the perimeter and force Mountain Grove to work between the tackles.

"It was a tough offense," Weldy said. "It's the first time we've seen that offense all year, so it's tough to simulate in practice. I had to run a quarterback this week, and that's a bad look for our defense. It's hard to simulate, but once we saw it for a few series, we got better and better with it."

When Mountain Grove began finding success on the edges, Cassville adjusted its calls to improve its pursuit and angles.

"We called more crack calls," Bryan said. "There's people that block in with no talking, so we had to work more outside, get it more outside, get better angles and work better outside."

The Wildcats carried their 13-7 lead into the fourth quarter, then added another touchdown on their first scoring opportunity of the period. Beebe took a pitch right to the Mountain Grove 42, and Hughes broke free again, this time running 42 yards for the score. Weldy's two-point attempt came up just short of the pylon, but Cassville had extended its advantage to 19-7 with 11:44 remaining.

Mountain Grove put together a drive in response, moving into Cassville territory and eventually reaching the 18. A holding penalty pushed the Panthers back, and Van Thang recorded a sack to help create a third-and-21. After a short completion, Bryan intercepted a pass to end the threat and give Cassville possession at its own 23.



Cassville's Spencer Drollinger celebrates the Wildcats' onside kick recovery in a win over Mountain Grove on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

For Bryan, the interception was especially satisfying after his earlier fumble. He said he recognized Mountain Grove's formation and anticipated a wheel route.

"They were in double tight on the left side, so it's either a wheel or it's just going to be a pitch," Bryan said. "He ran a wheel route, so I just stayed right on him and went up for the grab."

The play helped put the game out of reach and provided a measure of redemption.

"It felt really good, especially after the fumble I had at the beginning of the game," Bryan said. "It helped me redeem myself."

Cassville moved the ball on its final possession, with Hughes picking up a first down and Beebe gaining 2 before Weldy broke right for a first down at the Mountain Grove 40. The Wildcats then entered victory formation to secure the 12-point win.

Weldy praised Hughes' performance, pointing to his toughness and ability to contribute at both linebacker and fullback.

"Our guys did a good job getting some lanes for him to run through," Weldy said. "He's been that way all year for us. He's a really good player."

Weldy also said the Wildcats' team speed and ability to get off blocks became important as the defense adjusted to Mountain Grove's offense.

"Once we got off some blocks and saw what they were doing to us, we started making the game kind of in the box and played really well there," he said.

Looking to the Class 3 semifinals, Weldy said he had not yet studied St. Pius X but expected a strong opponent, noting the program's recent experience playing a Class 5 schedule before moving to Class 3.

As the Wildcats continue their postseason run, Weldy said the challenge will be keeping the team focused on its remaining goals and understanding how individual choices affect the group.

"They're very hungry and very proud of what we're doing," he said. "We're just trying to tell them that we have a lot of team goals still out there. If you do something to that hurts yourself, it will also hurt your team."

Cassville also benefited from a strong home crowd against Mountain Grove. Weldy said the atmosphere at the Wildcats' grass field — with stands close to the action and fans bringing their own seating to the sidelines — can provide an advantage during big games.

"When we have a big game like this, people show out and they are loud," he said. "It makes it exciting when we have a big play, and I think it helps us out quite a bit."

Regarding the post-Thanksgiving trip to Kansas City, Bryan said the Wildcats are ready.

"Cats are rollin', baby," he said.

On Saturday, Stearns went 1-for-4 through the air for 10 yards, adding 37 yards on 3 carries on the ground. Hughes put up 171 yards on 14 carries and 2 scores, and Beebe logged 71 yards on 9 carries and a score. Carlos Barrientos reeled in the one pass for 10 yards.

Defensive stats were not available as of presstime.

Saturday's meeting with St. Pius X (Kansas City) will be the first ever meeting between the two. St. Pius has been ranked No. 1 in Class 3 all season long, with Cassville steadily holding the No. 3 seed. St. Pius is 10-2 on the season with losses to Kearney (31-6, and De Smet Jesuit, 34-28. The Warriors defeated Class 3 No. 2 Maryville, 49-35, in the district championship and No. 6 Pembroke Hill, 54-13, in the quarterfinals. Mountain Grove was ranked No. 9 in Class 3 when Cassville met the Panthers on Saturday

Soccer: Scoring more goals a priority next season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

at the Webb City tournament. Yet, the Wildcats never consistently produced the goals Ray wanted to see.

Scoring more will be a priority next season, particularly as the Wildcats look to build on their defensive progress. Ray said goals allowed have declined over the past four seasons, and the next challenge is matching that improvement on the attacking end.

"We have to put more balls in the back of the net if we truly want to make a run at conference and district titles," he said. "Score more goals."

Cassville will have to replace a senior group that Ray said contributed greatly to the team and will be difficult to lose.

Ray is encouraged by the underclassmen who will return, saying they have continued to learn the game and should be a coachable group. He expects them to provide leadership during the offseason while carrying forward the seniors' enthusiasm and love for soccer.

Overall, Ray said this season can be a springboard to a brighter future.

"We didn't reach all the empirically measured goals, but we did compete day in and day out, made it further in districts and continued to grow into the culture that my predecessor [Jake Forste] started a decade ago," Ray said.

Ray also credited the parents and fans who supported the program throughout the fall, saying their presence helped the team compete night after night.

"Our parents and fans mean everything to us," Ray said. "They are the catalyst we need each night that helps us to compete against anyone. Thank you."



Cassville goalkeeper Carson Cash sends a goal kick up the field during a home contest against Bolivar this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

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: JUNE 7, 2026

Date of first publication: NOVEMBER 25, 2026

Date of second publication: DECEMBER 2, 2026

Date of third publication: DECEMBER 9, 2026

Date of fourth publication: DECEMBER 16, 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 11/25/26
46-49

Trustee's Sales

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

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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

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NOTICE OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE'S SALE

In re: John Bowman and Sandra Bowman,

husband and wife

Default having been made in the payment of certain monthly installments on a Note described in and secured by Deed of Trust executed by John Bowman and Sandra Bowman, husband and wife, dated August 15, 1996, and recorded August 19, 1996, in Book 96, Page 5444, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the County of Barry, State of Missouri; the undersigned Successor Trustee, at the request of the legal holder of said Note, who has elected to declare the entire indebtedness due and payable, will on December 10, 2026, at 1:30 P.M., at the at the East front door of the Barry County Courthouse, in the city of Cassville, 700 Main St, Cassville, MO 65625 sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash, the following real estate described in said Deed of Trust and situated in the County of Barry, State of Missouri, to wit;

BEGINNING AT A POINT 7.5 FEET SOUTH AND 27.0 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 25 NORTH, RANGE 25 WEST, THENCE NORTH 250.0 FEET, THENCE WEST 200.0 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 250.0 FEET THENCE EAST 200.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BARRY COUNTY MISSOURI.

Together with all improvements thereon known and numbered as Rt. 2, Box 240A, Crane, Missouri 65633 for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the costs of executing this trust, and the present taxes, if any, due and paid by the holder.

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

SINGERS CORP, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

1st insertion 11/18/26
45-48

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Peter Littlefield portrays Pistol Pete, the Oklahoma State University mascot, at a home game this season, firing the shotgun at midfield prior to kickoff. Mitch Alcala, Ferguson College of Agriculture/ Special to the Cassville Democrat



Cassville graduate Peter Littlefield portrays Pistol Pete, the Oklahoma State University mascot, calling the experience "a blast" as he works on game-days and makes appearances at events. OSU Athletics/ Special to the Cassville Democrat



Cassville graduate Peter Littlefield portrays Pistol Pete, the Oklahoma State University mascot, calling the experience "a blast" as he works on game-days and makes appearances at events. Kyle Troutman/ ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Pete: Pistol Pete head weighs 50 pounds; Cassville grad enjoying experience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"We have a thing called the Cowboy Code," he said. "We follow the Cowboy Code — just kind of the basic, be truthful, be honest, do what you're told to do, say yes or say yes, ma'am. There's just kind of the basic things that you'd expect from a more cowboy-type figure."

Littlefield said that is the way of life Pistol Pete tries to portray in Stillwater. Learning about Eaton and the mascots who came before him has also given Littlefield a greater appreciation for the position.

"There's only ever been 100 people to put on the head as the mascot, since 1958," he said.

The selection process was more like a job interview than a traditional mascot tryout.

"It's a panel of former Pistol Petes, plus the spirit coordinator for the university," Littlefeild said.

Candidates answer questions about why they want the position and what they have done to prepare. They also put on the mascot head and work through several scenarios.

Littlefield said he arrived around noon on the day of his tryout and did not leave until midnight.

"It was an all-day process," he said. "There were so many kids that were trying out that they had to kind of change up the tryout this year compared to past years."

Once selected, Littlefield stepped into a role that can vary considerably depending on the university's athletic schedule.

For football games, the day can begin as early as 6 a.m. or as late as noon, depending on kickoff time reliant on the television schedule. The day includes appearances around campus and a pregame tailgate hosted by the OSU Alumni Association near the student union. Pistol Pete takes part in the pep rally before helping lead the team walk, when players travel from the student union to the football stadium.

"We get to lead the players over there," Littlefield said. "Once that's finished, we do a little bit of a photo opp with people that are at the walk, if they want to come take photos."

After entering the stadium, the mascot gets a short break before the pregame tradition.

"The second the clock hits 30 minutes, we have all our stuff on," he said. "At 22 minutes, we're driving out on the Gator. We jump off at midfield, shoot the shotgun in front of the whole stadium, do the O-S-U chant, and then we're just kind of game time from there."

Littlefield's first home game as Pistol Pete was against Oregon, a game Oklahoma State won in an upset. Former mascots had texted him urging he take in the moment.

"Our very first game, we got so many texts from former guys saying, 'Soak it in, because there's nothing like your first time,' and try your best not to black out because you're gonna want to remember this," he said. "And they're telling the truth."

For Littlefield, the moment represented a change from watching the tradition as a fan to being part of it.

"It was just one of those, like, 'Huh, we made it,' moments," he said. "The past year, you watch it from the stands, and you're like, 'That's so cool,' and then, you're living that perspective."

Littlefield said he does not remember much about the first time he fired the shotgun, other than going through the familiar motions.

"You shoot it, and then you just do the O-S-U, so it's kind of muscle memory," he said. "Outside that, there's not a whole lot I remember about it."

Littlefield and Hunter Morton, another student who portrays Pistol Pete, split responsibilities during home football games. One handles pregame, the first quarter and third quarter, while the other handles the second and fourth quarters. Only one travels to away football games.

They also attend home basketball and wrestling events and make appearances at other athletic events when requested. Littlefield said he has also gotten to know several OSU football players through the role.

"We're around a lot of the players," he said. "I've befriended quite a few of the football players, like Wyatt Young and Ethan Wesloski, some of those bigger names on the team, just because they think it's super cool that we do our best to be interactive with them."

The mascots also spend time with the team on the road, changing in the locker room with players during away games. Littlefield said he also engages athletes around campus or while working with the athletics department on media appearances.

The shotgun remains a major part of football gameday activities. Pistol Pete fires it at midfield before kickoff and later from the west end zone, where fans respond with the O-S-U chant. The mascots also interact with the crowd, including getting on a push-up board and performing headstands — Morton's specialty.

"Whenever you shoot the shotgun, everyone goes, 'O-S-U, O-S-U,'" Littlefield said. "That's kind of fun, especially whenever you have a bunch of people in the stadium."

Basketball and wrestling bring different responsibilities, including firing both the shotgun and pistol during events.

"Every sport is a little bit different in terms of what we're allowed to do and where we do it," he said.

The role also extends well beyond athletics. Littlefield said he has made more than 90 wedding appearances and attended two funerals as Pistol Pete.

The experiences have shown him how much the mascot means to people, even in settings where a costumed character might not be an expected guest.

"Once you're in those environments, you start to realize what it means to other people," he said. "You wouldn't expect someone to want a mascot at their wedding, let alone a funeral. But once you get there and you see the joy that you can bring — that's probably my favorite part."

Lat week, Littlefield received a message from a woman whose husband's funeral he attended during the summer. She thanked him for being there and bringing a little joy to a difficult day.

"Everyone's excited that you're there," he said. "They're excited that you're a part of what they're doing. You don't really think about it, but it's fulfilling whenever those types of things do happen."

Portraying Pistol Pete also requires a different approach than many other college mascots. Littlefield said animal mascots often interact with fans through energetic movements, flips and other antics. Pistol Pete, by contrast, represents a person and an old-time cowboy.

"The way that they interact with people is more of, essentially, like a teddy bear almost," he said of animal mascots. "They're just kind of fun-loving, jumping around, doing whatever, versus Pete, who is a person. We can't jump around and do flips and all that stuff, but it's the high-fives, the waving, the thumbs up.

"We'll sign cards for little kids. We get hugged by children constantly, so it's trying to make sure we don't accidentally hit them with the head and stuff like that. You have to figure out how to essentially portray an old-timey, grumpy cowboy."

That distinction also makes it difficult to envision a professional mascot career after college. Littlefield also said professional mascot positions are frequently long-term careers.

"There's not really a whole lot of opportunities, and even at that, it's a very niche market for jobs, because a lot of the people that are professional mascots do it for a very long time," he said.

Littlefield said continuing in mascot work is not something he has not seriously considered, in part because of how unique Pistol Pete is.

The physical demands of the job are another distinctive feature. Littlefield's mascot head weighs about 50 pounds, while his partner's weighs about 45 pounds.

The university acquired two new heads in 2019, each weighing about 35 pounds at the time. Littlefield said repairs twice a year have added material over time, and the head he wears has accumulated more than his partner's.

"It sounds heavy, but there's no strap, so it's freestanding on your shoulders," he said. "That weight disperses equally across your shoulders, so it's not too bad."

Littlefield said the main challenge is being careful not to look too far upward, which can cause the head to tip.

Littlefield also gets a unique perspective on Oklahoma State athletics, including access to facilities such as Boone Pickens Stadium, Gallagher-Iba Arena and the university's baseball fields when they are empty.

Coming from a small town like Cassville, Littlefield said the size and atmosphere of Stillwater and the university have been a change of pace. Even attending junior college in Miami, a town he said was similar in size to Cassville, brought some culture shock.

"Coming to OSU, it's bigger town that's probably closer and similar to size of, like, Neosho, but then you have a university where half the town population is the university students," he said. "It's a completely different environment."

The access that comes with being Pistol Pete has allowed him to experience the university's athletic facilities in a way most students do not.

"Just getting to walk around the football stadium, the basketball arena, the baseball fields with no one in there, and just being like, 'Wow, this is where I'm at,'" he said. "It's really unbelievable, but just a super neat, super cool experience."

On game days, seeing those same facilities filled with fans offers another perspective.

"It's mind-boggling that I can come from a small town and then end up somewhere like this doing what I'm doing," he said.

For now, Littlefield continues balancing his academic work with a schedule that can take him across Oklahoma for appearances. On the day of the Cassville Alumni Soccer game, he had hoped to attend but instead completed four appearances, traveling from the Texas-Oklahoma state line to the Kansas line in one day.

"They keep us hopping," he said.

Despite the busy schedule, Littlefield said the opportunity to represent a university with a tradition he values has made the experience worthwhile.

"It's a blast," he said.

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CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER

Weekly Menu

WEEK OF NOV. 23 - NOV. 27, 2026

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30	TUESDAY DECEMBER 1	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2	THURSDAY DECEMBER 3	FRIDAY DECEMBER 4
Cashew Chicken	1 Chicken Parmesan	BBQ Ribs*	Chicken Salad Sandwich on Croissant	Beef Stew w/ Veggies & Potatoes
Fried Rice	Whole Grain Pasta	Potato Wedges	Tomato Soup	Broccoli
Oriental Veggies	Italian Veggies	Coleslaw	Sweet Potato Fries	Whole Grain Roll
Edamame	California Veggies	Whole Grain Roll	Kale Salad	German Chocolate Cake
Succotash	Garlic Bread	Coconut Cream Pie	Brownies	
Brownies	Tiramisu Cake			

Salad Bar

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

BOWL $2.00

PLATE $4.00

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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