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SALES TAX INCOME SLIDES IN OCTOBER — PAGE 2A



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CASSVILLE Democrat

NOVEMBER 4, 2026 | CASSVILLE-DEMOCRAT.COM

Homeless camps addressed

Multiple camps along Flat Creek located, cleaned up

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

CITY OF CASSVILLE
What: Addressing homeless camps located throughout the city
Where: Typically in heavily wooded or brushed areas along Flat Creek
More: One individual is registered sex offender arrested near intermediate school on Thursday

The city of Cassville has been working with property and business owners to address increasing reports of activity relating to homelessness, including multiple tent camps, property theft and pilfering of trash containers.

City Administrator Richard Asbill said the issue initially drew attention through reports of panhandling, namely, complaints about individuals gathering at busy intersections on Main Street and on Highway 37 near Walmart.

The City Council reviewed a safety ordinance addressing activity at those locations, which Asbill said improved safety in those areas. As the city addressed those concerns, officials began receiving reports of people staying beneath bridges and in wooded areas, including near the 13th Street bridge, Flat Creek bridge and the area around 11th and East streets.

Residents also reported people walking through backyards and crossing private property without permission.

"There was a significant increase of individuals that were around town, and I would view them as unhomed," Asbill said. "They were sleeping behind businesses, sleeping at the park and doing a number of things that we were having to be more proactive about saying, 'You can't be here.'"

Asbill said calls and questions about possible camps have increased steadily over the past 6-8 months, with a

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COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION
What: Federal program for no-cost meals at high-poverty schools
Locally: Exeter, Shell Knob utilize program; Cassville, Purdy, Wheaton do not
More: Cassville's district-wide participation would cost $430,000

Free meals program not a fit for all

Exeter the only local school utilizing Community Eligibility Provision

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Two Barry County school districts are utilizing a federal program that makes meals free to all students, and while other districts have looked into the program, it is not a fit for all.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal non-pricing meal service option that allows high-poverty schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students, so long as the school or district meets certain criteria.

Tim Jordan, Exeter superintendent, said his district reviews the program every couple of years to determine eligibility and financial feasibility of participation.

Qualification relies on the Identified Student Percentage (ISP), which must be at least 25%. At Exeter in the 2024-2025 school year, the high school was at 33.64%, and K-8 was at 44.025%. This school year, the high school is at 30%, and K-8 is at 29.86%.

"My understanding is that once approved, a district may participate in CEP for four years, even if its percentages change during that period," Jordan said. "Reimbursement rates, however, are affected by the district's ISP.

"The reimbursement rate is based on the percentage of students who qualify through Direct Certification for certain government assistance programs. Depending on that percentage, participating in CEP can result in the district receiving less reimbursement than it costs to provide meals to all students. Any additional expense would have to be covered by district funds that might otherwise be used for other budgeted needs."

Jordan said Exeter's current percentages remain above the 25% eligibility threshold, but the decline may reduce the reimbursement the district receives for meals served to all students at no cost.

"Approximately 73.4% of our students still qualify for free or reduced-price meals," Jordan said. "However, CEP reimbursement is based on the ISP, not the overall percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

Stars shine at The Show!



Jackson Crain, portraying Frank Sinatra, sings "New York, New York" to open The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

FELONY CHARGES
Who: Brandi Thomas, 26, of Exeter
What: Is charged with second-degree statutory rape and second-degree statutory sodomy
Bond: Set at $50,000, cash only

Exeter woman facing statutory rape charge

Bond modification denied; case moved to circuit court

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democat.com

An Exeter woman is facing two felony charges after allegedly engaging in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a juvenile.

Brandi Thomas, 26, of Exeter, is charged with second-degree statutory rape and second-degree statutory sodomy.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Jeremy Berner, with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, on Sept. 14, he began investigating an alleged sexual assault report made to the Sheriff's Office involving Thomas and a male juvenile.

On Sept. 21, Thomas met with Berner at the Sheriff's Office for an interview, and after being read her Miranda rights, allegedly admitted the juvenile had stayed the night at her home on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5.

Thomas allegedly admitted

Purdy school board reviews state assessment

Strategies advanced for improving scores

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat

The Purdy school board reviewed its last Annual Performance Review (APR) at its October meeting to highlight current efforts to improve the district in the state's assessment.

Superintendent Travis Graham reported the APR for the 2025-2026 school year will likely be released around Dec. 1. He walked the board through the 2024-2025 report, making observations on where the district stands and plans to gain on the 74.3% score last received, earning 145.5 out of 196 possible points.

Graham noted that in English language arts, Purdy students scored about 3.3% below the state average overall, while more students in Purdy scored higher in proficient and advanced than on the state level. "All students" scored at "approaching," while the student groups category for English language learners and special education students scored better as "on track."

"We're moving in the right direction," Graham said.

In math, Purdy scored at 12.3 points for an "approaching" category, earning half the potential points, while the state average was 23.3. On both basic and proficient/advanced, Purdy students scored above the state average. The middle group needed the most movement, Graham said. Again, the student groups category scored "on track."

In science, Purdy had a higher percentage than the state scoring in basic, and proficient/advanced scored below the state average, reflecting areas that need pointed improvement, Graham noted. Like English language arts, Purdy earned half the available number of points.

On social studies, measured only from performance on the government class taken in the junior year, the district earned a higher percentage of points than in the previous categories.

Overall, Graham said, English language arts appeared to be "on target" to grow scores. On math, classified only as "approaching," he said the areas that need to improve have been identified. In science and social studies, all students earned the overall "on-track" designation, while student groups with greater needs were deemed only "approaching" in science and not enough to measure in social studies.

In measuring success-ready students, the district earned only half the available points for having students taking college entrance exams or other measures like WorkKeys or the military test that shows career interests. The number of students taking advanced credit classes scored higher, but again only fell into the "on track" classification.

The only classifications earning all the available points were graduation and graduate follow-up. Graham noted Purdy recorded 97.2% graduation, while the state average was 92.7%.

In the 2025-2026 report, Graham expects Purdy to have a higher score. For specific improvements, he noted a stronger emphasis on literacy, specifically in getting students to read more. STAR tests of student performance showed a reading skill drop between sixth grade and the next level, suggesting upper grades may need a continuation of reading assistance.

Graham noted 30% of students remain at-risk in literacy and 37% in math. As corrective

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NEWS BRIEFS

Courthouse, Judicial Center closed Nov. 11

The Barry County Courthouse and Judicial Center will be closed on Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Southwest invites public to Veterans Day assembly

The Southwest school district would like to invite all area veterans to the district's annual Veterans Day assembly on Nov. 11. Any veterans that have family members at Southwest are encouraged and welcome to attend. Lunch ill be served to veterans and their families at noon in the high school commons area, with the assembly starting at 1 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast at First Christian Church

A free Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday from 9-11 a.m. at First Christian Church, located at 905 Old Exeter Road in Cassville. Free coats will also be available.

Waste Management District to meet

The Southwest Missouri Waste Management District N will hold its November Executive Board Meeting at noon on Tuesday at the Monett Public Library in Monett. This meeting is open to the public. A teleconference number will also be available for this meeting. People may contact the district office at 417-236-9012 or 417-342-6306 prior to the day of the meeting for the call-in number and passcode.

Purdy Road District to meet

The Purdy Special Road District will meet on Monday at 4 p.m. at the District Road Barn, located at 200 South 9th St. (Farm Road 1085).

Community luncheon to benefit Imagination Library

On Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a community luncheon will be held at Cassville First United Methodist Church, located at 601 Gravel Street in Cassville, with proceeds benefitting the Community Care Coalition, specifically for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. All are invited and the cost is $12, including the meal, dessert and a drink.

Extension Council nominations sought

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

Cassville Branch Library hosting events

The Cassville Branch Library will host the following events in the coming week: Today (Wednesday), Chair Yoga, 9 a.m.; Thursday, Teen Paint, 3:30 p.m., Book Club, 5 p.m., Refit, 5:30 p.m.; Friday, Scrapbook Club, 1 p.m.; Saturday, Crochet/Knitting Class, 10 a.m. to noon; Monday, Majong, 1` p.m., Adult Painting, 5:30 p.m. (registration and $5 supply fee required); Tuesday, Tot Time, 9:30 a.m., Storytime, 10 a.m., Homeschool Cooking Class, 11 a.m.; Author Michelle Griep visit, 2 p.m., Scrapbook Club, 5 p.m.; Nov. 11, Chair Yoga, 9 a.m., Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m.

Barry County Community Garden meetings set

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

Lessons offered before Seligman's Saturday dances

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

OATS rides available in Barry County

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

Sales tax income slides in October

Cassville sales taxes down 4% for month

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Cassville Democrat

Barry County's cities and county entities collecting sales tax in October took a sharp downturn.

Six of the seven cities received less than last October, which stood in contrast to Lawrence County, where five of the six cities reported gains.

The seven Barry County cities reported total sales tax income of $780,853.46, down 6% from a year ago. It was only the second drop in six months.

Cassville saw its third drop in five months. The city's 1% sales tax supporting the general fund generated $116,798.99, down $5,425.38, or 4%, from a year ago. It was still the third highest October on record, with the peak dating back to end-of-pandemic 2023. Cassville's use tax was nearly identical to a year ago.

For the month, Cassville's four sales taxes and its use tax produced $7,600 less than a year ago. For the year, however, Cassville's tax income is up almost $142,000, or almost 5%.

Seligman's 1% sales tax paying general bills yielded $12,263.16, down $2,332,54, or 16%, from last October. It was nonetheless the second highest October on record. Seligman took a double hit as its use tax was down by 29%.

For the month, Seligman's tax revenues are down by nearly $10,000, or 18%. For the year, however, Seligman's sales taxes and use tax sum, not counting the law enforcement tax collected for only three months by this point last year, is up by more than $43,000, or 13%.

Purdy represented the one bright spot in the county landscape in October. The city's 1% sales tax for its general fund brought in $7,662.59, up $2,116.83, or 38%. It was the best October since the city split its two one-cent sales taxes into three different taxes in 2010. Income was up by more than $4,000 for the month. For the year, Purdy's three sales taxes have brought in nearly $10,000, or 10%, more to city coffers.

Wheaton's 1% general fund tax received $4,060.37 in October, down $716.11 from a year ago. However, the city's half-cent tax brought in 45% of the one-cent instead of 50%. Use tax receipts were down 19% for the month. That meant total tax income for Wheaton ended up down nearly $1,300, or 16%. It was the fourth drop in income for Wheaton in six months, putting the 2026 sum, including the use tax, down $4,200, or 4%, for the year.

Washburn saw its third drop in four months. The city's 1% sales tax for its general fund yielded $2,062.63, down $1,242.49, or 38%, from last October. Washburn's use tax was down by $400 more. For the year, Washburn's tax collections are ahead by $1,500 because of two months of suspended collections in 2025.

Exeter's 1% sales tax paying general bills took in $1,659.50, down $735.93 from last October, the third drop in five months. Exeter's use tax was up slightly, putting the 2026 total for the two taxes ahead of last year by nearly $5,000.

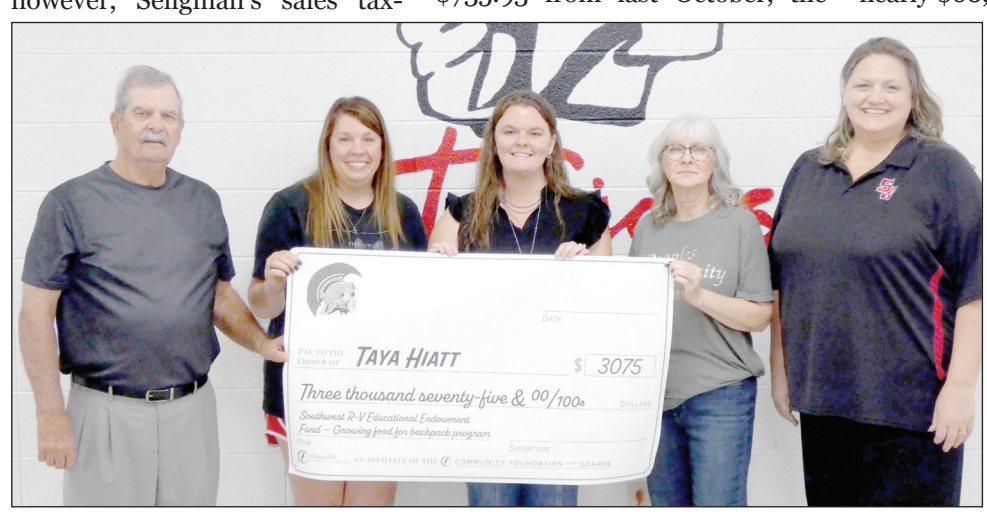
Of all the bi-county cities, Monett had the biggest general fund drop for the month and the biggest surge in its use tax income. Monett's two sales taxes for its general fund at 1% produced $195,651.70, down $16,712.86, or 8%, for October. It's still the third highest October on record.

The city's use tax income, however, grew by more than $47,000. That pushed the total monthly income from Monett's five active sales taxes and its use tax more than $9,000 higher than last October. For the year, Monett's tax income is up by more than $490,000, or 9%.

Countywide taxes shared the municipal trend with lower numbers.

Barry County's two older half-cent taxes for its general fund and road maintenance each received $211,377, down $37,988, or 15%, from last October. It was the first drop in 2026. The county's use tax, at the same time, shot up by nearly $80,000. For the month, total tax income was down by more than $44,000. Gains from the rest of the year made the 2026 sum up by more than $914,000, or 9.5%.

The .375% sales tax supporting central dispatching and 911 service that goes to the Emergency Services Board yielded $158,533.28 in October, down $28,482.70, or 15%, from a year ago. The 2026 total is still ahead of last year by nearly $60,000.



Southwest High School agriculture instructor Taya Hiatt, center, received $3,075 from the education fund to purchase an automated hydroponics system and building materials. Hiatt is pictured with committee members, from left: Jim Roe, Peggy Shrum, Janet Lawrence and Chair Angela Seymour.
Contributed photo

Southwest Education Fund awards $10,000 in grants

The Southwest Education Fund recently awarded more than $10,000 for new innovative programs in literacy, bullying prevention, listening skills, and food production, according to Angela Seymour, Chair of the Committee.

The committee was made up of community members Janet Lawrence, Jim Roe, Peggy Shrum, and Kati Rose.

"The actual amount requested was $10,701.94, and we had $10,109," said Seymour. "We were so close to funding all of our requests and did not want to leave anybody out, so the committee decided to go to the community and raise the remaining $600 in order to fund all 10 projects, which is amazing."

Agricultural educator Taya Haitt requested $3,075 for an automated hydroponics system and building materials for raised planter beds to help grow fresh produce for the school's Backpack Program that provides additional food for more than 30 families in the district.

"Students will apply skills in agriculture, science, math, and nutrition, and our underserved families will benefit from fresh food grown on campus," Hiatt said.

Middle School Principal Christy Hermansen and Counselor Lauren Lumpkins together requested $2,000 for an anti-bullying program. November is National Bullying Prevention Month, and the middle school will participate in a Think Before You Post program. Hermansen said the presentation does not discourage students' presence on social media but rather challenges them to think critically about how online actions can affect relationships.

High school teachers Ashley Roe and Linda Morgan teamed up to request $2,900 for math and literacy in the real-world programs. The materials focus on practical problem-solving and strive to transfer classroom learning to adult life situations. The other teachers and counselors who earned funds included:

- Sheri Epling — middle school science testing platform ($274)
- Paula Rawlings — middle school literacy ($200)
- Rebekah Pike — middle school literacy ($235)
- Mackenzie Brooks — elementary bullying prevention ($500)
- Jordi Miller — high school bullying prevention ($1,000)
- Tacy Lawrence — pre-school listening center ($522)

Seymour said the fund was made possible by gifts from the community into an endowment fund through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Individuals and organizations wishing to make donations to this fund can do so through one-time donations, yearly donations, consider the foundation in estate planning, and attend fundraisers. People may contact Rachael Freeman at cassvillecf@cfozarks.org.



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CEP: Cassville cost would be $430K for all schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

price meals. We are currently in the second year of our four-year CEP cycle. We will continue monitoring the financial impact and evaluating whether the program remains sustainable for the district."

While the district receives reimbursements, Jordan said the CEP does not reimburse the district for all the costs it takes to provide free lunches for all students.

"We are receiving less revenue compared to the standard free and reduced lunch reimbursement program," he said. "In addition, food prices have increased, requiring us to supplement meal costs with general fund dollars. We are able to continue providing this benefit at present, but we are concerned about whether the revenue will be sufficient in the future. With the state discussing potential budget cuts, school districts are facing uncertainty about how we will continue paying teachers what they deserve while also providing the resources necessary to educate students at a high level."

Jordan said Exeter will continue providing free meals as long as the finances are sustainable. However, if expenses continue to rise and revenue declines, the district may have to reevaluate its participation.

"We continue to hear concerns about potential cuts to public education funding, and those concerns make long-term budgeting especially challenging," Jordan said.

Reception of the program has been positive among district patrons, Jordan said, with many families expressing their appreciation for the district's participation in the CEP.

"Given the economic challenges many families face, packing a lunch or paying for school meals can be a financial stretch," Jordan said. "We feel fortunate to be able to provide this opportunity to Exeter students and families, and we hope the program and its funding will continue to allow us to help families in this way."

Alongside the appreciation has been an increase in meals served, specifically at lunch.

"We initially saw a surge in the number of students eating school lunch," Jordan said. "Interestingly, participation in school breakfast did not increase significantly. Now in our second year of CEP, we have seen a slight additional increase in the number of students eating school lunch. One of the most positive aspects of the program is the direct benefit to families who may not have qualified for free meals under the previous system but still found it challenging to pay for school meals or purchase groceries to pack lunches from home."

Looking ahead, Jordan hopes to continue participation, but recognizes continuation hinges on finances.

"The Exeter school district was excited to be able to offer this support to our families," he said. "We recognize the tremendous benefit that free school meals provide to students and parents. At the same time, we must be responsible stewards of district resources. With public education funding facing significant uncertainty, we have to carefully monitor the program's financial sustainability. We want to continue providing this benefit, but we cannot do so indefinitely if the funding necessary to support it is not available."

Chris Conyac, superintendent at Shell Knob No. 78, which serves kindergartners to eighth grade, said Shell Knob has been part of the CEP program since the 2021-2022 school year.

"This has been a significant benefit to our students and families," Conyac said.

Financial feasibility proved to be a key factor for other Barry County schools and their decisions to pass on the CEP.

Merlyn Johnson, Cassville superintendent, said Cassville's district-wide ISP is at 22.2%, just below the eligibility threshold. To break even financially, the district would need to be at 62.5%. If it qualified as a district, Cassville would spend $430,982.28 out of its general fund to provide free meals, according to a CEP calculator provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Cassville's primary and intermediate schools do qualify by themselves, but according to the calculator, the district would absorb $183,779.28 in meal costs over the course of this school year.

If Cassville were to participate, absorption costs would be paid through Fund 1, which has a budget of $10,003,318 this year.

"Though a partial approach reduces the deficit significantly compared to district-wide participation, it still creates an unfunded liability of $22,689 per active serving month," Johnson said.

Johnson added Cassville will continue to track data across its campuses annually and reevaluate if metrics shift to provide a break-even or net-positive return.

At the Wheaton school district, Superintendent Alyssa Kennedy, who assumed the role from Chris Paullus in July], said the CEP was evaluated in the spring to see if participation would be sustainable.

"After utilizing the DESE online tool to project the financial impact of transitioning to CEP, we estimated that the district would experience a reduction in revenue of approximately $15,000 to $18,000 for the upcoming school year," she said. "Based on our current financial structure and budget limitations, Mr. Paullus and I determined that transitioning to CEP was not financially feasible for the 2026-2027 school year.

"As a district, we remain committed to providing nutritious meals to our students while making fiscally responsible decisions that support the long-term financial stability of Wheaton."

Wheaton's food preparation and dispensing services budget is $390,270 for the year, which accounts for about 7% of the district's overall budget.

"We utilize Opaa! for our food service management company, so a major portion of that is our contract with them," Kennedy said. "At this point, it would be a challenge to hire and pay employees without utilizing a FSMC, and we would most likely pay more in the end to manage things ourselves."

Kennedy said to make a move to CEP, the district would have to be in the same ballpark budget-wise, and, like Johnson, also said her district plans to keep an eye on its metrics moving forward.

"If Wheaton qualifies for the CEP in a future school year, we will revisit the program and compare it with our existing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) models," she said. "We will evaluate the financial impact and available funding before determining whether a transition would be appropriate for our district. Ultimately, I want to make the best decision for students in our district while also being fiscally responsible with where we are at funding wise."

At Purdy, Superintendent Travis Graham said his district has looked into the CEP over the last few years, but eligibility and fiscal limitations prevent participation.

"At this time our district, according to what I found, is not eligible," he said. "However, if we were when looking at the calculation tool on whether CEP or traditional is better, we are better off doing traditional. In summary, CEP is not a program we are looking at participating in, as I do not believe it would be fiscally best for our district."

Tosha Tilford, Southwest superintendent, did not respond to emails for comment.

Barry County Health Corner

Family health services offered at Barry County Health Department

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

Women's Health Services

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

Show-Me Healthy Women

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

Family Planning Services

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

Birth Control

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

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

ALL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ARE COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

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

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COMMENTARY

PUBLISHER'S VIEW

A Rally to remember



KYLE TROUTMAN

On Monday, I attended the Barry County Republican Rally at Cassville High School, a veritable who's who of the politically minded and a consistent draw of state- and national-level politicians.

Last year, Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway attended the event, which served as a campaign kick-off for State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick, Barry County native, as well as U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison. This year, Burlison attended again — as did Fitzpatrick, who was up for reelection on Tuesday — and they were joined by Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins.

It's notable, and was noted at the event, the Barry County Republican Rally has a knack for drawing state-level politicians on the eves of general elections, but my favorite part of this recurring event is the faces you see from years past.

It's always nice to rub shoulders again, even if for just a moment, with folks like former Presiding Commissioner Cherry Warren, former Collector Janice Varner, former Clerk Gary Youngblood and former Judge Victor Head.

The event is always well-attended by the Republican-interested public, as well. I did not perform a head count, but I'd estimate around 200 people attended Monday's Rally. Every time one is held, there are very few free seats.

Though some joke they expressly come for the free meal of brisket, pulled pork and all the appropriate sides, what attendees really come for is to hear the speakers — and learn what they may not without seeing them in person.

This year's event began with State Rep. Scott Cupps, successor to Fitzpatrick in the State House who was up for his final term on Tuesday. Cupps is ever the conversationalist and is exceptional at working the crowd. Though his time is shorter than his state and national political colleagues, his most significant point was that in his final term, he aims to expose some of the shenanigans in Jefferson City, an effort he described as being "unhinged" in his last two years.

I'm not up enough on state-level politics to know what goals Cupps hopes to achieve, but I'm interested to see where that train is headed.

Following Cupps was Hoskins, who delved into the Amendments on the Tuesday ballot and their importance — delivering the night's mantra of "No on 6, yes on the rest."

Most interestingly in Hoskins' talk was his recounting of the state versus federal court orders he received regarding the state's congressional maps. After being summoned to Missouri Supreme Court for contempt, Hoskins said he was prepared that day to go to jail for hours, days, weeks or months for following the federal court order over the state's — and even as a neutral observer, that story of dedication was impressive.

Hoskins then introduced Burlison, whose most interesting points centered on national politics, namely his "The Great American Healthcare Plan," which received its name from President Donald Trump on account of the plan containing many elements meeting Trump's approval. I was not familiar with the plan, described as a Health Savings Account accessible to any American. After hearing him speak on it, it's a plan I plan to research.

Another notable Burlison point was the state of the economy. Even though it hurts at the pump and the grocery store now, Burlison was optimistic about the future, pointing toward manufacturing having left for countries like China now making their way back to the States, and how flat-bed truck production is seeing a spike, which is indicative of an increase in things like heavy equipment and supplies needing transported, which creates jobs and a stronger economy.

Finally, Fitzpatrick took to the stage, immediately making light of how his campaign banner taped to the wall behind the lectern was continually falling down all night at one corner.

"I don't know who let the Democrats in here to put soap on the wall so my sign wouldn't stay up," he quipped.

Well played, Scott.

After addressing some of the amendments and their implications, Fitzpatrick lauded some of his successes as state auditor, rooting out illegal spending in cities and schools, as well as his efforts to streamline Medicare and other state-level work to reduce waste and raise the value of the Missouri taxpayer's dollar.

While the auditor's office could be made political, he said, the real role of the position is to make that dollar more valuable. It would be a chore to prove Fitzpatrick has not achieved that goal throughout his time in the auditor's office, no matter your political leanings.

There's also not much question that whatever Fitzpatrick decides to do after leaving the auditor's office, his political future is on track to be exceptionally bright if he chooses to continue climbing.

Chatting with him while the attendees were starting to get their meals, Fitzpatrick mentioned how a number of people sent him a clip from the Democrat's Oct. 21 "Through the Years" segment.

Part of that week's segment was an "If I were President..." feature from 30 years ago, when as a third-grader, Fitzpatrick replied, "I would study and try to solve the racial problems and gang problems."

Apparently, that question was posed to him a week after the death of Tupac Shakur, which at age 8 or 9, he said, may have held more importance in his life.

Who knows, Scott? Maybe in the future, those problems will be worth tackling again.

If tonight, and past rallies, have shown anything, it's that Republican support in Barry County remains exceptionally strong. Though I am writing this on Monday prior to the election, I have no doubt the GOP in Barry county will continue to flex its muscle each and every election. That consistency and support may prove pivotal in the future for each of the speakers in the high school commons.

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

Chili and community — The joy of America's Real Hometown



JON HORNER

I've said it many times, and I'm sure some will think I'm a tad bit impartial, but, there is something special about America's Real Hometown, also known as Cassville, Missouri.

And, one of the times that it feels extra special is the week of the Chili Cook Off and The Show.

On the surface to those who don't live here or those who have never been to the events, Chili Cook Off and The Show might seem like ordinary events. Just gather up some cooks, stir up some competition, serve plenty of chili and enjoy a day together.

But, anyone who has ever attended knows it is about so much more than what is simmering in the pot. It is a celebration of community, connection, and the people who make our hometown special.

For one day, the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce, businesses, churches, community organizations, families and friends come together for a common purpose. Some bring their favorite chili recipes, hoping to earn bragging rights. Others come to sample the different creations, visit with friends, support local organizations or simply enjoy the atmosphere.

There is laughter, friendly competition, good food and the unmistakable feeling that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

That is what makes this gathering true Americana.

I have always been a big proponent that small towns are the heart and soul of America. They are places where people volunteer their time, businesses invest in their communities, churches serve their neighbors and organizations work to make life better for everyone. These efforts may not always make the headlines, but they make a lasting difference in the lives of the people who call these communities home.

Our chili cook-off puts that spirit on full display. It brings together people from different walks of life and reminds us that, despite our busy schedules and everyday responsibilities, we still value the simple pleasure of being together.

We can set aside our differences, especially during an election year, and enjoy the company of friends and neighbors.

The real winners of our chili cook-off are not necessarily the cooks who take home the trophies. The real winners are the children who grow up experiencing these traditions, the organizations that strengthen their ties to the community, the businesses that support our town and those who grew up here — who have the opportunity to once again visit their hometown — and leave with a few new memories of a place they once called home.

So, following our gathering for another year of good food, friendly competition, and hometown fellowship let us celebrate what we have. Let us appreciate the dedicated volunteers, participants, sponsors and community organizations who made that day possible.

I am forever thankful for the contributions of Greg and Brenda Beck, who have led The Show for the past 33 years. I will never forget that day in late 1992 when Greg came to me with this idea for a music and comedy show. I'm so thankful that I believed in Greg's concept.

I will never forget October 1, 1993, when the inaugural Show opened with Michael LeCompte bringing down the house as Jake Blues.

The Show has never turned back since.

The Show and the Chili Cook-Off have brought joy to thousands during the past three decades. Those events remind us that the joy of America is not found only in its big cities or famous landmarks. Sometimes, it is found right here at home, around a bowl of chili, or at a local community music and comedy show, among friends and neighbors who remind us what community really means.

That is the beauty of America's Real Hometown. And that is something worth celebrating.

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

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COMMUNITY VOICES

Clay, rocks, and answers: Enrolling in Missouri's Master Gardener course

Last year, I decided to enroll in the Missouri Master Gardener course.

Seeking practical answers for my own yard and garden, I contacted the Barry County Extension Office and spoke with administrative assistant Jeanne Strange, who introduced me to the Barry County Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardener online core training is a semester-long course organized into weekly learning modules. It follows the University of Missouri's fall and spring academic calendar and is offered through the Extension Division. The course does not carry official university credit.

Timing worked in my favor, so I enrolled for the spring semester. That decision proved valuable. The curriculum addresses Missouri-specific conditions — something I could not fully appreciate while living in South Dakota. There, I never contended with the mostly clay "rocky soil" or "dirty rocks" and minimal topsoil.

The program's mission is straightforward: participants acquire a working knowledge of the fundamental principles of plant growth and development, apply those concepts to everyday horticultural situations, learn the basic terminology of the art and science of horticulture, and develop an appreciation of gardening as a lifelong pursuit.

Each week covers one chapter of the Master Gardener Core Manual. Lessons include unit objectives, online presentations, an "Above & Beyond" activity (typically one to two hours), recommended web resources, an online discussion and an open-book quiz.

Two kinds of students take the class. Some are Master Gardener trainees willing to volunteer on community projects and help educate others. Others are private individuals or industry professionals who simply want to deepen their horticultural knowledge and carry no volunteer obligation.

For a quick overview, search YouTube for "University of Missouri Extension Missouri Master Gardener Program." The Barry County MG Chapter is sponsoring 4 – 50/50 ($100) scholarships to those that are interested in becoming a MG and will join the local chapter. You will be assigned a local chapter mentor to help you get started upon completion.

The spring course runs from Jan. 18, 2027, through April 14, 2027. Registration opens Nov. 16 and closes Jan 16, 2027, by 5 p.m. Sign up at: https://extension.missouri.edu/courses/missouri-master-gardener-online-core-training-spring-2027. Tuition is $200. Contact kellyd@missouri.edu for any further questions you may have.

If you would like to apply for one of the local scholarships, call 417-342-2989 and leave a message no later than Nov. 15. I'll call you back to discuss the questions on the application.

Like many people, I turned to YouTube for advice. Those videos are helpful, yet they rarely account for the specific variables each gardener faces whether it is a single indoor plant, flower bed, fruit trees, vegetable garden or lawn care.

I look forward to learning from people who have years of experience with native flora, flowers, vegetable gardening, landscaping, yard care, tree care, and more. If you have any interest in plants, this journey is worth taking.

You will not leave with every answer, yet you will gain a solid foundation in the principles of plant growth and development and know where to turn for reliable resources.

Nancy Walsh recently became a Master Gardener. She may be reached at 417-342-2989.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Given the economic challenges many families face, packing a lunch or paying for school meals can be a financial stretch. We feel fortunate to be able to provide this opportunity to Exeter students and families, and we hope the program and its funding will continue to allow us to help families in this way."

— TIM JORDAN, EXETER SUPERINTENDENT, ON THE DISTRICT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION, WHICH ALLOWS STUDENTS TO GET BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR FREE

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50 years ago

Nov. 10, 1976

– OFFICIAL VOTE TALLY TOOK CARTER'S 93 VOTE PLURALITY

The official tabulation of Barry County ballots in the November 2 general election erased President-elect Jimmy Carter's slim 93-vote winning margin. County Clerk Howard Bounous said a mistake in unofficial reporting of Purdy township ballots resulted in President Ford carrying Barry County by seven votes. No other majorities changed in the voting as officially recorded in the final tally. Bounous noted that state reports of the election, officially tabulated, also produced no changes. Incumbents prevailed in county races. Northern Judge Dick Sanders and Southern Judge Lige Frost retained their seats on the county administrative body. Prosecuting attorney Dale Burke, unopposed in either the primary or general election, was returned. Also renamed without opposition were Assessor Glen Nicoll, Coroner Doyle Williamson and Public Administrator Jack Byrd. Barry County's hottest race was for sheriff. Incumbent Vernon Still, who had weathered a primary battle, outpolled his challenger, Robert Johnson of Golden, by just over 900 votes. Bounous noted in election figures of the area that Barry Countians turned out in larger than normal numbers to cast their ballots. There were just over 10,000 votes cast from the 13,026 registered voters eligible to make the trip to the polls. This turnout represented 78%. Largest vote getter in the contested races was Congressman Gene Taylor, who won his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He received a total of 6,396 votes. Attorney General John Danforth attracted 6,247 votes in his bid for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Senator Stuart Symington. The official count of ballots voted did not change Amendment proposals in this county. Barry Countians said no to the Conservation proposal, which was passed in the state. Countians followed the trend in beating a plan to remove sales tax from food and drugs. The county did not follow the state on Proposition One, to prohibit charging of utility costs before completion of facilities.

– FIRE INDEX IN FORESTS RATED HIGH

Concerned about the larger number of people who will be in area forests over the coming weekend, Ranger Jim Roles of the Cassville district of Mark Twain National Forests this week rated fire dangers as high. Preparations which began in October are complete just for such a time as this, the ranger said. Moisture since October has not been sufficient to keep the hillsides damp. Roles and crews of the Cassville station have fire crews and equipment in shape in the event of an emergency. Fire Technician of the District, Ron Wihebrink, under direction of Assistant Ranger Dave Reiter, has one primary fire crew in readiness. Included are Lavern Ray, Rick Linebarger and Jim Henson. A backup crew consists of Monty Woods, Chester Ray and Jim D. Henson. This group has recently received training in techniques, equipment, radio, first aid and law enforcement procedures. Paul Curry, veteran technician with the district, is fire dispatcher. Fire ratings in the district, which at this point are high, are maintained daily. Their basis includes weather, humidity, fuel moisture, wind, ground vegetation conditions and man's use of the forests. Deer season, opening Saturday, will increase the fire factor due to anticipated hundreds of hunters being in the area. Fire prevention activities in the district are apparently successful, with good cooperation from the public. Roles said the Cassville district has one of the best fire occurrence records of the Mark Twain forest. With over 90,000 acres of national and private land protected by the district, only about six wildfires per year have been recorded. Dry ground conditions can be particularly serious when damage to soil and trees is a factor, and readily kill plant and tree roots. Normally, late-fall fires race across the dry layer of leaves but seldom kill the large trees. Things could be different this fall as forest fires burn deep in dry conditions. Last fall, deer hunters in the Cassville area participated in a fine record of low fire occurrence. The 1975 deer season brought with it very dry conditions. Fire crews were standing by and prevention contacts were the rule of the day. In the end, Cassville District fire attack crews had to suppress only two fires. Hopefully, users of the Mark Twain will cooperate as well this fall.



40 YEARS AGO: LOTS OF BURPS — Not really, explains Ralph Shaw of Eagle Rock, grower of this large Chinese radish. The vegetable, which tastes quite good, was 21 inches long and weighed seven and one-half pounds. Shaw's garden at Eagle Rock produced a number of the veggies. The retired resort operator on Table Rock Lake said his family enjoyed the radish, which obviously will produce enough for a large size salad. Democrat file photo

40 years ago

Nov. 12, 1986

– COUNTY'S MARIJUANA CROP LOW QUALITY

Barry County was included in a crackdown of marijuana growing this summer, according to the Missouri Highway Patrol. In Troop D area, the patrol estimates law enforcement agencies destroyed more than $25 million worth of plants during the growing season this summer. Sheriff Jim Hopkins, whose department cooperated in the effort, said the number of "pulling parties" this year was down considerably over previous seasons. He said about 10 involvements included his department, with the patches rated as small. While a total of 3,000 plants were removed, Hopkins said the quality of the crop was low this year. "This indicates growers weren't taking care of their crop all that good," the sheriff said. Hopkins credited the majority of instances where officers removed the drug as being the result of citizen information. "That's where we have to get cooperation, since our force is reduced, informants or those who see the plots in area woods give us a big chance to rid the area of marijuana," the sheriff said. In the patrol area, 41,000 pounds were seized out of 72 fields in the 18 counties.

– COUNTY SHOULD STAY IN DEBT, BORROWING LIMITATIONS

November payday by county government will be a big one, with approximately $15,000 in election costs due, but "Barry County should stay within borrowing limits this year," says presiding commissioner Lloyd Dilbeck. The presiding commissioner, who was reviewing costs operating county government last month with clerk Rex Stumpff Monday, said the commission wouldn't make decisions on borrowing until all bills were received. Borrowing to date amounts to $152,304 plus interest. The interest rate is variable. The county has been borrowing to operate government throughout this year. Reassessment charges, loss of Federal Revenue Sharing, preceding courts spending general revenue funds for road purposes, failure to withhold government-level shares for reassessment, and normal yearly increases took the county out of a cash-business basis. Dilbeck said this week the county was limited to borrowing $225,000 against this year's tax receipts. And loans are limited to no more than $25,800 each month. While tax collections for the year are underway, Dilbeck said none could be used, due to the obligation to repay current loans. Misha Hull, collector of revenue, said it would be after the first of the year before county funds would be available. She said normally, collections for general revenue run about $255,106, without railroad and utility charges. Mrs. Hull had about 32,000 statements out last week, with taxes now due and payable. Penalties will commence after Dec. 31. The collector said Barry County stood a good chance of losing additional revenue this year, with State Tax Commission-ordered reductions in railroad and utility tax assessments. The $14,000 received in taxes through this division last year will probably be somewhat lower when this year is over. The collector's office is open each weekday through the noon hour to accommodate taxpayers. Dilbeck said county officials would begin the first part of December in making 1987 budget preparations. He said obviously the county would have little tax funds remaining when total collections were received. If the limit of $225,000 is borrowed to complete the year, this amount is about what total will be received in general revenue receipts.

30 years ago

Nov. 6, 1996

– COUNTY VOTERS ELECT EPPERLY NEW SHERIFF

In watched races in Barry County, the Republican candidate for sheriff, Mick Epperly, soundly defeated incumbent Ralph Hendrix by a vote of 6,858 to 4,792 in Tuesday's general election. Epperly managed to capture 58 percent of the vote to unseat Hendrix. According to Don Cupps, chairman of the County Democratic Committee, there hasn't been a Barry County sheriff elected to a third term since 1964. Hendrix was elected to his second four-year term in 1992 by swamping challenger Brian Martin by a margin of 2,415 votes. This election, Epperly carried 17 of the county's 21 precincts. Hendrix won in four: Ash, Exeter, Sugar Creek and Washburn. Epperly, who lives in Shell Knob, had the strongest voter margins in the lake area. In the only other contested county race, Red Edens held onto his southern commissioner's seat by defeating Republican challenger John Sullivan. Edens, who will be the only Democrat holding county office in 1997, beat Sullivan by a vote of 3,526 (54 percent) to 3,004 (46 percent) to claim his fourth term as southern commissioner. In the race for State Representative in the 131st District, county voters sent Republican Sam Gaskill back to Jefferson City for his second term. Gaskill defeated former county clerk Rex Stumpff by a vote of 5,059 (54 percent) to 4,141 (45 percent). Gaskill also carried McDonald County by a vote of 1,831 to 749 for Stumpff. County voters overwhelmingly chose Republican Doyle Childers over Democrat D.J. Gross to fill the 29th District Senate seat vacated by retiring Senator Emory Melton. Childers received 6,778 votes (59 percent) compared to Gross's 4,700 (40 percent). Barry Countians followed the district-wide trend by picking Republican Roy Blunt over Democrat Ruth Bamberger by a two-to-one margin for the 7th Congressional seat. Blunt picked up 7,507 votes (64 percent) in the county, compared to Bamberger's 3,774 (32 percent). He will replace Mel Hancock, who announced his retirement this year after serving two terms in Washington. Shell Knob School District voters approved a $415,000 school bond issue to add eight new classrooms to the existing facility. The issue received 600 "yes" votes and 434 "no" votes. Residents in the city of Exeter rejected a phone license tax by a vote of 152 against and 56 for the issue. In a special election for a Monett city council seat, Rex Lane won over Deborah Schoen, 1,218 to 1,151. In Barry County, there were 816 votes cast for Lane and 695 for Schoen, who fought for a new election after narrowly losing the race in April. Local voters casting ballots in the statewide races followed Republican lines in all but two races. Vote totals in the county are listed below by national and state office. • President/Vice President: Barry Countians cast 5,855 votes for the Bob Dole/Jack Kemp ticket, and 4,352 for the Bill Clinton/Al Gore ticket. There were 1,494 votes cast for Ross Perot, 46 for Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, 46 for Howard Phillips, the candidate for the U.S. Taxpayers' Party, and six for John Hagelin, the Natural Law candidate. • Governor: County voters chose Republican candidate Margaret Kelly over incumbent Mel Carnahan by a vote of 6,574 to 4,859. Statewide, Carnahan won by claiming 57 percent of the vote. • Lieutenant Governor: Republican challenger Bill Kenney was the county choice for second in command at the state level. Kenney captured 6,690 votes in the county, compared to Roger Wilson's 4,287 votes. Statewide, Wilson was the winner. • State Treasurer: Democrat Bob Holden defeated Carl Bearden in the county by a vote of 5,755 to 5,147. Statewide, Holden was the winner. • Attorney General: In a close county race, incumbent Jay Nixon narrowly defeated Mark Bredemeier, 5,453 votes to 5,398. Statewide, Nixon was the leader. Local voters also soundly defeated Proposition A, which would have increased Missouri's minimum wage to the highest in the nation. The county tally showed local opposition was four-to-one against the measure. There were 8,693 voters who voted against the proposition, and 2,351 who voted in favor of the issue. Across the state, voters soundly rejected the issue. Amendment 8, which extends the 1/10-cent sales tax for parks and for soil and water conservation for another 10 years, received county voter support. There were 5,731 ballots cast in favor of the measure and 4,775 against. Statewide, the measure passed. A chart of election result totals is included on page 4 of the Cassville Democrat. Turnout at the polls was a little bit higher than predicted. According to precinct reports, 12,147 of the county's 18,270 voters made a trip to the polls — a 66 percent turnout. County Clerk Gary Youngblood said the voting percentage was actually more like 60 percent because there were at least 1,000 voters reactivated off of an "inactive list." Voters are labeled "inactive" if they fail to vote in a presidential election.

– END-OF-SEASON VISITATION AND TAG SALE STATS RELEASED FOR ROARING RIVER

Roaring River State Park ended its 1996 season with trout tag sales slightly lower than last year's near-record year. Hatchery Superintendent Jerry Dean said there were 115,050 trout tags sold from March 1 to Oct. 31 of this year. That total is only 1,109 tags, or roughly 1 percent, less than last year's tally, which set the park's second-highest record in overall tag sales. The record year was in 1994 when 122,779 tags were sold. Following park trends, July of this year proved to attract the most anglers to the park, with 19,265 tags sold during the month. March was the next busiest, with 18,336 tags sold. A chart showing monthly tag sales over a four-year period accompanies this article. The hatchery staff is currently preparing for the "no-creel season," which begins Nov. 8 and ends Feb. [text incomplete in original]. Overall visitation numbers at the park appear to be down, according to end-of-the-season statistics released by the park superintendent's office. Total visitors at Roaring River decreased by about 5 percent this year. There were 678,654 visitors recorded in 1996, compared to 707,803 in 1995. The 1994 season appeared to be a record year for the park, with 778,815 total visitors. While total visitation appeared to decline, the number of camping permits sold in 1996 increased from 21,017 in 1995 to 24,672 in 1996. This rise in camping numbers could be attributed in part to the fact that several of the camping areas were closed last season due to the severe storm and floods that hit the park in the spring of 1995. A more in-depth article looking at trends at the park over the past five years will be printed in next week's issue of the Cassville Democrat. Much of the information we have compiled was presented to the public at a meeting held Oct. 7. Landstad said 47 people attended the meeting, which he described as "very positive."

Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week

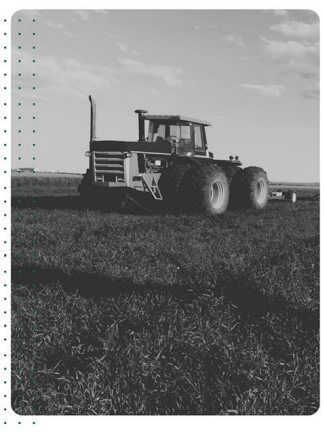
I 'm Squirttle, an 11-year-old Yorkshire Terrier with a striking black and red coat and a sharp mind to match. I'm neutered and ready for my forever home. I get along great with other dogs, so I'd be a fantastic companion in a multi-dog household. At just over 10 pounds, I'm the perfect petite package — aged to perfection and full of character! My adoption fee is $100, so come meet me and let's start our next adventure together! 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



FARMERS

Stay Safe in the Field

- Keep at least **10 feet from power lines** when using equipment.
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Obituaries



Brian Scott Foster

Brian Scott Foster, 57, of Eagle Rock, Mo. passed away Friday, October 23, 2026, at his home.

He was born May 7, 1969, in Washington D.C., the son of Dana and Janet (Dunavold) Foster, who preceded him in death.

Also preceding him in death was his infant daughter, Maia Brianna Foster.

Survivors include his wife Chrysi House; his sons, Daniel Brust II of Eagle Rock, Mo. and Luke Brust of Eagle Rock, Mo.; daughter, Kara Foster and husband Connor Peterson of Springdale, Ark.; brother, Shane Foster of Fargo, N.D.; sister, Wanda Stenerson of Jamestown, N.D.; one grandson, and numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He attended school in Fargo, N.D. He served in the United States Army during Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf War. He was employed by Informix and IBM as a software engineer and data specialist for 20 years.

A memorial service with military honors will be held at 12:30 P.M. Friday, November 6, 2026 at Fayetteville National Cemetery in Fayetteville, Arkansas, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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



Harley Lampman

Harley Lampman, 87, of Eagle Rock, Missouri, passed away October 29, 2026.

Harley and his wife, Mary, made their home in Eagle Rock for 18 years, enjoying their property overlooking Table Rock Lake and boating with family and friends. Following a career in radio management and ownership, Harley worked from his Eagle Rock home selling music and jingles for radio commercials to stations nationwide. A Spring Green, Wisconsin, native and U.S. Army veteran, he loved jazz and supported community fundraising, particularly for the Salvation Army, and was active in Sertoma.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 66 years, Mary; son, Dean (Michelle); grandson, Zachary (Erica); and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Betty Woldt, Berniece Burright (Mark), Doris Laufenberg, Joanne Neuheisel (Bob), and Dan Schmid (Gloria). His parents, Maurice and Frances, and brother, Larry, preceded him in death.

Memorial services with military honors will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville, Missouri, with Brother Tony Ball officiating. Private inurnment will be at Lake Park Memorial Gardens in Shell Knob, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army Citadel Corps Community Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

PAID OBITUARY

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Janice Peterson

Janice Peterson, 84, of Shell Knob, Mo., passed away on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at her home.

She was born on October 9, 1942, in Kansas City, Kan., to Clarence and Mary Milberger.

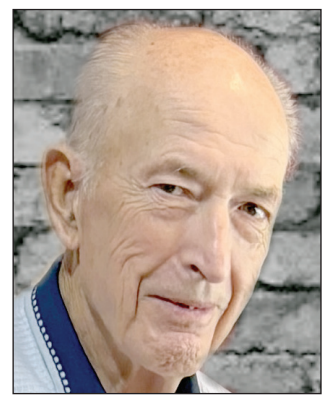
Survivors include her loving husband Michael; two sons, Michael Peterson and his wife Tammy of Shawnee, Kan., and Jeff Peterson of Shell Knob, Mo.; five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Whether she was tending to her garden, caring for her beloved rabbits, looking after her husband, or spending precious time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Janice was happiest when she was surrounded by the people and things she loved most.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, November 13, 2026, at 1:00 pm at White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, Mo. with Pastor Bill Kenagy officiating.

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

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



James Michael "Jim" Rapien

James Michael "Jim" Rapien, 87, of Cassville, Mo. passed away Monday, October 26, 2026 at Oak Pointe of Monett in Monett, Mo.

He was born April 23, 1939 in Grand Island, Neb., the son of John Richard and Pauline Marie (Liebsack) Rapien, who preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Brewer; his sons, Cory Rapien and wife Tanya of Cedar Falls, Iowa and Brett Rapien and wife Trisha of Cassville, Mo.; sisters, Constance Mehler and husband Frank of St. Louis, Mo. and Deborah Larmore and husband Daniel of Marshalltown, Iowa; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren, and special friends, Abby, Gabe, Joe and Michael.

He attended school in New London, Mo., graduating from New London High School. He continued his education at Western Illinois University then Utah State University in Logan, Utah, where he earned a master's degree in education. He dedicated many years to teaching and coaching at the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Community School District in Rockford, Iowa, from 1963 until his retirement in 2000. He and his wife, made their home in Cassville in 2013 after moving from Rudd, Iowa.

Services were held Friday, October 30, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Bryce Huddleston conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, Mo.

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Cassville, Missouri
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Brenda Sue Requa

Brenda Sue Requa, 68, of Cassville, Mo. passed away October 24, 2026, at her home.

She was born in Williamsburg, Ky., on September 1, 1958, the daughter of Johnny Huddleston and Mary (Wilson) Worley.

Preceding her in death was her parents, Johnny Huddleston, Mary Worley and Arnold "Red" Worley, the father who raised her, and her brothers, Hubert, Tommy, David, and Dale.

Survivors include her husband Walter Requa; her son, Jimmy Requa of Cassville, Mo.; her sister, Stacy Worley of Buford, N.C., and one granddaughter.

She grew up in the Seligman, Mo. area and attended Southwest High School. Following her education, she built a career in the healthcare field, working as a business office manager at several nursing homes for 35 years.

No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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



Erik Sanchez

Erik Sanchez, 44, of Fairview, Mo., passed away on October 25, 2026, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident outside of Granby, Mo.

He was born on August 7, 1982, in Melrose Park, Ill., to Arcadio and Elva (Nunez) Sanchez.

Survivors include his wife, Rosalba; one son, Alexander Sanchez of Wheaton, Mo.; two daughters, Catheren Sanchez and Nadia Sanchez both of Wheaton, Mo.; one grandson; his parents; two sisters Sonya Sanchez-Maldonado of Chicago, Ill., and Diana Sanchez of Monett, Mo.; and several nieces and nephews.

With a strong Catholic background, his faith was a meaningful part of his life and the foundation of the values he carried with him.

A funeral Mass was held on Friday, October 30, 2026, at St. Edwards Catholic Church in Cassville, Mo., with Father William Hodgson officiating. A visitation was held on Thursday, October 29, 2026, with a rosary at 6:00 p.m. at White Funeral Home and Crematory. Interment followed the Mass at Purdy City Cemetery in Purdy, Mo.

Memorials may be made to the family and will be entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, Mo.

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

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

~ THANK YOU ~

Thank you for the support and every act of kindness shown to us in our loss of Roger Stumpff. All the visits, prayers, hugs, calls, texts, flowers, cards, food, and donations to Russell Cemetery were greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Fohn Funeral Home and staff, Paul Wahlert, and Tony Ball for their patience in answering every question and letting us plan the perfect (although a little uncommon) service for our husband, dad, and Poppa. They executed every detail perfectly and helped us through this difficult time. We are beyond grateful. If you knew Roger, please continue to live by his example and always "Be Kind" and think of him every time you have ice cream.

Gaye Stumpff
Jason, Kara, Tanner & Tori Williams



Erma "Jean" (Hodges) Stinson

Erma "Jean" (Hodges) Stinson, age 88, of Cassville, Missouri passed away Saturday, October 24, 2026 at her home.

She was born June 4, 1938 in Washburn, Missouri, the daughter of Orville and Alice (Richardson) Hodges. On February 19, 1957 in Cassville, Missouri she was united in marriage to James Edward Stinson, who preceded her in death on December 7, 2003. Also preceding her in death were her parents; daughters, Kimberly Lynette Andrews and Janelle Stinson, and grandson Daniel Fennewald, as well as many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Surviving are her son, Mike Stinson and wife Paula of Bakersfield, Missouri; sisters, Betty Sellers of Cassville, Missouri and Patty Brown of Exeter, Missouri; son-in-law, Gary Andrews; grandson, Christopher Stinson; nephew, Brian Brown and wife Mashall of Texas; nieces, Lori Bond and husband Lance of Hawaii, Jan Thompson and husband Tom of Neosho, and Kelly Banks and husband Kevin of Cassville.

Jean attended school in Cassville, graduating from Cassville High School with the class of 1956. She became a born-again Christian at an early age. Jean loved the Lord and was a faithful follower and a longtime member of Sheperd's Chapel in Gravette, Arkansas. She was a military wife, they were stationed at several military bases in the States, and the family done a tour of duty in Stuttgart, Germany.

After retiring they settled with their family in Springfield, Missouri for several years before moving back to Cassville. Jean had a God given gift of playing several musical instruments and a beautiful voice. She played and sang with several bands over the years. The family called her a "tomboy" - there was never a tree too tall to climb nor a horse too wild to be ridden. Jean loved time spent with her family. She will be missed and will forever be in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved her.

Services were held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, October 29, 2026 at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Ralph Hilburn conducted the services. Burial was at Mineral Springs Cemetery in Cassville, Missouri.

The family received friends from 1:00 P.M. until service time Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Shepherd's Chapel in memory of Jean.

Paid obituary/ fohn sig, 44, of Fairview, Mo., passed away on October 25, 2026, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident outside of Granby, Mo.

He was born on August 7, 1982, in Melrose Park, Ill., to Arcadio and Elva (Nunez) Sanchez.

Survivors include his wife, Rosalba; one son, Alexander Sanchez of Wheaton, Mo.; two daughters, Catheren Sanchez and Nadia Sanchez both of Wheaton, Mo.; one grandson; his parents; two sisters Sonya Sanchez-Maldonado of Chicago, Ill., and Diana Sanchez of Monett, Mo.; and several nieces and nephews.

With a strong Catholic background, his faith was a meaningful part of his life and the foundation of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7A

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the values he carried with him.

A funeral Mass was held on Friday, October 30, 2026, at St. Edwards Catholic Church in Cassville, Mo., with Father William Hodgson officiating. A visitation was held on Thursday, October 29, 2026, with a rosary at 6:00 p.m. at White Funeral Home and Crematory. Interment followed the Mass at Purdy City Cemetery in Purdy, Mo.

Memorials may be made to the family and will be entrusted to White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, Mo.

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

White Funeral Home and Crematory
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Joan F "Susie" Brown

With great sorrow, the Brown family entrusted their mother, Joan F "Susie" Brown back to the care of her Creator on October 18, 2026.

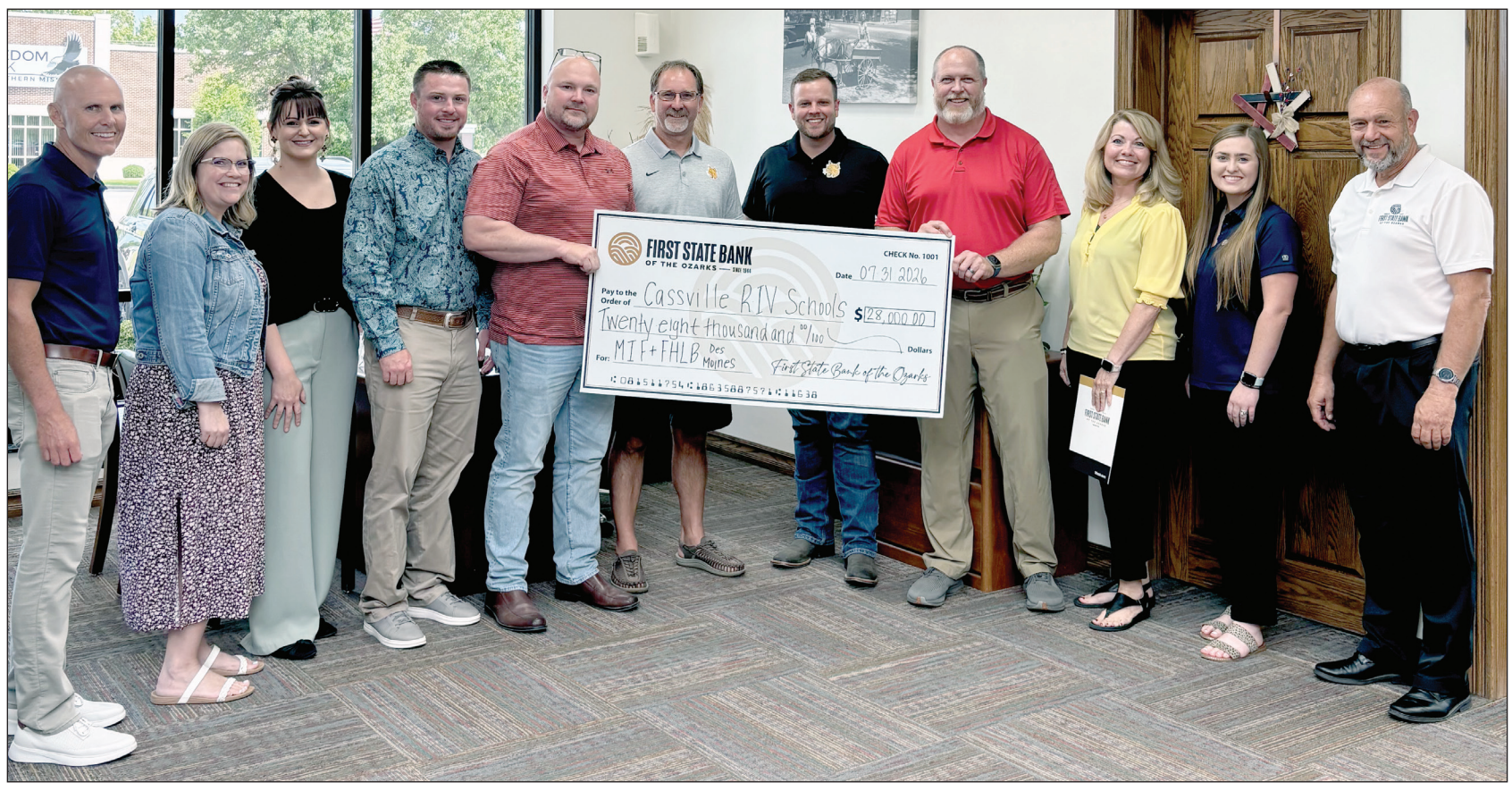
Celebration of Joan's life will be at a later date. In Lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Monett, MO. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett, MO.

Charles F. Leonard

Reverend Charles F. Leonard, of rural Pierce City, MO passed away November 1, 2026 after a brief illness.

Charles was born on July 19, 1936 in rural Pierce City.

Graveside services for Reverend Charles Leonard will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 6, 2026 at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Monett, MO. Reverend Gary Stockton will be officiating. The family will receive friends for visitation from 5-7:00 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in care of the funeral home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home in Monett, MO.



First State Bank of the Ozarks CEO Jeff Scott, First State Bank of the Ozarks Cassville Branch employees Elizabeth Lunsford, Miranda Spiva and Trey Rose, AVP, Cassville Board of Education Member Jeremy Marple, Cassville Activities Director Lance Parnell, Cassville High School Principal Tyler Willis, Cassville Board of Education member Dr. Chad Johnson, Cassville Assistant Superintendent Traci Mitchell , First State Bank of the Ozarks AVP Heather Windes and First State Bank President Randy Henderson. Contributed photo

First State Bank investment supports career exploration

The Cassville school district has received $28,000 from First State Bank of the Ozarks to support workforce development and career readiness opportunities for Cassville High School students.

The contribution was made possible through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' Member Impact Fund. Through the program, every $1 invested by First State Bank of the Ozarks was matched with an additional $3, multiplying the bank's local investment and providing $28,000 to Cassville Schools.

"We couldn't be more grateful for the extremely generous donation by First State Bank to Cassville Schools," said Tyler Willis, Cassville High School principal. "These funds have allowed us to continue serving the students of CHS with career exploration and planning classes, promoting our goal of preparing students for life after high school with workforce knowledge and skills."

The funding will support Career Exploration classes at CHS, where students have opportunities to learn about career pathways, develop practical workplace skills and begin building a plan for life after graduation.

Throughout the school year, the program plans to welcome guest speakers three to four times each month and provide students with opportunities to visit area businesses, trade schools, colleges and career-focused events. Students will also help prepare for this year's College and Career Fair which will take place this fall on campus at CHS.

In August, the district welcomed Scott Wenger to the teaching staff in a part-time role leading the Career Exploration course. Wenger has been a part of the Cassville Schools community for several years as a coach and brings extensive experience in both education and administration to his new role at Cassville.

Prior to joining the Wildcats, he served the Hollister School District for 27 years in various roles, including teaching science, health and physical education. He also held several leadership positions while at Hollister serving as athletic director, alternative school director and assistant high school principal.

The Career Exploration course is designed to help students better understand their interests and strengths, explore realistic career options, develop workplace and financial skills and prepare for employment, college or additional training. Monthly themes include: self-awareness, exploration, financial literacy, responsibility, communication, preparation, confidence, opportunity and purpose.

"I am excited for the opportunity to show our kids what eagerly awaits them after graduation and prepare them for the many possibilities they will have in front of them," Wenger said.

First State Bank of the Ozarks shared that supporting local communities is central to the bank's mission.

"Investing in local schools, first responders, and the communities we serve is more than just part of our mission, it's part of who we are," First State Bank stated in a social media post regarding the donation. "Community banking has always been about relationships, and opportunities like this allow us to give back in a meaningful way."

Through community partnerships, Cassville R-IV is able to provide students with meaningful experiences that connect classroom learning with future opportunities and help prepare them for success beyond high school.

Charge: Thomas being held on $50,000 cash only bond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

during those nights, she had touched the juvenile inappropriately, and on Sept. 10, allegedly admitted she went to the juvenile's residence and engaged in intercourse with the juvenile.

Berner said Thomas stated the interaction was consensual, and it was her idea.

Thomas was booked into the Barry County jail on Sept. 21 with a $50,000, cash-only bond. She was arraigned on Sept. 22 in the courtroom of Judge Robert Foulke, and on Sept. 24, bond modification was denied.

Following an Oct. 29 preliminary hearing, Thomas' case was bonded over to circuit court. Arraignment there is scheduled for Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Alan Blankenship.

Purdy: PTSO sets record for wrapping paper sales fundraiser at $5,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

measures, STAR testing for reading has been extended to all grades this year. A Response to Intervention program in math has been started, placing students in groups to address deficiencies.

The district does not screen for dyslexia, but does identify symptoms, suggesting more could be done there. Success Ready measures have now been extended to ninth grade. With interventionists now involved, Graham expected to see increased scores by mid-year.

"We're not that far off the state marker," Graham said. "We have a lot of work to do. We have the right people in the right places. It's just a matter of getting everything aligned. We're looking at the long run, how to get scores rising consistently. We're thinking vertical learning and keeping expectations high."

The year ahead issues

As for what goes on outside the district, Graham reported not much is known yet about the direction the Missouri General Assembly will take next session. The Missouri Association of Superintendents and its advocates have identified four key areas to watch. Appointing a state commissioner of education who has "little to no public school experience" could impact many areas.

The Monett district's discussion about switching to a 150-day school year would impact Purdy students attending the Scott Regional Technology Center. Purdy currently operates on a 162-day school year. Graham envisioned the district participating in talks to extend the Scott Tech year by five days to better accommodate sending schools. As an alternative, Purdy could also explore sending fewer students to Monett and offering internships through local businesses.

With Purdy generally starting conversations in November over the coming year's school calendar, proposed dates may wait on a decision from Monett about its calendar or see alternates suggested by the schedule discussion that leads to a February proposal before the board.

Reports

High school Principal Stephanie Heman reported the A+ program needed adjustment. Historically, Purdy students worked on qualifications in the junior and senior years. Heman was working with counselor Lindsay Hernandez to start efforts at the freshman level. She also found a math piece of the A+ packet came out during the pandemic and never went back in. Of the 19 scholarships given in 2026, only 10 met the math requirement, so that piece was being restored. Heman also wanted to revisit the good citizenship requirement.

Elementary Principal Julie Dalton talked about boosting reading skills by digging into literature and tailoring intervention strategies for greater effectiveness. Training in the Aspire literacy strategy is coming later this year, an approach Dalton believes the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will make mandatory in the future.

Dalton reported the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization raised more than $5,000 on a fundraiser selling wrapping paper, a record for the group. The fire department came to campus presenting fire safety sessions. The annual PTSO carnival was slated for Nov. 13.

Graham walked the board through potential budget revisions for the year, depending on state funding. Dropping the budget from $8.2 million to $7.9 million under worst-case scenarios would leave a $366,000 deficit. Graham worked off a state funding formula of $6,750 per students and has heard that may rise to $6,900, further easing the financial pressure. With updated information on federal revenue still not available, Graham thought the deficit would decrease.

Board members approved the budget and the early notice retirement incentive for those planning to close their careers during the present school year. Three paraprofessionals resigned and three were hired in their place.

The board will next meet on Nov. 19.



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Pictured is a homeless camp near the Fox Ridge neighborhood, which the city has since cleaned up. Contributed photo



Pictured is an area near Ken's Collision and Fox Ridge, where the city recently cleaned up a homeless camp. Contributed photo

Camps: City administrator encourages residents to secure their properties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

particularly noticeable rise during the last three months.

The city has worked with property owners on several encampment cleanups. Some of the first sites were relatively small, with one or two people using a tent, tarp or pallet to create a place to sleep in heavy brush, mostly along Flat Creek.

Other locations were larger, with multiple tents and evidence of several people staying at a site.

One of the first camps discovered was near White Funeral Home, Asbill said. Other sites addressed by the city included areas behind Ken's Collision and the former Justin Boot property, behind the Fox Ridge neighborhood, and along Flat Creek behind McDonald's and Sonic.

Asbill said officials contact the property owner to determine whether the owner is aware of the activity and whether anyone has permission to be there. Police officers then visit the site to determine whether anyone is present. With the property owner's permission, officers can issue trespassing notices to people who are staying there unauthorized.

Once an encampment is vacated, the city's Public Works Department then assists with cleanup.

"We're trying to work with our property owners," Asbill said. "We dispose of trash and other debris and try to do our best to clean that up and leave it better than when we found it."

The condition of some sites has been significant, he said. Officials have found separate areas used for sleeping and campfires, along with piles of discarded trash and belongings.



Pictured is a homeless camp near Ken's Collision Center and the former Justin Boot factory, which the city has since cleaned up. Contributed photo



Pictured is a homeless camp near Flat Creek, behind McDonald's and Sonic, which the city has since cleaned up. Contributed photo

Asbill said people staying at the camps frequently search through dumpsters and neighborhood trash cans, taking items they want and leaving the rest scattered around the property. He also expressed concern that some items found at camps may have been taken from unlocked garages or storage sheds.

"What we're finding on these camps, unfortunately, is that there's very little respect for the property owner," he said. "Complete disregard would probably be a better term."

The amount of debris has required substantial cleanup efforts.

"It's significant," he said. "We filled up one whole dumpster, a 4-yard dumpster, with just two of the camps."

Cleaning up an encampment does not necessarily mean the people staying there have left the city.

Asbill said the city does not formally track people experiencing homelessness, but officials have seen individuals relocate to other locations. The city has also received new reports of possible camps, some just outside of city limits, and is working to determine whether those reports are credible.

Officials recently became aware of locations outside city limits near Hilltop where people were reportedly staying in backyards with permission. Asbill said the city plans to contact property owners when appropriate and notify the Barry County Sheriff's Office so deputies are aware of the locations.

Another wrinkle in the effort is criminal status. One individual who is homeless is also a registered sex offender. Police Chief Donnie Privett said his department has submitted a Class A misdemeanor charge to Barry County Prosecutor Amy Boxx for Larry Brown, a registered sex offender who on Thursday was allegedly sitting on the sidewalk on Main Street across from Cassville Intermediate School for about 10 minutes. The charge is for "certain people not to be within 500 feet of a school," and a repeat offense could result in a felony charge.

According to online records, Brown was convicted of "lewd or indecent proposals or acts as to a child under 16" in March of 1997 in Guymon, Okla., when he was 27 and the victim was a 15-year-old female.

Brown was arrested by Cassville Police on Thursday and held in the Barry County jail for 24 hours, released on Friday. Privett said School Protection Officer John Lueckenhoff and a staff member at the school district were instrumental in alerting police of Brown's activity near the school.

For residents and business owners, Asbill said the first step is to know what is happening on their property.

"If you own a property, whether you're in the city or out of the city, you probably should go and just kind of take a quick survey of your property and know if anyone is accessing your property or camping on your property without your permission," he said.

Asbill recommended that property owners periodically inspect undeveloped land, wooded areas and other places where someone could establish a camp without being noticed.

Asbill also encouraged residents to secure garages, sheds and other storage areas, particularly when household items or equipment are kept outside.

"It's important to secure your property as best you can," he said.

The city has found household items and other belongings — including saddles — at camps that have been cleaned up.

Asbill also encouraged residents and businesses to report concerns rather than assume someone else has already contacted officials.

"If you have a lead or if you believe that there's something going on, call the non-emergency line (417-847-4111) and report it," he said. "If you feel that this is an emergency or you feel unsafe, call 9-1-1 and report it."

Communication is particularly important for businesses, he said. City officials have spoken with business owners and the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce about ways to reduce unauthorized access, including securing back doors and posting "no loitering" or "no trespassing" signs. Businesses also should keep dumpsters and trash cans on private property until collection whenever possible.

It is not illegal, Asbill said, for individuals to go through trash cans placed on the street. However, if the trash cans are accessed on private property, that can result in a trespassing charge.

Beyond property damage and litter, Asbill said the city is concerned about the potential public health effects of trash and waste being left in wooded areas and along Flat Creek.

"It's a significant public health issue because we have individuals that are just dumping trash into Flat Creek," Asbill said. "That's going to go downstream. It's going to be polluting things."

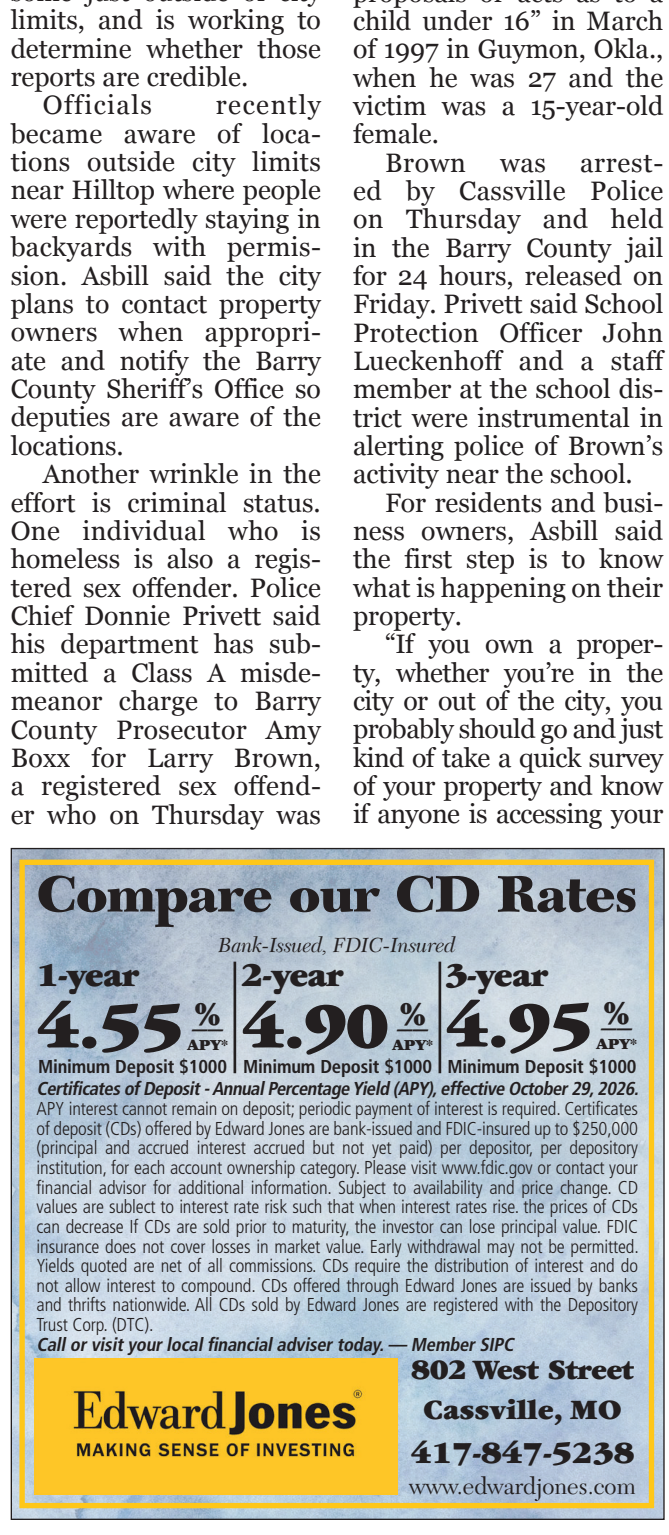
He also expressed concern about human waste being left near the creek and the possibility of it entering the water.

"No one wants to be in Flat Creek and know that upstream, people were dumping trash and human waste in," he said.

Asbill said the city's ultimate goal is to protect private property, address public safety and maintain the community's quality of life.

"A lot of people don't know what they can't see," he said. "We try to be as discreet as possible, but we're trying. I want our community to be safe, and I want to take pride in what we have here."







Sweet treats, big wins on Halloween



Brielle Handy may be only 22 months old, but her old lady costume had candy-givers fooled at the Cassville Mill Street Church of Christ Trunk or Treat on Saturday. With Brielle are her parents, Blane Handy and Megan Handy, of Monett. Delivering candy to the young elder was Janelle Kelley, at right. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Theodore Van Zant, 1, of Cassville, plays a round of cornhole for a candy prize at the Cassville First Christian Church Halloween event on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Hunter Cox, 5, of Exeter, as Sonic the Hedgehog, spins a Twister game board for a candy prize at the Cassville Mill Street Church of Christ Trunk. or Treat on Saturday. His sister, Lucy Cox, 2, watched as Hunter made his spin. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Twelve-year-old Kadence Keithley, center, of Exeter, went a perfect 3-for-3 in the seed toss game at the Cassville First Christian Church Halloween event on Saturday. Watching Kadence win were her brothers, Malachi Keithley, 2, Maverick Keithley, 2, and Patrick Keithley, 9. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



In his Shadow costume, Kayson Morgan, 5, of Garfield, Ark., played with the giant Connect 4 board at the Cassville First Christian Church Halloween event on Saturday. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Friends of the Library facilitate fun



Cash Davis, 10, of Cassville tosses a ring at a two-liter bottle while playing one of the games at the annual Friends of the Library Carnival at the Cassville Branch Library on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Carlie Lehman, 6, of Cassville, pets Nugget the bunny at the annual Friends of the Library Carnival at the Cassville Branch Library Oct. 24. Reanna Royalty, 15, of Golden, right, helped facilitate the petting zoo portion of the event. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



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Where: Monett City Park Casino
Tickets: $25 In Advance (available at the Museum, Bruner Pharmacy, Freedom Bank, and Flying V in Monett; Whitley's in Cassville); $30 on the day of the event
Proceeds: Go To Monett Historical Society And Museum

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Stars of Vegas shine at The Show!



Zona Stuppy helped introduce a song at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Autumn Smiley sings "Give Me the Simple Life" at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Taylor Ellis performs Kelly Clarkson's "My Life Would Suck Without You" at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



John Lueckenhoff, portraying Garth Brooks, sings "Much Too Young" at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Emma Elliot sings Patsy Cline's "Walking After Midnight" at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Leslie Smith, as Shania Twain, performs "Come On Over" at The Show, with a Viva Las Vegas theme, at the Cassville High School Performing Arts Center on Oct. 24. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

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CASSVILLE Democrat
NOVEMBER 4, 2026

SPORTS

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

WILDCATS FOOTBALL

Record: 8-1
Next up: No. 1 Cassville hosts No. 4 Mt. Vernon in the Class 3, District 6 semifinal
Playoffs: Other semifinal is No. 2 Seneca against No. 3 Nevada

Semis on tap

Wildcats host Mt. Vernon for shot at district title bout

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

It has been five weeks since the Cassville football team has heard the roar of its fans at its home stadium, and the Wildcats are hoping to get fans on their feet in a second matchup against Mt. Vernon — with the winner getting a shot at the district title.

The Wildcats faced the Mountaineers on Oct. 17 in Mt. Vernon, earning a 26-0 victory. Now, with a spot among the final 16 teams in the state on the line, Cassville Coach Clay Weldy said the focus is less on reinventing the game plan and more on executing the fundamentals.

"At this point in the season, everyone's kind of who they are," Weldy said. "There'll be some small wrinkles here and there in districts, but for the most part, you're trying to be the best version of yourself you can be and try to limit your mistakes. That's the biggest thing."

Weldy said with both teams knowing what to expect, execution and physical play is paramount. The extended stretch away from Wildcat Stadium has also made Friday's return especially meaningful, particularly for the senior class.

"When we play Friday, it will have been five weeks between home games," he said. "That's a long time. I've never had that kind of break in home games in my time in football. Our kids are excited to be back home and playing for our home crowd and just our home environment.

"I really hope that we have a great crowd Friday night. We've had a good season. It's been a while since we've been at home, so I hope people come out and support our guys."

Weldy said a strong crowd can make a difference in the atmosphere and provide an energy boost for the team.

"We've got one of the best environments around when we have a good crowd there," he said. "I hope they come out and hope they're loud. Our kids play really well in front of a good crowd."

As the top seed in the district Cassville received a bye last Friday, and Weldy said the coaching staff used the time to keep players engaged while allowing them to recover from the regular season.

With the playoffs underway, he said the stakes provide their own motivation.

"It's fun when you're now in playoff time and you know what's on the line," Weldy said. "If you lose, you're done. If you win, you're now going to be one of 16 teams left."

The week off also provided an opportunity for some players to recover from the normal bumps and bruises that accumulate over a season. Weldy said a few players who have been out could potentially return, though their availability will depend on how the week of practice goes.

As for the keys to victory against Mt. Vernon, Weldy pointed to the same standards he has emphasized throughout the year — physicality, effort and execution.

"Our big thing is we want to be the most physical team, the hardest-playing team and the team that makes the fewest mistakes," he said.

Ball security and penalties have been areas of concern in recent games, and Weldy said the Wildcats must clean up those issues Friday.

"We've been putting the ball on the ground a little bit offensively lately in the last few games," he said. "We've been having too many penalties, so we need to limit those kinds of errors and mental errors in alignment."

Kickoff on Friday is at 7 p.m. The winner will head to the district championship next week, meeting No. 2 Seneca or No. 4 Nevada.

LADY TROJANS FINE WITH 9



Southwest's Chrissy Stidam sets a ball for a teammate in a match at Southwest Volleyfest this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Southwest volleyball impresses in youthful season

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Southwest volleyball coach Steve Voyak gave his team a C-minus for the season, but the nine wins the Lady Trojans collected exceeded his expectations and provided a foundation for the future.

Southwest finished 9-25-1, closing the season with three consecutive home victories and winning two of its final three Ozark 7 Conference matches. Voyak said the team made significant strides despite having just one senior.

"I thought five wins was our ceiling, and we somehow got to nine wins," Voyak said. "That said, we had four freshmen in the rotation, and two juniors that were out of volleyball for a year and only one senior on the team, so nine wins was an overachievement."

Voyak said he was especially proud of the team's progress from the beginning of the season to its finish.

The biggest improvement came in Southwest's ability to attack and finish rallies. The Lady Trojans had 465 kills to replace from the 2025 team, and early in the season, they struggled to put the ball away. After making adjustments, the team finished with 345 kills, with its production improving over the final 10 matches.

Junior Emily Brooks led Southwest with 151 kills, doing so as an undersized middle, Voyak said. Junior Bri Taft finished with 100 kills after moving from right side to outside hitter about halfway through the season. Voyak said Taft's adjustment to the position gives him optimism heading into her senior year.

Freshman Brylee Cutberth added 51 kills while learning both middle and outside hitter positions. Voyak said she worked through the challenges without complaining, reduced her errors and continued asking questions.

"Her energy, athleticism and positive attitude make her future look really bright," he said. "I think she can triple that figure next season."

Serve reception was the area Voyak most wanted to see improve. Southwest showed it could perform well in that area, but stretches of inconsistent passing sometimes determined the outcome of a set.

Despite those struggles, Voyak praised the team's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

Record: 4-27-1
Last result: 3-0 loss to Crane in the Class 1, District 9 tournament
Future: First-year coach excited for culture being built in program

Lady Tigers look to future

Exeter volleyball team building culture in program

BY KYLE TROUTMAN
ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

The Exeter volleyball finished its first season under new Head Coach Jordy Long with a 4-27-1 record, however, Long believes the Lady Tigers are at the precipice of a bright future for the program.

Long gave the season a C grade, citing the team's ups and downs while emphasizing the progress players made in learning to work together and developing their skills.

"We had our ups and downs, and while the results were not exactly what we hoped for, I believe we are moving in the right direction," Long said. "We have things to build on, and I am proud of the girls for continuing to work and compete throughout the season."

Long said the team's biggest improvement came in its ability to function together on the court and continue developing the skills needed to compete. Although the Lady Tigers are still learning, he said they made progress from the beginning of the season to the end.

Consistency remained an area for improvement, particularly in passing, serving and communication.

"We had moments where we played well, but we needed to be able to maintain that level of play more consistently throughout matches," Long said.

Rather than pointing to one particular victory or highlight, Long said he was encouraged by the team's continuous competitiveness.

"What stands out to me most is seeing the girls continue to compete and work together, even when things did not go our way," he said. "Those moments showed me that we have a group that is willing to keep working, and that is something we can continue to build on moving forward."

The Lady Tigers' seniors provided experience and leadership throughout the season, helping establish expectations for younger players.

"They helped set the tone for the younger girls and played an important role in our program this season," he said.

With the seniors moving on, Exeter will look to its returning underclassmen to build on the varsity experience they gained this season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B

Lyons twins roar on to state



Freshmen twins Hattie Lyons (left photo) and Nathan Lyons (right photo) punched their tickets to the 2026 Cross Country Championship with their performances at the Class 3, District 2 Meet in Clever on Saturday. Hattie Lyons took 9th place in the girls' race in a time of 21:01.10, and Nathan Lyons took 13th place in the boys' race with a time of 17:08.30. Both will run in the Class 3 championship race on Friday at Gans Creek Cross Country Course in Columbia. The girls' race begins at 11 a.m., and the boys' race begins at 11:45 a.m. In other district results, Peyton Anderson was 77th for the boys race with a time of 20:33.20. For the Lady Wildcats, Lydia Cupps took 42nd in 24:03.30 Molly Cox was 43rd in 24:07.70, Brooklyn Krallman finished 67th in 29:57.60, and Elizabeth Fohn was 70th in 35:03.70. As a team, the Lady Wildcats finished in 8th place. Contributed photos



WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE







Cross Country

11/6	Class 3 State Championships (Columbia)	11:00 and 11:45 am	

Football

11/06	Mt. Vernon (C3, D6 Semis)	Home	7:00 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.

HELP NEEDED

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

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

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

YARD SALE

YARD SALE: At 19121 Farm Road 1110, Cassville, on Saturday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., household items due to remodel, Christmas decorations, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO KRISTYN FINOCCHIARO

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

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

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

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI CASSVILLE

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

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

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

———

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

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

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

Defendants, L. B. Corn, Opal Corn, Shirley Corn and Terry Corn if they shall be deceased, then their unknown heirs, grantees, consorts, spouses or successors of those of them who shall be deceased.

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

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

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

The names of all the parties to said suit are stated above in the caption hereof and the name and address of the attorney for Plaintiff is Harry D. Schwartz, P.O. Box 276, 702 West
Street, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition within 45 days after the 28th day of October, 2026 judgment by de fault will be rendered against you.

IT IS ORDERED that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville
Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of
Missouri.
1st Publication: October 28, 2026
2nd Publication: November 4, 2026
3rd Publication: November 11, 2026
4th Publication: November 18, 2026
A true copy from the record
WITNESS my hand and seal of the Circuit Court this 20th day of October, 2026.
CRAIG WILLIAMS,
Circuit Clerk
By Kami Stanton
Deputy Clerk
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI AT CASSVILLE

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to: KAYLEE STEPHENSON
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile
Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is guardianship of the minor children:
A.O.H. and A.X.H.
The names of all parties in this action are
LAWRENCE HOUSE,
SHEILA HOUSE and
BRITTEN HOUSE,
and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is
J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,
P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise
appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28th 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.
It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a
newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
A true copy from the record.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court on this 21st day of October, 2026.
First publication: October 28, 2026
Second Publication: November 4, 2026
Third Publication: November 11, 2026
Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026
Craig Williams,
Circuit Clerk
by S. Parker,
Probate Clerk
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI JUVENILE DIVISION

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

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
DEBRA KEISLING and JASON ALEX DUBSON, JR.
You are hereby notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Juvenile
Court of Barry County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is termination of parental rights and adoption of the minor child, O. R. D
The names of all parties in this action are JASON ALEX DUBSON, SR. and DEE ANN DUBSON, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is
J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,
P. O. Box 324, Cassville, Missouri 65625.
You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.
It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a
newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.
A true copy from the record.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 20th day of October, 2026.
Craig Williams
By Kami Stanton
CLERK
First publication: October 28, 2026
Second Publication: November 4, 2026
Third Publication: November 11, 2026
Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS BARRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

Bidders must provide two pricing options:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st insertion 11/04/26
43-44

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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

PROBATE

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

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

NOTICE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED (SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
JERRY ROBERT GAINES,
Decedent:
On October 1, 2026, the following individual was appointed the personal representative of the estate of
JERRY ROBERT GAINES, decedent, by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Barry County, Missouri.
The personal representative's name and business address is:
RICHARD HIMEBAUGH,
8734 FARM ROAD 2020,
MONETT, MO 65708.
The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
ANGELA C ARTHERTON,
10388 FARM ROAD 2172,
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
870-688-0619.

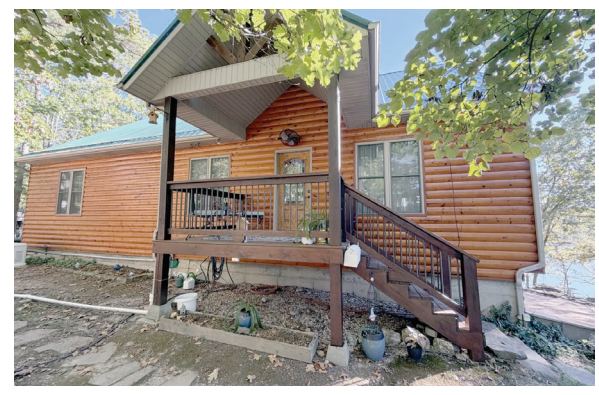
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, November 7, 2026 — 10 AM

Location: From Golden, Mo from junction 86 & J Hwy across from Shumaker tire, take J Hwy 1 m. stay straight on RA go 2.9 miles. Turn right on Farm Road 2260. Go 3/10 mile to auction. (26424 FR 1253 Golden, Mo 65748

Lake Front Real Estate — Boat Slip — Golf Cart — Furniture — Canoe — Household — Misc








Golf Cart: 2016 club car four passenger gas powered golf cart with a flip up backseat. **Canoe:** 2007 Bell canoe works prospector 16' Premium black/ gold carbon Kevlar. **Washer & Dryer:** LG Super capacity front load washer and dryer. **Furniture:** Cedar patio chairs, Cedar small entry table, Rustic hickory wood sofa (Rustic Timbers), Rustic hickory wood end table & sofa table (rustic timbers), Rustic bentwood hickory rocker, Rustic 54in. bentwood hickory table w/ six chairs, antique wood chair, antique wood rocker, wall table, Antique chair & footstool, glider rocker, antique dresser w/mirror, 3 barstools, quilt rack, mattress & box springs, 4 folding chairs. **Household:** Old ball jars, Pottery items, misc. kitchenware, Tubber ware, glassware, small plastic storage containers, Thomas Kinkade picture & frame, (2) small Thomas Kinkade pictures, carpenters' box, assorted pillows & linens, assorted tin signs, polaroid camera, assorted old cameras, old records, VCR. **Tools:** Milwaukee super Sawzall, Craftsman 6" Disc. Sander, Ladder, wheel barrel, Delta Band saw, sawhorses, misc. tools, McCullough mat cat chainsaw, Live trap. **Outdoor Furniture:** Cedar patio chairs, Patio swing, Patio table w/ 6 chairs, chaise lounge. **Misc.:** Stained glass windows, misc. yard ornaments, wash tub, San Sukie stereo turntable, Yakima racks, water toys, Kayak dolly, Insulators, Vyper scuba gear & wet suit, Stationary bike. **Hot tub:** Nordic Hot Tub **Real Estate:** Enter this home under a covered front entry into a nice open floor plan into the living area with vaulted ceiling with wood beams large ceiling fan open to the kitchen with Kenmore side by side refrigerator & freezer, Kenmore smooth top elect. Range/ oven, built in dishwasher, Corean countertops with one piece sink, custom pine cabinets, a kitchen island and a French door leading out to a large covered raised back deck overlooking Table Rock Lake. Hickory wood flooring through out the upstairs. Now down the wide handicap hall where you will find a coat closet, The master bed with walk in closet dual ceiling fans and master bath with a nice claw foot tub plus a French door leading out to the large deck over looking table rock lake. Across from the master is Bedroom #1 with ceiling fan, window and closet. Stairs leading to the basement a full bath w/ copper sink Bedroom #2 with window ceiling fan and closet leading out to The 2-stall garage has a work bench area and mechanical room. Exterior has 10x10 front porch, covered 10x50 deck with 3 fans overlooking the lake and a patio below provides outdoor living space w/ views. This property is equipped with a Generac Generator and also has a detached 9X8 Garage/ shop with overhead door, walk thru door and Covered front porch. **Boat Slip:** 10X28 Boat slip with lift (27465 Lake Point Dr. Golden, Mo). **Note:** If you have been looking for your very own quite piece of property along Table Rock Lake then look no further! This Beautiful log sided 2,500 square foot home was built in 2010 and sits on 3 lots with a short walk down access to Table Rock Lake. This property would make a great family vacation home or permanent residence! **Terms:** Cash, good check or credit card with 2 forms of current ID. Must have current driver's license to obtain bidders' number. If paying with credit card a 5% convenience fee applies. If paying with a check on large items, items will be held until your check clears the auction company bank. All terms on bidder card apply. All sells as is where is with no warranty or guarantee expressed or implied. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agents of the buyer are responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate. Any announcements made on the day of auction supersede any and all printed material

Owner: Paul & Chris Hanson



Auctioneer:
Donnie Stumpff
MO & AR State Champion Auctioneer
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

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

Date of the decedent's death: July 26, 2026

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

Date of first publication: October 14, 2026

Date of second publication: October 21, 2026

Date of third publication: October 28, 2026

Date of fourth publication: November 4, 2026

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

1st insertion 10/14/26
40-43

———————

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
KELEIGH ELIZABETH RAY

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

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

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

You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against this action within 45 days after OCTOBER 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.

A true copy from the record

Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 16th day of OCTOBER 2026.

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

First publication: OCTOBER 28, 2026

Second Publication: NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Third Publication: NOVEMBER 11, 2026

Fourth Publication: NOVEMBER 18, 2026

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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

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

NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY GRANTED
(SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION)

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

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

The name and business address of the personal representative is:
PHYNES ANTHONY MEEK,
651 S. BRIDGEWOOD CIRCLE, NIXA, MO 65714

The personal representative's attorney's name, business address and phone number is:
MARC EDMONDSON,
PO Box 491, CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-846-0022.

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

Date of the decedent's death: January 2, 2026

Date of first publication: October 28, 2026

Date of second publication: November 4, 2026

Date of third publication: November 11, 2026

Date of fourth publication: November 18, 2026

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

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

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI PROBATE DIVISION

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

NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Missouri to:
KELEIGH ELIZABETH RAY
AND
WAYLON LEE BRYSON, JR.

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

The names of all parties in this action are ROSEMARY WALL and CHARLES WALL, and the name and address of the attorney for the Petitioner is J. Michael Riehn, Attorney at Law,

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

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

appear and defend against this action within 45 days after October 28, 2026, judgment by default will be entered against you.

It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Cassville Democrat, a

newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Barry, State of Missouri.

A true copy from the record.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Circuit Court his 16th day of October, 2026.

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

First publication: October 28, 2026

Second Publication: November 4, 2026

Third Publication: November 11, 2026

Fourth Publication: November 18, 2026

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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

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

NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND PETITION FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
JAMES D. SIZEMORE,
deceased:

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

Settlement and Petition for determination of the persons who are the successors in

interest to the personal/real estate of the decedent and of the extent and character of their

interest therein and for distribution of such property, on or about December 3, 2026 or as

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

Settlement or Petition or any item thereof must be in writing and filed within twenty days

after the filing of such Final Settlement.

SAM MADSEN
Personal Representative
DONALD L. CUPPS, Attorney
Ellis, Cupps, Herrin & Schwartz
P. O. Box 276
Cassville, MO 65625
(417)847-2734

Dates of Publication –10/28/2026, 11/04/2026, 11/11/2026, 11/18/2026

THE ABOVE REFERENCED DATE IS NOT A COURT APPEARANCE DATE.

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

1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

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

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

Notice of Letters Testamentary, Granted (Supervised Administration)

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of
ROSA JOAN CHAPMAN,
Decedent:

On October 28, 2026, the last will of Decedent having been admitted to probate, the following individuals were appointed personal representatives of the estate of ROSA JOAN CHAPMAN, decedent by the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of BARRY COUNTY, Missouri.

The names and business addresses of the personal representatives are:
EDWARD JOSEPH CHAPMAN,
1092 PRIVATE ROAD 2019,
PIERCE CITY, MO 65723
CAROL LYNN MORIN,
1105 PRIVATE ROAD 2019,
PIERCE CITY, MO 65723

The personal representatives' attorney's name, business address and phone number are:
CORDELIA F. HERRIN,
702 WEST STREET, P.O. BOX 276,
CASSVILLE, MO 65625,
417-847-2734.

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

Date of the decedent's death:
February 6, 2026

Date of first publication: November 4, 2026

Date of second publication: November 11, 2026

Date of third publication: November 18, 2026

Date of fourth publication: November 25, 2026

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

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

1st insertion 11/04/26
43-46

TRUSTEE'S SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE

FOR DEFAULT in the payment of debt secured by a Deed of Trust executed by
Crystal Brown,

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

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

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

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

ALSO

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

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

to satisfy said debt and trust.

Jon Horner, Trustee
Security Bank of Southwest Missouri
Blake B. Fields, Attorney for Trustee
Law Office of Blake B. Fields, LLC
605 Main Street, Cassville, MO 65625
Please publish:
Oct. 14, 2026
Oct. 21, 2026
Oct. 28, 2026
Nov. 4, 2026
1st insertion 10/14/26
40-43

———————

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

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

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

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

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

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

1st insertion 10/21/26
41-44

———————

TRUSTEE'S SALE

In Re:
Dale K Roller and
Julie A Roller
husband and wife

Under the terms of the Deed of Trust executed by Dale K Roller and Julie A Roller husband and wife dated 01/11/2005, and recorded on 01/18/2005 Book 5 Page 409 in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for Barry County, MISSOURI, the undersigned Successor Trustee, will on 11/23/2026 at 10:00 AM at the East Front Door of the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main St Cassville, Mo. 65625, sell at public venue to the highest bidder for cash subject to the terms announced at the sale, the realty described in said deed of trust, to wit:

THE FOLLOWING REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (W/2 NW/4 NE/4); THENCE EAST 220 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 250 FEET; THENCE WEST 220 FEET, THENCE NORTH 250 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING ALL BEING IN SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 23, RANGE 27, BARRY COUNTY, MISSOURI..

Eastplains Corporation
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE
Published in the CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT
File #: ROLDASPS
First publication date 10/28/2026
1st insertion 10/28/26
42-45

———————

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

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 7TH @ 9AM

- WATCH FOR HOLDER AUCTION SIGNS -

VEHICLE - TRACTOR - MOWER - TRAILER - IMPLEMENTS
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HOLDER AUCTION SERVICE
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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.

Pondering the Word



WILLIAM HODGSON

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:1)

To "Ponder" is an older word, coming from the Latin, ponderare, which means to weigh, or to apprise.

Some synonyms are: to contemplate, to meditate, to ruminate, to mull over, to reflect, to think about, and to consider, suggesting that one might spend considerable time "pondering" the subject at hand.

The Beatitude, (or blessed is the man), that opens the book of Psalms can be found repeated in many ways, first in the book of Psalms, but also throughout the Bible.

Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, has 176 verses, divided up into 22 stanzas of 8 verses each, corresponding to the letters of the early Hebrew alphabet. In many Bibles, these stanzas are marked by a heading of a Hebrew letter or a transliteration of the same, in alphabetical order.

The synonym, meditate, is used in Psalm 119 in these ways.

"I will meditate in thy precepts and have respect unto thy ways." (Psalm 119:15, 78)

"But thy servant did meditate in thy statutes," (Psalm 119:23)

"My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes." (Psalm 119:48)

"Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word." (Psalm 119:148)

By using synonyms for the law, such as precepts, commandments, statutes, ways, and others, as well as synonyms for meditate or ponder, we find many more examples in this unique chapter within the Book of Psalms."

In the New Testament infancy accounts we find this description about Jesus' mother's response to the events and words about the infant and child Jesus. After the shepherds had visited the manger, we read, "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

When Jesus was presented in the temple, and Simeon spoke of the infant's future, it is said, "And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him." (Luke 2:33)

When Jesus was 12 years old and remained in the temple after the Passover, Joseph and Mary searched 3 days for him, and finding him, he had asked them if they realized he had to be about his Father's business (or in his Father's house), they didn't understand him, even though he returned with them to Nazareth, upon which we read, "but his mother kept all they sayings in her heart." (Luke 2:51)

There are many more examples in the Scripture of the way it is placed before us, that one of the most fruitful ways of receiving God's word is to "ponder." In the parable of the Sower and the Seed, this way of receiving God's is compared to the good soil that bears fruit.

All these examples have something in common. It involves investing time in the Word, not so much for volume as for understanding. May we discover this way which is called "Blessed."

Pastor Fr. William Hodgson is the priest at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cassville. He may be reached at 417-847-4948 or stedwardcassville@gmail.com.

BIBLE VERSE:

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

— 1 PETER 2:10

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ANGLICAN

ST. MARY MAGDALENE
205 Commercial St., Exeter
835-2102

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Bus. Rt. 37 N., Cassville
671-8131
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
RR 1, Box 1158, Seligman
662-3333
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Front & Pierce, Exeter
835-4492
BRIDGEWAY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob
858-3770
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
209 W. Jefferson, Purdy
442-3898
OK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
6121 Hwy. 90, Washburn, Mo.
737-9477.
RIDGLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
16544 FR 1027, Exeter
846-3513

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Jct. 76 & JJ Highway
Rocky Comfort
BIBLE BAPTIST
Fasco Rd., Cassville
847-4871
BUTTERFIELD FIRST BAPTIST
10901 Walnut St., Butterfield
442-7887
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Exeter, Mo.
665-1295
CARR LANE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
P.O. Box 69, Eagle Rock
870-577-6025
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AA Hwy., Cassville
847-4165
EMMANUEL SOUTHERN BAPTIST
821 Old Exeter Rd., Cassville
847-3239
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FIRST BAPTIST
602 West. St., Cassville
847-2965
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Wheaton
FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
Exeter, 835-5433
FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
104 W. Hwy. J, Golden
271-3605
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
14970 F.R. 1150, Cassville, Mo.
GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
P.O. Box 352, Shell Knob
858-6868
GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
1/2 mi. off 248 corner of FR 2150 & 1150, Cassville; 847-4691
HIS WAY FELLOWSHIP
Highway 62, 1 mi. N. of Garfield
847-9289
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST
HC #64, Cassville; 846-1115
MISSION SOUTHERN BAPTIST
RR 1, Washburn
826-5232
MT. OLIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
F.R. 2188, Cassville, 417-847-1245
MT. ZION BAPTIST
Hwy. 37 S., Washburn
826-5840
NEW HOPE BAPTIST
3 mi. W. of 37 on W Hwy. then 3/4 mi. N. to FR 1052, Exeter
652-3885
OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
16722 State Hwy. 248, Cassville
Pastor- 501-538-6261
Local- 417-847-4597
PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST
RR 1, Box 1710, Washburn
435-2319
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3rd & Washington St., Purdy
442-7435
SHILOH BAPTIST
Hwy. 248, Jenkins
574-6466
PROSPERITY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rocky Comfort
PRAIRIE HILL BAPTIST
RR 1, Box 1956, Washburn
826-5158
RIDGLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rt. 1, Box 931, Exeter
652-7884
ROARING RIVER BAPTIST
HC #881 - Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock
271-3142
ROCK SPRINGS BAPTIST
RR 1, Seligman; 826-5770
SOLID ROCK SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rt. 1, Exeter, 652-3592
SELIGMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Business 37 N., Cassville
826-5295
VIOLA BAPTIST
Hwy. 39, Shell Knob
858-2597
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618 N. 2nd Street, Washburn
826-5000
WAYMARK CHURCH
2581 State Hwy 37
235-7466
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Hwy. 86 & Hwy. A, Wheaton
652-3898
WHEATON SOUTHERN BAPTIST
11676 State Hwy. 86, Wheaton
PO Box 175, 652-3186

CATHOLIC

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
Hwy. 39-30, Shell Knob
858-2518
ST. EDWARD PARISH
107 17th St., Cassville
847-4948

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CASSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
404 State Hwy 248 Cassville, MO, 65625
Normal worship time, 10 a.m.
916-539-4708
cassvillechurchofchrist.com
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hwy. 90 E., Washburn
826-5890
CHURCH OF CHRIST
39 Lake Rd., Shell Knob
858-3839
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Goosetree Hwy. 86, Wheaton
652-3873
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1104 Mill St., Cassville
847-2374

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271-3134
SPIRITUAL STREAMS FELLOWSHIP
Hwy. 112, Cassville
846-6339

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Hwy. 112 and State Hwy. AA, Cassville
846-2155

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PEACE LUTHERAN
N. Hwy. 39, Shell Knob
858-3900

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ALL FAITH UNITED METHODIST
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271-3737
CASSVILLE UNITED METHODIST
7th & Gravel, Cassville
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UNITED METHODIST
Hwy. YY, Shell Knob
858-6707
WASHBURN UNITED METHODIST
Washburn
Corner of 1st and North, Washburn
WHEATON UNITED METHODIST
101 Santee St., Wheaton
652-3858

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CASSVILLE BRANCH
3426 County Farm Road
Sunday, 10 a.m.
417-986-3161

NAZARENE

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
16341 Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville
316-737-7394

PENTECOSTAL

LIGHTHOUSE PENTECOSTAL
Hwy. 86 & P St., Eagle Rock
271-4929
NEW LIFE TEMPLE
Business Hwy. 37 N., Cassville
847-3064
GRACE POINT FELLOWSHIP
Washburn Community Building
479-366-2561
NEW LIFE TABERNACLE
30755 State Hwy. 37, Seligman
662-0076

PRESBYTERIAN

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN
Hwy. 39 N., Shell Knob
858-3902
WALDENSIAN PRESBYTERIAN
1 mi. S. of Monett
235-3337

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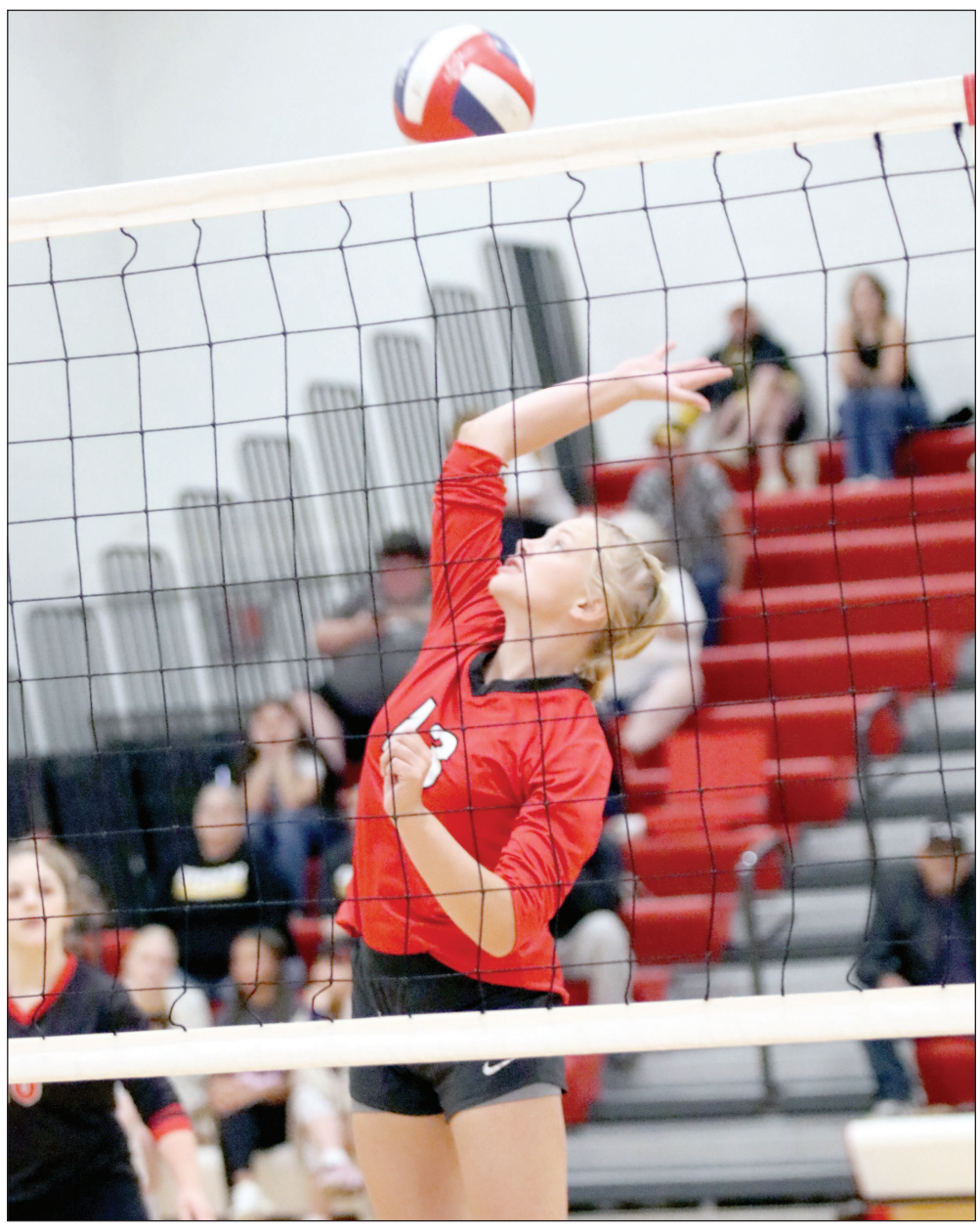
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Exeter's Kahlan Fuller spikes a ball during Southwest Volleyfest action this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Jaylee Hawkins sets a ball for a teammate during Southwest Volleyfest action this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com



Exeter's Reyna Aldridge serves a ball for Exeter during Southwest Volleyfest action this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Exeter: Improving fundamentals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"They have gained valuable varsity experience this season, and I hope they use that to step into bigger leadership roles next year," Long said. "We have a foundation to build on, and I am excited to see how they continue to develop."

Long acknowledged the Lady Tigers did not meet all of their goals this season, particularly in terms of wins and consistency. He said improving fundamentals, strengthening communication and maintaining a commitment to daily improvement will be important steps toward reaching those goals.

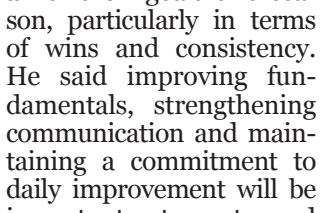
Long said next season, Exeter hopes to improve its record, become more consistent and compete at a higher level. Long also wants to see the players develop greater confidence and trust in one another while creating a positive environment around the program.

"Ultimately, we want to keep building the program and create a culture where the girls are excited to come to practice, work hard, and compete," he said.

Long said developing a competitive program takes time and requires attention to small improvements throughout the season and offseason.

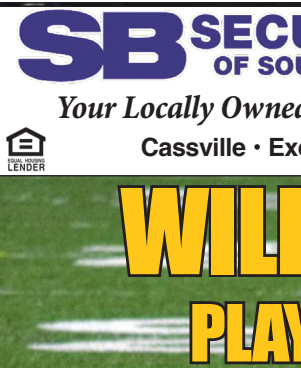
"Although this season did not end exactly how we wanted, I believe we are working in the right direction," he said. "Building a program takes time, and we have to continue focusing on the little things and getting better every day."

Exeter's season ended on Oct. 20 with a 3-set loss to Crane in the Class 1, District 9 tournament.


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Southwest: Red Rivalry's first year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

attitude and credited senior captain Olivia Hnem with helping maintain a supportive environment.

Two moments stood out during the season. The first came in a four-set victory over Exeter in the inaugural Red Rivalry Trophy match. Exeter Coach Jordy Long, a Southwest graduate, helped establish the trophy for the schools' annual matchup, and an Exeter student built it. Voyak said the student sections on both sides created an atmosphere that made the night memorable.

"We won in four sets, but the big winner was volleyball," Voyak said. "If an elementary girl attended that game, she easily could have been inspired to be a future player at Southwest or Exeter in the future because of the surroundings of the game."

The other memorable moment came on Senior Night against McAuley. After Southwest dropped the first two sets, Hnem delivered a speech asking her teammates to earn a victory in her final home match. The Trojans responded by winning the next three sets.

Voyak called Hnem one of the best captains he has coached in 24 years. The lone senior led Southwest with 465 digs, a 97% serving percentage and 520 receptions. She also surpassed 1,000 career kills and finished with more than 1,400.

Hnem's individual honors included co-MVP of the 43rd annual Southwest Volleyfest Tournament, All-Tournament recognition at the Galena Lady Bear Classic, and All-Ozark 7 Conference and All-District selections. She received votes on eight of nine coaches' ballots at Volleyfest, sharing the tournament's top honor despite Southwest finishing seventh.

Voyak said Hnem's leadership went beyond statistics, noting her commitment to treating teammates equally and offering encouragement throughout the season.

"She cared about all players equally and that's incredibly rare with teenagers," Voyak said. "She would tell every player 'good bye' at the end of every practice and gave 99% positive feedback to her teammates all season."

Southwest returns 10 of its top 11 players, giving the program a sizable group of experienced players to build around. Freshman defensive specialist Gracen Varner is among those expected to compete for the libero position after finishing third on the team with 223 digs and 303 receptions. She also made 196 of 205 serves, a 95.6% rate, with 17 aces.



Southwest's lone senior this season, Olivia Hnem, serves a ball in a match at Southwest Volleyfest this season. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Voyak said Varner responded well to the expectations placed on her as a freshman.

Junior setter Abi Hnem, who earned all-conference honors, was Southwest's second-best player, according to Voyak. She led the team with 256 assists and 87 aces while adding 244 digs and 390 receptions.

Other returning contributors include junior Atlie Uthe, who had 31 kills and 25 digs; freshman Alana Smith, with 53 digs and 35 kills; and junior Holley Montondo, who recorded 99 digs and 237 receptions.

Second setter Chrissy Stidam also made an impression in her first season, finishing with 141 digs, 120 receptions and 40 assists. She served at 93.2 percent with 18 aces.

Voyak said the returning hitters will need to continue developing, while he expects the team's returning experience to help Southwest take another step forward.

The Lady Trojans also finished the season with a 93.7% serving rate, making 1,345 of 1,434 attempts and recording 200 aces. Five of the team's six servers finished at 92% or better. Voyak said the team's serving performance was a sign of its mental toughness, with just 89 missed serves across the season.

Assistant coach Mandy Henry helped reinforce those expectations, Voyak said.

Looking toward next season, Southwest will have high expectations with most of its top players returning, but Voyak said a strong offseason will be important as other teams continue to improve.

"I have confidence the girls will respond," he said.

Southwest's season ended on Oct. 20 with a 3-0 loss to Blue Eye in the Class 2, District 10 Tournament.

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WEEK OF NOV. 9 - NOV. 13, 2026

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13
Lemon Pepper Fish or Chicken	Creamy Chicken Enchiladas	Veteran's Day Lunch!	Smoked Pork Chops*	Chicken Pot Pie w/ Whole Grain Biscuit
Whole Grain Mac & Cheese	Refried Beans	Brisket	Brown Rice	Capri Veggies
Glazed Balsamic Brussel Sprouts	Fiesta Veggies	Baked Potato	Roasted Veggie Medley	Spiced Apples
Roasted Broccoli	Tres Leches Cake	Antiqua Veggies	Spinach Salad	Banana Cake
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		Cherry or Bluberry Crisp	Coconut Cream Pie	


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