

## New Cox Monett hospital to open January 22



Above, Cox Monett president Daren Bass shares his excitement about the completion of the new hospital.



A drone's-eye view, above, shows the new \$42 million, 100,000 square foot Cox Monett Hospital located at 1000 E. Highway 60 in Monett. The project was completed a bit ahead of schedule, less than two years after the May 1, 2019, ground-breaking. The new hospital will replace Cox Monett's previous facility at 801 N. Lincoln, located in a residential neighborhood in Monett.

Sheila Harris

Darren Bass, president of Cox Monett Hospital, used the word "surreal" more than once when describing his feelings about the comple-

tion and pending opening of the new hospital this Friday, January 22.

"It's hard to believe we're at this point," he said. "Hopefully I don't wake up and dis-

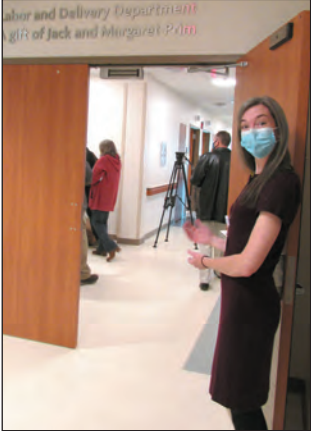
cover it's a dream."

Tuesday, Bass conducted a tour of the new facility, pointing out the new hospital's features which will streamline and add efficiency

to the medical services they can provide.

"Our old hospital served its purpose," Bass said, "but

See COX



Above, Dr. Elizabeth Lucore welcomes the media to a tour of her "home," a self-contained Labor and Delivery suite with seven private rooms and an OR for C-section deliveries.

## Renovation project completed at Roaring River Hatchery



MDC technician Marina Spurrier, above, feeds trout at Roaring River Hatchery.

Sheila Harris

Roaring River State Park Hatchery's \$1.9 million renovation project - over two years in the works, counting the time fish tanks began to be emptied - is now complete, according to Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) fisheries technician, Marina Spurrier, of Cassville.

"The renovations are designed to improve water flow to the hatchery and help with flood management," Spurrier said. "We hope they will also help make our hatchery program more autonomous."

Roaring River Hatchery is typically home to 500,000 to 700,000 fish, according to Spurrier, many of which were relocated to other hatcheries while renovations were being completed.

"Starting this week, we will begin moving them back here in preparation for the opening day of trout season



A \$1.9 million renovation project was recently completed at Roaring River Hatchery. The new structure shown at far right in the above photo houses an automated, rotating screen used to filter debris from spring water before it enters the hatchery. The structure and the equipment it contains comprised a large part of the expansion, according to MDC fisheries technician, Marina Spurrier.

on March 1," she said.

Spurrier says trout eggs are typically brought in from other facilities, then kept at Roaring River's hatchery for 14 or 15 months through their various stages of

growth.

"Fish are usually a little over 12 inches long when we release them," Spurrier said.

"These babies," she added, pointing to the small fry in a tank below, "should be ready

for release by the opening of the 2022 season."

During a guided tour of the renovation, Spurrier pointed out the addition of

See HATCHERY

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## Flood insurance for Cassville?

Sheila Harris

In a city notorious for regular flooding, hope in the form of flood insurance for Cassville residents and business owners in the flood plain may be on the horizon.

In a reverberating Webex call during the January 11 city council meeting, Cassville officials and council members spoke with representatives of State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a question and answer session regarding the possibility of Cassville rejoining the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

If the city chooses to participate in the national program

- administered by FEMA - it will be the first time FEMA has granted a community the opportunity to participate without also requiring them to retrofit existing structures to meet FEMA's current building codes.

If the city chooses to rejoin the National Flood Insurance Program, Cassville residents and business owners will be able to purchase flood insurance for the first time since 1977: the year the city was last a member of the NFIP.

The SEMA website discloses the following information regarding flooding:

- A standard homeowner's insurance policy does not cover flooding.
- Homeowners are 85 percent

more likely to use a flood insurance policy during the span of a 30-year mortgage than a homeowner's policy.

• If a person lives in an area with a high-risk of flooding, they have a 25 percent chance of their home being flooded over the term of a 30-year mortgage.

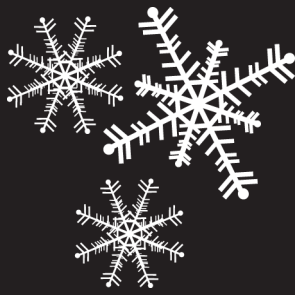
If the city chooses to join the National Flood Insurance Program, there will be no cost to the city for participation. However, the city will be required to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances, which include ensuring that all new structures or improved structures be elevated to or above the base flood elevation (BFE).

See FLOOD 5A



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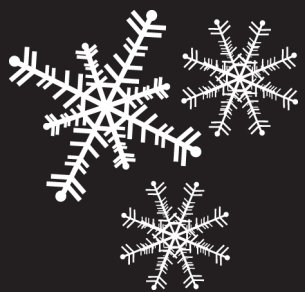
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## County 2021 Budget Hearing Scheduled

*Sheila Harris*

The 2021 proposed budget for Barry County totals \$5,514,831.63, up from last year's approved budget of \$4,914,979.56. Of the 2020 approved budget, \$4,515,526 was actually used.

Presiding Commissioner Gary Youngblood attributes this year's increase in the proposed budget to a jump in the amount of sales tax revenue

generated in 2020, which, in turn, he attributes to the fact that more people shopped locally due to COVID-19.

According to Barry County Treasurer Lois Lowe, Barry County received \$5,278,070.90 in sales tax revenue in 2020, up over 9 percent from 2019's total tax revenue of \$4,830,332.

"Part of the revenue increase will be set aside in a

reserve fund," Youngblood said. "We're also proposing raises for county employees and the purchase of four new vehicles and computer and radio equipment for law enforcement."

The Barry County 2021 budget hearing will take place in the courtroom at the Barry County courthouse Thursday, January 21, at 9 a.m.

Barry County 2021 Budget Information

	2020 Actual	2020 Approved	2021 Request	2021 Approved
<b>County Departments</b>				
County Commission	295,595.00	288,655.00	447,394.00	0.00
County Clerk	74,811.00	76,152.00	76,824.00	0.00
Elections	76,768.00	76,618.00	49,890.00	0.00
Building & Grounds	199,631.00	236,326.00	213,283.00	0.00
Employee Benefits	566,119.28	619,500.00	603,500.00	0.00
Treasurer	48,697.00	49,790.00	49,325.00	0.00
Collector	123,715.00	118,593.25	120,483.28	0.00
Recorder	69,808.00	68,807.90	72,195.00	0.00
Circuit Clerk	8,321.00	19,900.00	22,500.00	0.00
Circuit Court Admin.	6,510.00	8,165.50	8,166.00	0.00
Capital Projects	154,987.00	280,000.00	300,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1624962.28</b>	<b>1842507.65</b>	<b>1963560.28</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other General County Government</b>				
Insurance(prop/liab.bonds)	151,885.00	118,000.00	150,000.00	0.00
Publications	8,519.00	11,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Rents and Leases	39,626.00	33,000.00	40,000.00	0.00
Monett TIF	82,080.00	66,000.00	83,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	54,331.00	58,000.00	65,000.00	0.00
University Extension	31,313.00	33,862.00	35,200.00	0.00
Public Administrator	31,298.00	33,517.22	82,655.00	0.00
Office Supplies	120,931.00	121,825.00	68,700.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,983.00</b>	<b>475,204.22</b>	<b>534,555.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>				
Sheriff	868,787.80	943,211.70	983,148.89	0.00
Jail	483,049.63	585,512.36	608,135.09	0.00
Prosecuting Attorney	383,900.00	422,521.63	423,574.37	0.00
Juvenile Office	129,479.00	142,222.00	142,222.00	0.00
Coroner	32,666.00	33,000.00	37,586.00	0.00
Emergency Management	22,698.00	20,800.00	22,050.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1920580.43</b>	<b>2147267.69</b>	<b>2216716.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total all Departments</b>	<b>4,065,526</b>	<b>4464979.56</b>	<b>4714831.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Emergency Fund	450,000	450,000.00	800,000	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>4,515,526</b>	<b>4914979.56</b>	<b>5514831.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Local lenders again accepting Paycheck Protection applications

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that as of Jan. 19, the Paycheck Protection Program is open to all participating lenders.

"The SBA continues to help small businesses across the nation access vital funds through the Paycheck Protection Program. Data from our first week, which first allowed hundreds of com-

munity financial institutions to submit applications, then opened wider to small banks, demonstrate that we have helped tens of thousands of businesses," said SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza.

"The PPP is off to another great start helping our nation's economy. With PPP re-opening today for all First and Second Draw loan applications, the SBA remains committed to keeping small business workers on payroll and their doors open during this challenging time. Moreover, the SBA over-performed operationally, issuing guidance and rules in advance and in alignment with the new law's requirements," Carranza added.

American workers employed.

Second Draw PPP loans are for eligible small businesses with 300 employees or less and that previously received a First Draw PPP loan. These borrowers will have to use or had used the full amount of their First Draw loan only for authorized uses and demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020. The maximum amount of a Second Draw PPP loan is \$2 million.

The Paycheck Protection Program remains open for First and Second Draw PPP loans until March 31, 2021, as set forth in the Economic Aid Act, or until Congressionally-appropriated funding is exhausted.

Prospective borrowers may check with their local banks for more information about the application process and the availability of funds.

## COVID-19 situational update

*Sheila Harris*

The Barry County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management are reporting two additional deaths in their weekly COVID-19 situational update for January 19: one female and one male. Both people were age 61 or older and had significant underlying health conditions. The total number of deaths reported from COVID-19 complications in Barry County now stands at 47.

The number of confirmed cases reported in Barry County is now at 2,760. That number represents an increase of 89 cases, down significantly from last week's increase of 145 confirmed cases.

The weekly positivity rate of confirmed cases has also dropped significantly, from 21.8 percent based on the numbers reported on the January 12 update, to 13.16 percent using the numbers on the January 19 report.

Five people are currently hospitalized, 93 patients are in isolation with active cases of COVID-19 and over 200 are currently in quarantine after exposure to active cases.

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# Community Calendar

Community Calendar page is free as a courtesy to local events. If your event is relying on advertising for attendance, then it is vital for you to place a paid ad. There is no guarantee that your event will be placed in Community Calendar. The deadline for community calendar is Friday at 4 p.m. The contact person is Elaine Phaneuf, class@4bca.com or (417) 847-4475. Thank you for keeping us informed of all updates/changes to local events.

## Notice:

**The Missouri statewide tornado drill** will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 10 A.M. The Monett-Lawrence County E9-1-1 center will be activating area outdoor warning sirens at that time. The back-up date in the event of hazardous conditons is Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 10 A.M.

**Due to the Covid Pandemic, the Wheaton Historical Society** will not be hosting the February Winter Banquet as usual. They will, however, still be drawing for the rifle as promised when raffle tickets were purchased. The drawing will be on Saturday night, February 13, 2021, at 6 P.M. at the Wheaton Depot Museum.

**OATS Transit is open for regular transportation service**, however, face masks are required on the bus due to COVID-19. Please call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about service in your area. Visit their website at [www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org) and click on the bus schedules tab for your county to

see the full schedule. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. They also contract with a number of agencies to serve their clients. OATS Transit offices will be closed and regular routes will not be operating on Monday, February 15, 2021, in observance of Presidents Day.

**Cassville Branch Library's Virtual Story Time** began in September. Participants can access the live sessions on a tablet, computer, or smart phone. Families of preschool children ages five and under will receive registration information via email. Please send child's name, caregiver's name and email address to [verna@blrlibrary.org](mailto:verna@blrlibrary.org).

**The Helping Hands Food Pantry services the citizens of Eagle Rock, Golden and Mano** and is open from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Saturday and Tuesday, and also 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. Questions for the pantry can be answered by calling 417-271-1301 or visiting at 32685 State Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. (Just 1/4 mile east of the Hwy. P intersection). The pantry is supported by area churches, business associations and private donations.

**Habitat for Humanity** is looking for families to apply for a home in Wheaton. For more information or to apply, stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 900 10th St. in Cassville. They are open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## Jan. 19

**The Southwest Missouri Waste Management District** will hold its monthly Executive Board Meeting at 11:50 A.M. This meeting is open to the public. Due to concerns regarding the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, we are asking all participants to call in. A teleconference number will be available for this meeting. Please 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.

## Jan. 28

**Purdy School Winter Concert**, starring grades 4 and 6, will be held at the Performing Arts Center at 7 P.M.

## Jan. 28

**Drive 2 Save Lives Blood Drive** will be held at Mill Street Church of Christ multi-purpose room, 1104 Mill Street, Cassville, from 12 P.M. to 6 P.M. All donors receive a long-sleeved T-shirt will supplies last. All donors will be entered to be one of the weekly finalists with a chance to win a 2020 Nissan Kicks! Information is available at [www.cbco.org/drive](http://www.cbco.org/drive). Masks are required for donors and staff. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided. Appointments are strongly encouraged to manage donor flow. To schedule your appointment, call (417) 227-5006 or got to [www.cbco.org/donate-blood](http://www.cbco.org/donate-blood).

## School Menus: Jan. 25 - Jan. 29

*All meals served with milk and subject to change.*

**Cassville High School:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, cinnamon toast, orange. L: soft taco or burrito, salad, refried beans, applesauce or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, Go-Gurt, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, pineapple. L: pizza or cheeseburger, broccoli, salad, Rice Krispy Treat, applesauce or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, granola bar, pears. L: pork chopette or chicken nuggets, potatoes, gravy, carrots, bread stick, pineapple or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, Pop Tart, fruit cocktail. L: chicken sandwich or chicken fried steak, Sun Chips, broccoli & cheese, fruit cocktail or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or oatmeal, sausage, toast, pears or cereal, Rice Krispy, apple. L: chili or pizza, breaded cheese sticks, crackers, green beans, cookie, juice or salad meal.

**Cassville PR-IN-Middle:** Mon: B: biscuits & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, graham crackers, pineapple. L: grilled cheese or turkey sandwich, Sun Chips, carrots, applesauce. Tues: B: biscuits & gravy or pancake on stick, Go-Gurt, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: chicken sandwich or hamburger, Doritos, vegetable mix, juice. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, hashbrown, peneapple or cereal, toast, peaches. L: chicken nuggets or tangerine chicken, rice, green beans, egg roll, pineapple. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or cherry frudel, yogurt cup, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, mandarin oranges. L: pizza or chicken alfredo, corn, broccoli, fruit cocktail. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, graham crackers, fruit cocktail or cereal, Rice Krispy Treat, apple. L: chili or chili cheese fries, crackers, breaded cheese sticks, corn, pears.

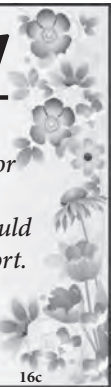
**Purdy:** Mon: B: breakfast pizza, fruit. L: tacos, salsa, refried beans, Mexican rice, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: corn dog, tater tots, fruit. Wed: B: mini waffles, syrup, fruit. L: (KG-4th) PB&J sandwich; (5th-12th) baked potato bar, broccoli & carrots, fruit. Thurs: B: omelet, toast, fruit. L: four cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, romaine salad, tomato, ranch dressing, fruit. Fri: B: banana muffin, fruit. L: chicken patty sandwich, Sun Chips, California blend, fruit.

**Southwest:** Mon: B: chicken & biscuit, mandarin oranges, juice. L: chicken alfredo, breadstick, peas, pineapple. Tues: B: scrambled eggs with bacon, cereal, juice. L: pepperoni pizza, corn, rosy applesauce. Wed: B: biscuit pepper gravy, grapes, juice. L: turkey & gravy, peas & carrots, applesauce. Thurs: B: pancake on a stick, peaches, juice. L: vegetable beef stew, corn muffin, tropical fruit, brownies. Fri: B: ham & hashbrown sandwich, grapes, juice. L: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, orange wedges, ice cream sandwich.

# THANK YOU!

We would like to say Thank You to all the area businesses and individuals who donated items for the auction and/or their time to the benefit for Ruth Primrose. It was a HUGE success and we could not have done it without your donations & support. We truly live in an amazing community.

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Cassville 2020 tax revenue up

Sheila Harris  
Cassville Director of Finance & Economic Development Isaac Petersen reported that Cassville’s sales tax revenue was up 8.3 percent from 2019’s total of \$2,270,997, an increase he attributed to more people shopping locally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, there was a substantial amount of tourist traffic to Roaring River during 2020.

For 2021, Petersen prognosticates sales tax revenue to be 1.2 percent greater than 2019, presumably a more stable year upon which to base a comparison.

The proposed budget for capital projects in 2021 totals \$10,306,263, an increase from 2020’s budgeted \$8,322,496. However, the amount budgeted for was not used last year, as several projects were not completed by the end of the year. Uncompleted projects - primarily water and sewer-related - were carried over into the 2021 budget. The majority of the financing for those projects is through government bonds repayable over a 30-year term.

Decisions were made by the council on the following matters:  
• It was agreed upon to place an ordinance on the April 6 municipal ballot to grant Barry Electric Cooperative and its subsidiaries the right

to use Cassville streets, alleys and public grounds to erect and maintain an electric distribution system, a fiber optic broadband system and other communication systems.

City Administrator Steve Walensky explained this ordinance would be an updated version of an expiring 20-year agreement.

• Council members voted to replace three of the city’s six storm sirens with an upgraded product by Federal Signal Safety and Security Systems at a total cost of \$74,000.

The new sirens will be capable of radio, cellular, satellite or wireless IP activation and can be used for two-way communication if needed.

Four of the newer and stronger devices will be able to cover the same amount of area that the current six sirens are being used for, Walensky said.

• The council voted to award a contract for the demolition of the three structures on what is commonly called the “Cook property” to Seven Valleys Construction Gas Division, who submitted the sole bid of \$53,333. Future possibilities for the property, which lies adjacent to the Aquatic Center parking lot on Farm Road 2182, are still being discussed, although BMX bike trails are receiving favorable attention.

• A three-year mowing con-

tract was awarded to Yock’s Mowin’ Service for \$128,580, with money to be paid in annual, gradually -increasing increments over the term of the contract.

• The council authorized Bluewater Commercial Aquatic Services, the company rehabbing the pool basin at the Aquatic Center, to install waterline tile around the pool’s edges, after it was discovered that the original contractor had not done so.

• Council approved a proposal by Walensky to extend paid sick leave – as regulated by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FCCRA) - to personnel affected by the virus.

• The council also opted to extend another five-year lease agreement to Regal Beloit (formerly FASCO) for the property on which the facility is situated. The current lease arrangement – renewable every five years – has been in place since 1974. Regal Beloit has paid the city an annual sum of \$9,000 for use of its property for the past ten years.

In police matters, Cassville Police Chief Dana Kammerlohr reported service calls were up considerably in 2020 from the previous year, which presents a challenge, due to the department being down by three officers.

PSC sets Spire intervention deadline in Missouri request

Spire Missouri, Inc. has filed an application with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) to construct, own, operate and maintain a natural gas distribution system providing natural gas service in Barry County. The requested CCN would be a further expansion of the Company’s existing certificated area.

According to the application, Spire Missouri, Inc. seeks a CCN to provide natural gas service to a poultry operation. Spire also seeks a CCN for the entirety of Barry County, with the exception of the City of Wheaton. Spire states it currently serves approximately half of the county.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed no later than February 12, 2021, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, or by using the Commission’s Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS) at www.psc.mo.gov .

Individual citizens wishing to comment should con-

tact either the Office of the Public Counsel (Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Suite 650, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230, telephone 1-866-922-2959, email opcservice@opc.mo.gov) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211, email pscinfo@psc.mo.gov). The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency that represents the general public in matters before the Commission.

Spire provides natural gas service to approximately 1.17 million natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of Andrew, Barry, Barton, Bates, Buchanan, Butler, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Cooper, Crawford, Dade, DeKalb, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Howard, Iron, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Madison, McDonald, Moniteau, Newton, Pettis, Platte, Ray, Saline, Stone, St. Charles, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis, Vernon and Warren.

COVID-19 vaccines hard to find

According to local pharmacists who have ordered and plan to administer COVID-19 vaccines, they are still waiting to receive their supply.

In spite of the fact that Governor Parson authorized the implementation of the Phase 1B - Tier 2 vaccination plan to begin January 18 - a group which includes people over age 65 and those with mitigating health conditions - vaccines are hard to come up with/

Nick Bluel, a pharmacist with Old Town Pharmacy in Monett, said Old Town is making a list with the names of people interested in being vaccinated.

Cong Dang, pharmacist/owner of Sater Pharmacy in Cassville and Plaza Pharmacy in Shell Knob, says his pharmacies are also making a list with the names of interested people.

While Whitley Pharmacy and Bruner Pharmacy plan to offer vaccines, they are not yet taking names due to the unavailability of the vaccines.

CoxHealth is asking their patients to visit the following website to express interest in receiving a vaccine: https://bit.ly/2NkAJmB.

Mercy patients may express their interest in the vaccine at the following website: https://www.mercy.net/forms/vaccinations/.

As of Monday, the Barry County Health Department was still waiting for their second order to arrive.

FLOOD from FRONT

According to the SEMA website, a “base flood” is a flood that has a one percent chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. But, according to the SEMA/FEMA representatives who spoke at Monday night’s meeting, existing Cassville businesses and structures in the flood plain will not be required to upgrade their structures to meet the BFE requirements in order to qualify for insurance, unless they opt to make structural changes in the future.

Cassville city administrator Steve Walensky is waiting to receive written confirmation of that statement from FEMA before the city moves forward.

If Cassville chooses to rejoin the NFIP, the city will be eligible for federal funds to assist with prospective flood management projects suggested as the result of a Section 205 feasibility study conducted by the Corp of Engineers.

No decision regarding NFIP participation was made at the January 11 council meeting, and the bill was tabled for further discussion.

Cassville city administrator Steve Walensky emphasized that being allowed to enter the NFIP without upgrading existing structures to meet current FEMA requirements is a huge break-through for Cassville.

Walensky is open to answering any questions about the National Flood Insurance Program.

The next Cassville city council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m.



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# Purdy Elementary Second Quarter Honor Roll announced

Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton is pleased to announce her building’s second quarter honor roll.					
<b>Third Grade “A”:</b> Julia DeLeon Lilly Franklin Nadalie Kukovich Uriel Ochoa Brayleigh Taylor Paison Taylor Brinlee Vineyard Jaelynn Webb Emma Becker Colton Breazzeal Joselyn Brown Grant Cairus	Saul Castaneda Dulce Elias Jessica Harris Audie Hutson Aldo Mendez Eduardo Roman Bryson Terry Pacie Utter Grace Wolf <b>Third Grade “B”:</b> Alex Felipe Roberto Becerra Kayden Holloway Ayleen Rodriguez Ayari Garcia <b>Fourth Grade “A”:</b> Xander Dodson	Madison Johnson Lauren Lamp Oren Roller Waylon Tyson Quentin Dodson Kayedynce Evans Abdiel Juarez Laney Lamp Paige Ozbun Camila Robles Karson Rosewicz Sophie Tyson <b>Fourth Grade “B”:</b> Addison Arivett Hannah Boyer Dillan Lopez Abigail Schroeder	Carson Tate Blessing Thawng Silas Walker Bryce Bingham Xitlali Garcia Dalton Redshaw Heaven Lee Salesky <b>Fifth Grade “A”:</b> Connor Holloway Kenzi Postlewait Dalton Stanford Erynn Cunningham <b>Fifth Grade “B”:</b> Jasmin Bivins Charli Stokes Alyssa Gamble Shelbie Patterson	Benjamin Martinez Chloe Prock Briana Ramirez Zuly Villa Ellie Nunez Casey Henderson Victor Nung Jesus Aldaba <b>Sixth Grade “A”:</b> Naydelin Elias Jacob Clarke Brennan Hawkins Lizett Aldava Carlos Garcia Jackson Lee Andelynn Vineyard	<b>Sixth Grade “B”:</b> Allison Lopez Emily Maddocks Logan Manwarren Alexa Robles Kylee Arivett Loyda Juarez Sherlyn Paxtor Brendin Shepard Nathaniel Stubblefield Joshua Wood Easton Hughes Yemeli Juarez Hector Rueda Hunter Wormington

## COX MONETT from FRONT



Above, CoxHealth Monett Clinic administrator Kaley Thigpen explains how the new, consolidated clinic will operate.

it was built in 1953 with the needs for that decade in mind.”

With the new hospital, one key expansion of service is the addition of two orthopedic surgeons to the Cox-Health staff.

“We will now be able to offer full joint surgery in Monett, something people have had to travel to larger cities for in the past,” Bass said.

Bass said the new hospital will actually have less square footage than the old building, but it has been designed for increased efficiency, with many suggestions from healthcare providers taken

into consideration with the design. One example Bass pointed to was an in-house radiology suite, including MRI and enhanced CT and mammography capabilities.

“Previously,” Bass said, “we would have to ask patients to leave the hospital and go outside to a portable structure where our MRI machine was located.”

Bass said, too, that in the new hospital the CT scanner is situated near the emergency room, since it’s often used in conjunction with emergencies.

The new, secure Labor and Delivery department, now called “Labor, Delivery,

Recovery and Post-Partum (LDRP),” is Dr. Elizabeth Lucore’s second home, although she jokingly calls it her first one.

The department, with seven private rooms, has been renamed because activity connected with childbirth will now all take place in one room.

“If all goes according to plan, the baby will never have to leave mama’s sight,” Lucore said.

Lucore is especially excited about a new feature in the LDRP rooms which she has never seen in any other hospital.

“We now have bathing sinks for newborns in the same room where the baby is delivered,” Lucore said. “Mama can watch the whole process right from her bed.”

In addition to the seven LDRP beds, 18 beds serve medical/surgical patients. Four are located in critical care rooms.

Because COVID-19 is now a concern, in ten of the existing rooms, air flow can be

converted to negative pressure, allowing air to be vented upward and outward.

Another feature Bass is excited about is the helipad located on the front lawn.

“This will be a huge improvement over calling in local fire and police department personnel to spot check every time we have a helicopter land and take off,” he said. “Plus, we don’t have to worry about the noise of a helicopter disrupting a neighbor’s sleep out here.”

Bass did add that soundproofing techniques were used on the exterior walls of the hospital for patients’ sleep needs.

For patients of the Cox-Health system, the new hospital will also mean a change of address for Monett’s family practice clinics.

“We are consolidating three previous clinic locations into one large clinic in the new hospital,” Kaley Thigpen, clinic administrator, said. “We will now have 27,000 square feet of clinic space which will house 14

healthcare providers.”

For the time being, Cox Monett will retain its status as a “Critical Access” hospital, which means, according to government regulation, it must limit its in-patient capacity to 25 beds.

“The critical access status has served us well,” Darren Bass said, “so we plan to continue with it for the foreseeable future.”

Bass said there are two factors at play in the construction of a new hospital in Monett.

“We couldn’t do it without the backing of CoxHealth,” Bass said. “If we were a stand-alone hospital, this type of project would have been impossible.

“Nor could we have built this hospital without the support of the community,” he added. “They’ve supported us, not only with their enthusiasm, but also with approximately \$7 million in donations through the Cox Monett Momentum Campaign. We’re truly a community hospital.”

## New emergency room opens 6 p.m. Friday

Sheila Harris

Beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, January 22, patients who experience an emergency are asked to report to the new Cox Monett Hospital at 1000 E. Highway 60, Monett.

After the last patient has been treated in the emergency room at the old hospital at

801 N. Lincoln, and after all

in-patients have been transferred to the new facility, the doors on the old hospital will

be closed.

Future plans for the building are being discussed.

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60107657 - **GREAT HIGHWAY 112 PROPERTY** located between Cassville and Roaring River State Park. Commercial or residential possibilities. 2.5 acres m/l. **\$45,000**

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60178581 - **SPLIT LEVEL HOME** on 10 acres m/l. 3 BR on upper level and 1 BR in basement. 1 BA on upper level and 3/4 BA in basement. Detached 2 car garage with opener. Lots of out buildings. 2 mobile home spots. 40x60 wood frame steel-sided building built as a flea market with HVAC and bathroom. Hwy 37 frontage, asphalt drive and large parking area. Unlimited possibilities. **\$219,000**

60177789 - **40 ACRES M/L.** Hard to find good, cleared pasture land. Good fences and pond. **\$160,000**

60173718 - **COUNTRY DELIGHT!** 20 acres m/l with cattle tight fencing. 24x32 barn with lean-to and a 2-car carport. Home has 3 BR 2 BA, plus a bonus room over the garage for possible 4th bedroom. Oversize 2-car garage. Central heat and air. Wood stove in living room for back up heat. All on a paved road not far from town. **\$360,000**

60156508 - **8.42 ACRES M/L.** Great piece of property to build a home. Enough land to have some livestock, plus plenty of room for your family to grow. Convenient to Highway 37 and Cassville, Butterfield, or Monett. Cassville Schools. No restrictions. **\$50,000**

60180021 - **VACANT LAND**, many possibilities. Convenient to NW Arkansas. **\$25,000**

60172511 - **LOTS OF POSSIBILITIES** in this restaurant building in Cassville. Several dining rooms, some kitchen equipment. Set up so that it could be a living quarters in the back with business in the front, or divide into apartments. This would also be an ideal location for a furniture store, flea market, florist, you name it! **\$225,000**

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**Tues:** Street tacos, Mexican corn or chicken tortilla soup, pineapple sheet cake

**Wed:** Grilled ranch chicken foil packets, brownie trifle

**Thurs:** Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, Normandy blend vegetables, roll, pumpkin bars

**Fri:** Bierocks, broccoli salad, chocolate pie

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# Cassville Wildcats hold off Southwest

Lee Stubblefield

The Cassville Wildcats improved to 3-9 on Friday night, holding on for a 48-45 win over the visiting neighbors from Southwest. A large and mostly unmasked crowd gathered for the game despite the winter weather.

This was a game that Cassville had to win for the Wildcats to gain any momentum to finish the season. In this game, the Cats stuck to their strengths, scoring in the paint, rebounding, and playing ferocious defense.

Cassville's only glaring weakness Friday night was on display at the free throw line. The Wildcats converted only 7 of 19 free throws, leaving the door open for a Southwest comeback. The Trojans hit 16 of their 24 foul shots.

Carson Whittemire played a little hero ball, pouring in ten of his game-high 18 points in the first quarter to rev up the Cassville student section. The Wildcats jumped out to a 5-2 advantage before Caden Uthe drilled a long trey from the left wing to put the Trojans in front, 8-7, at the 4:57 mark.

It would be the only Southwest lead of the game.

Trailing 16-13, the Trojans went cold from the floor in

the second quarter. Ice cold. Snow-covered parking lot cold. Southwest shooters could not penetrate Cassville's shifting zone, nor could they find the range from outside. The Wildcats pushed to an 11-point lead at 25-14 with 3:52 left in the half when Caleb Leach went coast-to-coast for a score.

Uthe scored from the line and the floor to finish the quarter, and trim Cassville's lead to 27-20.

Cassville's Aidan Cook opened the third quarter scoring, wowing the crowd with a wild circus shot in the paint. The Trojans made a run in that quarter, but three drives through the paint boosted the Cassville lead back to double digits at 35-25. Then Whittemire nailed his third trey of the game for a 38-27 lead.

Southwest's Cruz Marquez fired up a trey as the clock expired, but was fouled. After missing all three of his previous free throws, Marquez swished three in a row and cut the Cassville lead to 38-32 at the final break.

In a hotly contested fourth quarter, the Trojans cut the lead to two points when Zak Corwin bombed from outside twice. The Wildcats then spurted back to a five-point

advantage.

Two plays defined the final moments. Isaac Hadlow missed a shot at the rim, then fought for two boards on the play, drew a foul, and converted both free throws for a 46-41 Cassville lead with 3:33 to play. Then Marquez drove the lane and dropped in a short jumper, but the basket was waved off on a charging call, a basket that would have cut the Cassville lead to two points entering the final three minutes.

Although the Trojans would pull within three points on three different occasions in the closing minutes, they could never catch up completely.

In the final seconds, Corwin got a good look at a tying three from the deep right corner. But his hurried attempt barely grazed iron, and the Wildcats celebrated a 48-45 victory.

**Cassville scorers:** Carson Whittemire, 18; Aidan Cook, 14; Caleb Leach, 9; Isaac Hadlow, 3; Hernan Hernandez, 2; Peter Littlefield, 2.

**Southwest scorers:** Caden Uthe, 14; Cruz Marquez, 13; Zak Corwin, 13; Brendyn Paulsen, 3; Zak Starr, 1; Lucas Paulsen, 1.

# Graves named to dean's list

Culver-Stockton College recently recognized 201 students on its dean's list for academic achievement during the fall 2020 semester.

Tasha Graves of Exeter, was named to the list.

Students on the dean's list have earned between a 3.5 and 3.99 grade point average and were enrolled in a mini-

mum of 12 hours with no grade lower than a C.

Culver-Stockton College, located in Canton, is a four-year residential institution in affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). C-SC specializes in experiential education and is one of only two colleges in the nation to offer the 12+3 se-

mester calendar, where the typical 15-week semester is divided into a 12-week term and a 3-week term.

C-SC is a member of the Heart of America Athletic Conference and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

# Area Boy Scout troops donate popcorn

The Ozarks are all about coming together as a community to support one another during challenging times.

COVID-19 has impacted us all; however, there is one group who has continued fighting despite being on the frontlines of the pandemic virus...healthcare workers! An American Hero Fund was set-up in November by the Ozark Trails Council, in partnership with both Springfield Hospitals, to collect donations from across the Ozarks. Donations collected were used to purchase popcorn for area healthcare workers and donated this week. Both Cox Health and Mercy Hospital plan to share portions of the donations with their rural clinics who have been hit particularly hard in recent

weeks.

Through the support of the community, the Ozark Trails Council was able to purchase nearly \$8,500 worth of popcorn to be divided among both Hospitals. While bags of popcorn alone may not hold much meaning, the thought and appreciation that this delicious treat represents helps boost the spirits and provides a glimmer of hope for all our healthcare workers sacrific-

ing their own health for the betterment of our community.

**About Ozark Trails Council — Boy Scouts of America**

*The Ozark Trails Council services 31 counties and over 7,300 youth. The Ozark Trails Council provides the Scouting program to young boys and girls starting in Kindergarten all the way until 21 years of age.*

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# Highway work planned at Pea Ridge Military Park

Implementation of Highway 62 mitigations are planned to begin in Pea Ridge Military Park this winter or early spring with various phases occurring throughout the year.

“The purpose of this project is to provide a safe and convenient access road and new parking for our visitors at key features within the park, while at the same time protecting and preserving the cultural and natural

resources. As a result of the relocation of Highway 62, a new access to and improved circulation in the park will be constructed that will provide visitors additional opportunities to learn about the Civil War battle that occurred here,” said park superintendent Eads.

Information about the schedule and access during each phase of the project will be provided through press releases and postings on so-

cial media, <https://www.facebook.com/Pea-Ridge-National-Military-Park>, and the park webpage at <https://www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm>.

Pea Ridge National Military Park preserves and commemorates the site of the March 1862 Civil War battle that helped Union forces gain control of Missouri. The park is located 10 miles north of Rogers just off US Highway 62.



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**TURN KEY AUTO MECHANIC SHOP** Fully insulated 4000 sq. ft. shop sits on 3.4 acres m/l and has an office and waiting area. Four 10x14 doors, 3 lifts, forklift, alignment and tire machines. #60176788 **\$305,000**

**MINI STORAGE ON HWY 37 AND LARGE RETAIL BUILDING** Open retail space with 2 public restrooms. Concession/kitchen area and upstairs office space. 15 unit mini storage. Highly visible location. #60178159 **\$114,900**

**DEVELOPMENT LAND** Over 25 acres m/l near WalMart in Cassville. Would make a nice subdivision. #60175389 **\$209,900**

**BRAND NEW CABIN** This 1 BR, 1 BA has been completed in 2020. Adjoins National Forest with a winter lake view. #60178451 **\$79,900**

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Wheaton Homecoming Candidates Announced

Purdy Homecoming candidates announced



Wheaton's 2021 Homecoming is scheduled for Friday, January 22, when they will play Sparta. The evening will begin with a 5:30 tip-off for a full Junior Varsity game, coronation, then the varsity game will follow. A dance will not be held after the games.

Queen candidates are: freshman Jianna Cha, daughter of Ton Cha and Helen Cha; sophomore Jenny Par, daughter of Bawi Lawt and Thia Tial; Junior Patti Vang, daughter of Charles Vang and Choua Kue; senior Giovanna Hinojosa, daughter of Efren and Maria Hinojosa; and senior Haley Parks, daughter of Greg and Stacey Parks.

King candidates are: seniors Chad Meyer, son of Larry and Brianna Meyer; Brody Prewitt, son of Scott and Lani Prewitt; Jack Mitchell, son of Scott and Traci Mitchell; Zac Leverich, son of Tom and Stephani Leverich; Ty Hudson, son of Brandy Bradford and Damon Hudson.



Purdy High School will crown its 2021 Homecoming royalty on Friday, January 29, in conjunction with the evening's basketball competitions versus Seneca. This year's theme is Homecoming Roadtrip." Purdy's cheer squad will host Homecoming Week events with special destination-themed dress-up days including Hawaii Monday, Texas Tuesday, Colorado Wednesday, Washington D.C. Thursday and Purdy Friday. This year's royalty candidates are pictured clockwise, from top left: Freshmen Marlene Ochoa and Hunter Lee; Sophomores Addy Abramovitz and Jake Young; Seniors Bayleigh Robbins and Osiel Aldava; and Juniors Jasmine Holloway and Eli Webb. The coronation will take place between the JV and Varsity games. The JV contest begins at 6 PM. Masks are required when entering, exiting and moving about inside the building, but may be removed in the stands when social distancing can be maintained.

December "Students of The Month" at Southwest Elementary



December Students of The Month exhibited the character trait of Caring. Southwest Elementary's December Caring Students are, left to right, front row: Emma Phillips, Joshua Bawivelthawng, Mason Burkett, Kolemenn Lawrence, Boston Miniard, Kenley Varner; middle row: Elleigh Harmon, Emmalu Pendergraft, Zaydon Hall, Julieta Tellez, Brailyn Knighting, Tucker Smith; back row: Stacy Reed, Braylee Olds, Brooklynn Outhouse, Jaydn Stattler, Wyatt Wynne, and Paula Callison.

Kylee Horton was absent from the photo.

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• Please print the names of those in the picture on the back.

• First and last names only. Because of space, middle names will not be used.

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Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas crowned at CHS



Above, Jill LeCompte (center) displays the oversized check representing funds raised by Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas candidates. Shown left to right are Mr. Merry Christmas, Levi Maher; Jill LeCompte; and Miss Merry Christmas, Kyah Saffold. Photo by Elizabeth Ray.

Elizabeth Ray

January 15, Cassville High School celebrated 31 years of giving back to the community through the Mr./Miss Merry Christmas program.

Each year, two candidates from each grade, one male and one female, compete to raise the most money for the

Mr./Miss Merry Christmas Project. The money raised by the candidates is donated to Share Your Christmas.

Share Your Christmas is an OACAC program that provides Christmas presents for children who might not otherwise receive any. This year the need skyrocketed, nearly doubling from years past. Luckily, the Cassville High School candidates rose to the challenge and raised \$9,457.38.

This year's candidates included freshmen, Levi Maher and Kyah Saffold; sophomores, Frank Osborne and Lauren Stockton; ju-



Pictured above, left to right, 2020 Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas candidates: back row: Carson Whittemire, Levi Maher, Jesse Taylor; front row: Lauren Stockton, Hannah Hackler, Kyah Saffold, Eden Morris; not pictured: Frank Osborne. Photo by Elizabeth Ray.

niors, Jesse Taylor and Eden Morris; and seniors, Carson Whittemire and Hannah Hackler.

This year's coronation took place preceding the Cassville High School boys' varsity basketball game against Southwest on January 15.

Each candidate entered the gym to the cheers and applause of family and friends. After everyone entered the gym, last year's Miss Merry Christmas, Bailey Saffold, was introduced. She crowned the two candidates who raised the most money this year.

This year's Mr. Merry Christmas is freshman Levi Maher and Miss Merry Christmas is freshman Kyah Saffold.

After they were crowned, the pair presented OACAC representative Jill Lecompte with a check for the money that had been collected.

Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week

Meet Pablo Picasso, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Pablo is a wonderful seven-year-old boxer-mix who has been searching for a family most of his life. Pablo is house-trained, protective of his people, devoted, and is the perfect walking buddy. At 58 pounds, Pablo is a nice size for most homes. Pablo loves people of all ages, but really wants to be the only pet in your life. Could he be your new best friend? Meet him at the Haven.



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**Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021**

**9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

at **The Emory Melton Inn & Conference Center**

**Roaring River State Park**

*Applicants must wear masks*





**CAROLYN (WILLIAMS) MCNEELY**

Carolyn (Williams) McNeely, age 78, of Cassville, passed away on January 5, 2021, at Roaring River Rehabilitation Center.

Carol was born in Berryville, Arkansas, on May 27, 1942, the daughter of Fay and Vera (Deeds) Williams. She attended Antelope High School in Lancaster, California, where she met and married Chuck F. Morris, who proceeded her in death on

May 10, 1970. She was united in marriage to Larry F. Butler in 1972; he preceded her in death on May 3, 1985. She was united in marriage to Roger McNeely and later Martin Bloxnik; both also preceded her in death along with her parents and her beloved sister, JoAnn Gundlefinger.

Surviving are her three children, daughter, Michele (Morris) Hovland and her husband, Darrell Hovland, of Jenkins; daughter, Tania Morris, of Cassville; and son, Bill (BB) Butler and his spouse, Dana Derrington, of Chesterfield; one brother, Jack Williams, of Springfield; and one sister-in-law, Terry Purdom and her husband, Bob Purdom, of Cassville. Carol, alias Grammy, had to wait until she was 61 years old before she became a grandma. Surviving are all her seven grandchildren, Max Butler, Riley Morris, Charley Melton-Hovland,

OBITUARIES

Tori Mitchell, Gus Butler, and Gavin Hovland. She has one nephew, Chris Fields, and his wife, Debbie Fields, of Clarksville, Tennessee, and two nieces, Brooke and Carlee Williams, of Cassville. Again, Aunt Carol had to wait until she was 60 years old before she was blessed with great nieces, including Dazee and Clovee Williams, Makaiden Bolles, Emily Fields and great nephews Gavin Gardner and Gabe Fields. Who else survives her? Well, besides the rather extensive family, several well-loved plants.

She and her husband, Larry Butler, owned a family diner on Main Street Cassville affectionately called "Carol's Country Kitchen". Upon his passing, she valued her time of ten years running a line at Fasco and cherished those memories of co-workers until her last days. She later established a career as a health care provider where she steadily improved the lives of many women in Southwest Missouri, including that of her close friend, Jean Melton. She loved to travel with her daughters to Frankfurt, Paris, London, Hawaii and Seoul. She lived on the Micronesian Islands for two years and treasured her opportunity to teach English in the local Catholic schools.

She was passionate about her yard and porches. She adored her plants; at one time she had over 110 indoor plants. Carol loved talking and sharing solutions to whomever shared a problem or situation with her. She

would draw from her vast knowledge of home remedies to Dr Oz's latest advice. It was clearly apparent that she felt compelled to share some pearls of wisdom with whoever before she parted ways.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held on Jan 23, 2021, at 1 p.m. at the Williams' Cemetery in their outdoor pavilion, located just past the Arkansas State Line.

**RICHARD EDWARD MCKEE**

Richard Edward McKee, 73, of Cassville, went to be with the Lord on the morning of January 16, 2021.

He was born on April 17, 1947, and was the proud son to Orlie and Clara McKee, of Creston, Iowa.

Richard was united in marriage to Cindy Nielson on Sept. 1, 1974; they relocated to Rogers, Ark., for more than 17 years.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Cindy; his four children, Richard McKee and his wife, Lisa, of Colcord, Okla., Kimberly Darner (McKee) and her husband, Phillip, of Cassville, Robin McKee and Rebecca Chadock; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was a devoted hus-

band and father, and loved his kids and grandkids. He was a hardworking man with a heart of gold. He would help anyone in need and never met a stranger. The biggest things in his life were faith and family. He loved God and was a member of The First Assembly of God where he was an usher and assisted in bookkeeping. He also enjoyed a good game of Canasta with a few of his dear friends from church. Richard always knew how to brighten up a room with his jokes and loved to make people smile. He was an outstanding father to his children and raised them to be the best they could be; he taught them that with hard work and determination, anything we set our minds to, we could achieve. He is loved and missed dearly.

He is proceeded in death by his parents and his brother, Kenneth.

No services are scheduled at this this.

Cremation services are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home of Cassville.

**CHARLOTTE LEE (FROST) CLOUD**

Charlotte Lee (Frost) Cloud, 93, of Monett, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

**TERRY DUANE HENSLEY**

Terry Duane Hensley, 80, of Monett, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021.

Memorial visitation will be held from 2-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at First United Methodist Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

**BEVERLY WILLIS**

Beverly Willis, age 79, of Seligman, passed away at Springfield Mercy Hospital on Monday, January 11, 2021. Beverly was daughter of Jack and Blanche Lawson and was born on February 3, 1941, in Neosho. Beverly worked

**BEVERLY WILLIS**

Beverly Willis, age 79, of Seligman, passed away at Springfield Mercy Hospital on Monday, January 11, 2021. Beverly was daughter of Jack and Blanche Lawson and was born on February 3, 1941, in Neosho. Beverly worked

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Praise Him according to  
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Psalm 150:2**

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.





**GERALD “JERRY” LEROY HARLING**

Gerald “Jerry” Leroy Harling, age 77, of Seligman, passed away on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Arkansas. He was the son of Bruce and Fay (Wilburn) Harling, born on June 2, 1943, in Hawthorne, Nevada. Jerry grew up moving from state to state with his parents working construction until they settled in Seligman in 1957 to make their forever home. He was a 1961 Southwest High School graduate and subsequently went on to join the United States Navy where he served his country proudly from 1961 to 1964. On December 4, 1964, Jerry married the love of his life, Jenna Davidson. He worked construction till 1972, then went on to work at Daisy B.B.

Factory until they closed in 1998.

Jerry was very active with the Seligman Fire Department, volunteering countless hours from 1972, became fire chief in 1985, and retired from his duties in 2011. He was very well known and respected for all his dedication and hard work with the fire department as well as making many lasting friendships along the way. Jerry was also a member of the Lions Club. He enjoyed hunting and loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Over the years, Jerry became “Papa” to so many and will be dearly missed by all who had the chance of knowing him.

Jerry is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Jenna Lea Harling, of Seligman; one son, Gerald Harling and his wife, Jennifer, of Seligman; one daughter, Leah Persons and her husband, Wayne, of Seligman; four grandsons, Charlie Harling, Jason Harling, Jessie Harling, and Levi Thomas; one granddaughter, Tabitha Curby; twelve great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by two stepfathers, Jack Clay-

ton and Midus Stacy; one half-brother, David Harling; one half-sister, Marion Bracefield; and one great-granddaughter.

Graveside services were held today, Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at the Seligman City Cemetery with Pastor Donnie Spears officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seligman Fire Department and entrusted to the White Funeral Home and Crematory, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

W

White Funeral Home and Crematory

www.whitefuneralhome.org

417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400

**HERSCHEL STEHLIK**

Herschel Stehlik, age 94, of Cassville, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021, at his home.

Graveside services with military honors will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, under

direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Viewing will be held from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m. Friday, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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**BARBARA JEAN KINGREY**

Barbara Jean Kingrey, age 86, of Cassville, passed away at her home on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Mrs. Kingrey, daughter of David and Goldie (Massey) Moore, was born on September 14, 1934, in Columbus, Ohio. On December 13, 1952, she

was united in marriage to Raymond Kingrey. She loved the Lord and never missed a chance to attend church; she was a member of Grace Independent Methodist Church in Monett. She enjoyed cooking and her family was particularly important to her. Barbara was such a loving woman with a heart of gold and would help anyone in need. She was a dear friend to so many and will be forever missed.

Survivors include her husband of sixty-eight years, Raymond Kingrey, of Cassville; one daughter, Cheryl Williams and her husband, Scott, of Cassville; three grandchildren, Scotty Hall and his wife, Carla, of Cassville, Eric Hall, of Cassville, Kasey Hall and her husband, Mike, of Monett; eleven great-grandchildren; one sister, Sue Hughes, of Neosho; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, and her stepfather, Thomas Hamilton, Barbara was preceded in death by her son, Randy Kingrey, and two

W

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## Missouri’s Eagle Days online event

Missouri’s Eagle Days events have become much-anticipated mid-winter routines for many families in the Show-Me State. This year, COVID-19 health concerns have changed Eagle Days to an online event, but that doesn’t diminish the ongoing efforts to celebrate our national bird and its comeback in Missouri and the U.S.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is partnering with Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield for several virtual Eagle Days events this year. As part of this year’s Eagle Days virtual events, Dickerson Park Zoo will provide participants with an up-close view of a live, rehabilitated eagle and peregrine falcon. Characteristics of these two birds will be discussed and there will also be live question-and-answer sessions at the end of the programs. Here is the schedule and the registration addresses for each event.

Jan. 23, noon-1 p.m., register at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/175583>

Jan. 23, 1 p.m.-2 p.m., register at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/175585>

Feb. 6, noon-1 p.m., register at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/175584>

Feb. 6, 1 p.m.-2 p.m., register at <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/175586>

This year’s online Eagle Days event is the latest example of the longstanding partnership between MDC and Dickerson Park Zoo that has not only helped raise awareness about bald eagles

but also helped our national bird make a comeback in Missouri. One of the early steps in this comeback effort occurred in 1974, when the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) worked with Dickerson Park Zoo to establish a breeding program for bald eagles at the zoo. This made sense because, at the time, Dickerson Park Zoo was one of the largest eagle rehabilitators in the nation.

“Dickerson Park Zoo’s involvement in the rehabilitation of bald eagles started with former zoo curator Paul Price,” said Zoo Director Mike Crocker. “A falconer himself, Paul’s interest in birds of prey led the zoo to become more involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of sick and injured eagles and other raptors that were brought to the zoo. That eventually led to a cooperative effort between the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the zoo to launch what became a successful 10-year effort to reestablish a breeding population of eagles in Missouri by rear-

ing eagles at the zoo and then releasing them in the wild. And as they say, the rest is history.”

Prior to the project Crocker referenced, the history of bald eagles in Missouri had been a downward spiral. Historically, bald eagles had nested throughout Missouri, but there had been no known nestings in the state between 1965 and 1982. MDC, USFWS, and Dickerson Park Zoo coordinated efforts on a restoration project throughout the 1980s that involved obtaining 74 eaglets – some of which had been born at the zoo, but most had been obtained from wild nests in Alaska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These young birds

were placed in artificial nests at USFWS’ Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and MDC’s Schell-Osage Conservation Area. The purpose of this was to, hopefully, re-establish successful bald eagle nesting in Missouri.

This effort, coupled with improved bald eagle management in other states, have resulted in a great wildlife comeback story in Missouri. Today, there are more than 500 active bald eagle nests in

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Wilma Epps

would like to thank everyone for all you did for us at the time of Wilma's passing. We appreciate you all very much.

Larry, Jodi, and family and Geraldine

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# Graduates announced



**Dr. Jerri Lynn Henry**  
Jerri Lynn Henry, daughter of Jerry and Kathy Henry of Washburn, graduated (December 2020) from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Plant, Insect and Microbial Science. Dr. Henry is an alumna of Southwest High School (2013) and Missouri State University (2016, 2017).  
The family would like to congratulate Jerri Lynn on her recent accomplishment and wish her the best of luck in the future.



**JR Henry**  
JR Henry, son of Jerry and Kathy Henry of Washburn, graduated (December 2020) from Kanas State University in Manhattan, Kansas with a Bachelor's in Animal Science. JR will be attending grad school at Kansas State University pursuing a degree in anatomy and physiology through the vet school.  
The family would like to congratulate JR on his recent accomplishment and wish him the best of luck in the future.

# Purdy Class of 1980 holds reunion



**Purdy Class of 1980 Classmates**  
©2020 Chuck Nickle Photography

Purdy Class of 1980, front row, left to right: Jerry Henderson, Steve Harris, Deana (Norvell) Hughes, Michelle (Sharman) Renfro, Laura (Hayes) Rose, Doug England, and Matt Davis. Back row: Joe Bartkoski, Tom Mareth, Lonnie Swaffar, Kevin Burnside, and Kenneth "Chip" Abromovitz.

*Congratulations*



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Special Courtesy Transportation (Demo) Price: \$27,599  
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\*21 Farm Bureau eCert..... \$1,000  
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White Gold w/Charcoal, 1.5L I4 EcoBoost, Rear Camera, Power Trunk Release, Low Miles, A/C, CLEAN CAR!

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## EAGLES FROM PG.11

the Show-Me State. In winter, when the state's resident bald eagles are joined by migrating birds from the northern parts of the continent, Missouri's eagle population can swell to more than 2,000 birds.

Dickerson Park Zoo's eagle care program has also produced three well-known eagles that have been used in programs around the state. For a variety of reasons, these were birds that could not survive in the wild, but could still serve as ambassadors for the species. Omega was the first of Dickerson Park Zoo's program eagles followed by Phoenix, who is still being used at eagle events. The zoo also has Aquila, a golden eagle that it uses in programs. These birds allow people to get up-close-and-personal views of a live eagle and, through this experience, gain a greater appreciation for eagles.

"For a long time, Dickerson Park Zoo's professional and dedicated staff and volunteers have served Missouri's wildlife in a mission of rehabilitation and care while providing educational programs to countless Missourians and being a great partner to the Missouri Department of Conservation," said MDC Scientist Janet Haslerig, who helps coordinate the agency's bald eagle monitoring efforts in the state. "This invaluable partnership with Dickerson Park Zoo and other state and federal partners has led to a remarkable conservation success story for bald eagles in Missouri."

People can learn more about bald eagles in Missouri and other eagle-related events across the state at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov).



# MDC reports final deer harvest

Missouri's 2020-2021 deer-hunting season ended Jan. 15 with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reporting a preliminary total deer harvest for the season of 296,516. Of the deer harvested, 140,468 were antlered bucks, 28,587 were button bucks, and 127,461 were does.

Top harvest counties for the overall deer season were Franklin with 5,786 deer harvested, Howell with 5,367, and Callaway with 4,989.

Hunters harvested 285,873 deer during the 2019-2020 deer hunting season with 134,092 being antlered bucks, 27,970 being button bucks, and 123,811 being does.

"Although harvest was down slightly during the November portion of firearms deer season, when most of the deer harvest occurs, increases in most of the other season portions contributed to about a four-percent increase in this year's total deer harvest over last year's," said MDC Cervid Program Supervisor Jason Isabelle. "The increased harvest is largely a reflection of increasing deer numbers throughout much of the state."

## ARCHERY DEER RESULTS

Deer hunting ended with the close of the archery season. Preliminary data from MDC showed that hunters checked 67,180 deer during the 2020-2021 archery deer season. Top counties for the archery deer season were Jefferson with 1,630, Saint Louis with 1,384, and Franklin with 1,315.

Hunters checked 61,407 deer during the 2019-2020 archery deer season.

For preliminary deer harvest totals by season, county, and type of deer, visit the MDC website at [extra.mdc.mo.gov/widgets/harvest\\_table/](http://extra.mdc.mo.gov/widgets/harvest_table/).

For deer harvest summaries from past years, visit [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/deer-harvest-reports/deer-harvest-summaries](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/deer-harvest-reports/deer-harvest-summaries).

For more information on deer hunting in Missouri, visit [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer).

## ARCHERY TURKEY RESULTS

Fall archery turkey hunting also ended Jan. 15. Preliminary data from MDC showed 2,905 turkeys harvested. Top counties for the fall archery turkey season were Greene with 84, Franklin with 78, and Texas with 61.

Hunters harvested 2,406 turkeys during the 2019-2020

fall archery turkey season.

For more turkey harvest information for the current season, go online to [extra.mdc.mo.gov/widgets/harvest\\_table/](http://extra.mdc.mo.gov/widgets/harvest_table/).

For more harvest information on past turkey seasons, visit [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey/turkey-reports/turkey-harvest-summaries-past-seasons](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey/turkey-reports/turkey-harvest-summaries-past-seasons).

For more information on turkey hunting in Missouri, visit [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey).

## HUNTING INCIDENTS

MDC reported four firearms-related hunting incidents during the 2020-2021 fall deer and turkey hunting seasons. The incidents were all self-inflicted and non-fatal.

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# PSC denies emergency rule-making request

The Missouri Public Service Commission has denied a request filed by Consumers Council of Missouri which sought Commission issuance of an emergency rule that would temporarily prevent electric, natural gas, and water disconnections through March 31, 2021, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission found the rulemaking requested does not meet the criteria for the issuance of an emergency rule.

"At the beginning of the pandemic in this state, the large Commission-regulated utilities each voluntarily placed a moratorium on residential disconnections. This action allowed the utilities time to take the necessary legal and organizational steps to revise their payment

plans, collections processes, customer financial assistance programs, and other operations to better serve their customers during the pandemic," said the Commission. "These utilities reported to the Commission that most of their repayment and financial assistance programs were still available and were funded. Additionally, stopping the regular disconnection processes may unintentionally harm customers by making them ineligible to receive financial assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) because no disconnection was imminent. The utilities stated that customers often did not seek help with payment plans and financial assistance until prompted to do so by receiving a disconnection notice.

Further, placing a moratorium on disconnections may leave customers with insurmountable arrearages when the moratorium expires."

"The Commission finds

that the programs put in place by the utilities to avoid disconnections during the pandemic should be allowed an opportunity to work and have been working," said the Commission.

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A concrete structure with a central grate, likely a water level measurement station, situated in a pond. The structure is rectangular and partially submerged in the water. The water is calm, and the background shows a shoreline with trees and a small building.

A full-page photograph of a young couple standing outdoors. The woman, on the left, has long dark hair and is wearing a white long-sleeved mini dress and tall tan boots. She is holding a large bouquet of white and blue flowers. The man, on the right, has short brown hair and is wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. They are standing on a path covered with fallen brown leaves. In the background, there is a dark body of water and a black metal railing. The overall mood is romantic and autumnal.

A collection of electronic devices (desktop monitor, laptop, tablet, and smartphone) displaying the Bixby County Advertiser website, illustrating its multi-platform presence. The desktop monitor in the background shows the full website layout with the headline "Lady Bulldogs claim District Champ title". In front of it, a laptop on the right also displays the same article. To the left, a tablet and a smartphone show the website's responsive design adapted for their respective screen sizes. The website features a green and white color scheme with the "Bixby County Advertiser" logo prominently displayed.

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