

Cassville R-IV Superintendent Tenders Resignation



Cassville R-IV Schools superintendent Richard Asbill accepts position with Bolivar district.

Sheila Harris
Dr. Richard Asbill, superintendent of the Cassville R-IV School District, tendered his resignation at a special board meeting called Monday night.

He has accepted the position of superintendent of the Bolivar School District, a district with 2,900 students - about 1,000 more than Cassville - Asbill says.

While the news comes as a shock to many in Cassville, Asbill says, for him and his wife Kari and son Sawyer, it was time to revisit some of their priorities.

“For me, it’s important to be a good leader,” Asbill said. “I want to make sure I’m giving my all as an educator. For that reason, it’s also important to be able to shift paradigms and change lesson

plans occasionally, because last year’s all might not be the all that I’m called to give this year, or the year after.”

Asbill has been in education for 21 years, beginning with the Cassville School District as the Agricultural Education teacher and FFA advisor. After many transitions, which included a leap into administration with the development of an alternative school, followed by various other administrative positions and a four-year stint with the Southwest district, Asbill returned to Cassville as the assistant superintendent, followed by his current position, which he’s held for 11 years.

“We hadn’t been planning this change for long,” Asbill-

said. “Kari and I think things kind of revealed themselves. When the pending opening with the Bolivar school district came to my attention in November, we thought it would be a good fit, so I submitted my application.”

Asbill was one of 24 candidates who applied for the opening with the Bolivar district, according to a KY3 news article. Applications were reviewed on January 18, and five candidates were selected for interviews scheduled on Saturday, January 23. After a brief deliberation, Asbill was chosen for the position that same evening.

Paula Hubbert, president of the Bolivar school board, said Dr. Asbill’s experience, personality, and peer recom-

mendations led the board to the conclusion that he was the best fit for Bolivar.

“He will be sorely missed in Cassville,” R-IV board president Becky Henningson said.

She has plenty of good things to say about Asbill.

“If you look around our campus, he’s made lots of improvements,” Henningson said. “He’s also been good with our budget and has kept us in good shape financially. He’s definitely a good leader.”

Although the district will miss him, Henningson said they will begin searching immediately for a replacement.

Asbill will complete the 2021 spring semester in Cassville before beginning with the Bolivar district in

July.

Asbill said, in some ways, the close relationships he’s formed in Cassville make it easier to leave.

“Because I have such good relationships and friends here, I have a strong support system, which gives me to move forward,” he said.

His closest allies in times of stress, Asbill said, have always been his relationships with his wife and with God, although he’s thankful, too, to have friends he can turn to with questions.

“Although I will miss friends in this area, my family and I are excited and ready to meet our new friends in Bolivar,” he said.

See ASBILL 3A

County sees increase in 2020 tax revenue, 2021 budget



Another round of January snow Wednesday morning embellishes the surrounds of the Barry County Courthouse in Cassville.

Sheila Harris

Barry County commissioners have approved a budget totalling \$5,759,158 for 2021, a number up \$244,326 from the budget originally proposed and up \$844,179 from the 2020 approved budget.

Presiding commissioner Gary Youngblood explained that because the county received additional tax revenue in 2020, some of the county departments received a bit more funds than they had originally requested.

“It’s easier,” Youngblood said, “to approve the additional funds now, for future needs, than to wait for elected officials to request them next year.”

According to numbers received from Barry County treasurer, Lois Lowe, total sales tax revenue for 2020 was \$5,278,070.90, which reflects an increase of 9.15 percent over the 2019 sales tax revenue of \$4,830,332.

Youngblood attributes the jump in tax revenue in 2020

to more people shopping locally as a result of COVID-19 and to an increase in tourists at Roaring River State Park.

In the 2021 budget, an increase of \$169,039 was approved for the county commission above the amount approved for 2020. Youngblood explained the larger amount will provide law enforcement with more tools to perform their jobs, tools including four new patrol

See BUDGET 11A

Scott Appointed CS Bank Cassville Branch Manager

Charles T. Cross, CEO, CS Bank, has announced the promotion of Ms. Tina Scott to the position of Branch Manager for the bank’s entry into Cassville. She will oversee CS Bank’s deposit services staff for the entire market. Ms. Scott, with fifteen years of banking experience, has served in numerous roles at CS Bank, ranging from Deposit Services, Data Processing, and most recently Loan Operations. Prior to joining the bank, Ms. Scott was employed by the State of Missouri as a Court Clerk at the Barry County Judicial Center.

Cross stated, “Tina has demonstrated outstanding work in all of the areas she’s served at CS Bank. We are thrilled to place Tina in this

leadership role within our institution as we begin to put together what’s shaping up to be a great team of professional bankers to serve the Barry County area. Her dedication to customer service and knowledge of the market make her a tremendous asset to CS Bank as we continue to grow and expand our client base.”

Ms. Scott, along with her husband Mark, have resided in Golden for thirty-three years. Together, they have two children—Logan and Autumn Scott. Tina’s husband and their two children are Cassville High School Alumni. Ms. Scott graduated from Willard High School and attended Crowder College. They are members of First Baptist Church in Cass-



Tina Scott, of Golden, will serve as the branch manager for CS Bank in Cassville.

ville. Outside of the bank, Ms. Scott enjoys spending time with her grandbabies, boating on Table Rock Lake, and crafting.

CS Bank plans to open its temporary facility in early 2021 at the intersection of

See SCOTT 3A

Inside this issue:

COVID-19
Vaccine Information
5A

Bentonview Park Health & Rehab residents relocated 3A

Exeter Homecoming candidates announced 9A

Cassville Tip Off candidates announced 16A

“Old dog, new tricks,” sportswriter takes first 6A

CoxHealth accepting apps for new program 5A

Upcoming..... 4 A
Obits10-11 A
Sports6-7 A
Classified 14-15 A
Auctions 13 A

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Cassville Chamber board welcomes new members



New 2021 board members recently attended their first board meeting (as board members) of the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber board welcomes Lawson Bresette, Georges, Inc.; Sharon Sanders, Oak Hill Court; Kasey Hall, Barry County Abstract; and Gerry Mann, Arning Companies.

SCOTT from FRONT

Hwy. 76 and Hwy. 37 while they construct their permanent facility across the road at the former Seven Valleys Chrysler Dodge dealership

location. This will be the bank's seventh location and first within the state of Missouri.

ASBILL from FRONT

The Asbills plan to sell their house in Cassville and purchase another one in the Bolivar area, although they want to take time, to make sure they make wise decisions. "I'm not one to live out of a storage unit or U-Haul

for long," Asbill said, "so the wheels will be in motion." Asbill's sorry he hasn't solved the pandemic, but in spite of it, he wants to ensure that children have a public education experience with the best hope for the future possible, he says.

Barry-Lawrence Regional Library receives tech grant

Sheila Harris

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft announced that Barry-Lawrence Regional Library received a Technology Mini-Grant of \$18,000.

Barry-Lawrence Regional Library director Gina Milburn says the library will use the grant to replace 20 public use computers, 20 monitors and two staff laptops.

According to Ashcroft, Technology Mini-Grants provide funding for eligible libraries to replace older equipment or purchase new equipment to improve library services. Specifically, he said, the grants focus on libraries with a network at risk of

imminent failure, replacing software or hardware that's no longer supported, and projects aimed at responding to COVID-19 through the use of technology.

"The Mini-Grant is one of two grants we receive every year just like clock-work," Barry-Lawrence Library director Milburn said. "The second one is the Technology Ladder Grant."

Milburn says, for the second grant, they've written a request for funds to replace the remaining 30 desktop computers and monitors that are available for public use throughout the library system. The computers will be

replaced in no particular order, although the oldest, most worn models will be replaced first.

"We also plan to purchase nine tablets, which are used for PayPal processing in each of our branches," she said. "With PayPal, library patrons can use debit or credit cards to pay for copies, book replacements, or any other transaction that totals \$1 or more."

According to Secretary of State Ashcroft's press release, the Missouri State Library has approved a total of 83 grant applications for the 2021 fiscal year, totaling \$1,203,011 in federal awards that the sec-

retary's office has distributed to libraries throughout Missouri. The grants are funded by the Library Services and Technology Act through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"Missouri's libraries serve as vital resource hubs for their communities," Ashcroft said. "Last year, library directors and staff developed new ways to reach and provide services to their patrons. These grants help provide libraries with the technology they need to expand the services they offer and meet the needs of their patrons."

Residents of Bentonview Park Health & Rehab relocated

Sheila Harris

According to the Barry County Office of Emergency Management and Jen Ryan, spokesperson for Bentonview Park Health & Rehab in Monett, residents of the care facility were evacuated Friday evening after a remodeling contractor accidentally pulled up flooring containing asbestos.

"All residents of the facility were safely evacuated to other facilities or went home with family members," said Ryan. "Bentonview staff continues to work with the temporary facilities."

Each of the facilities offers various means of communication with families and residents, including virtual visits to help with communication and connection to

their loved ones during this time, Ryan said. "Dedicated contact numbers have been established for Bentonview Park families and primary contacts.

"The health and safety of our residents and staff continue to be our highest priority," Ryan said. "We look forward to the residents return to Bentonview once the renovation is complete, and most importantly, we look forward to welcoming our residents and staff back to the community they know and love."

Barry County Office of Emergency Management director, David Compton, said the county's emergency operations plan was activated about 5:15 p.m. Friday after it was reported to his office that the asbestos had been

uncovered. Partnering agencies then coordinated to begin evacuating residents.

Compton applauds the rapid community-wide response by multiple organizations.

Compton explained that while the asbestos flooring was covered, it was not a threat, but when it was disturbed during the remodeling project, it became one.

"The facility is currently

working with local agencies and a certified and licensed asbestos abatement contractor to continue work," Ryan said.

According to Compton, after completion of the work, additional sampling and testing will be done to ensure the safety of staff and residents, and Bentonview Park will initiate the return of residents to the facility.

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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:

Southwest Missouri Coalition of Charities provides a network where non profits can belong, share knowledge and support one another. The organization hosts meetings via Zoom. Upcoming topics include: Focus on Prom, Friday, January 29, 2021, 11 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.; and Housing Coach Group for Transitional & Temporary Housing, Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. More information can be found on their Facebook page. You may also contact Elaine Phaneuf at the Barry County Advertiser to request emailed links to the meetings.

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 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.

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. 28

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

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. 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 go to www.cbco.org/donate-blood.

Feb. 7

The Veterans Taskforce of America, Inc. will be meeting at the Angus Branch Steakhouse in Monett at 4 P.M. All honorably discharged men, women, war time or peacetime, are welcomed.

Feb. 13

The Rifle Raffle Drawing hosted by The Wheaton Historical Society will be on Saturday night, February 13, 2021, at 6 P.M. at the Wheaton Depot Museum. The Wheaton Historical Society annual February Winter Banquet has been cancelled due to the Covid pandemic.

School Menus: Feb. 1 - Feb. 5

All meals served with milk and subject to change.

Cassville High School: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, orange or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: crispito or burrito, corn, nachos, refried beans, applesauce or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, hashbrown, toast, pears or cereal, granola bar, applesauce. L: general chicken or chicken nuggets, glazed carrots, egg roll, fortune cookie, pineapple or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: spaghetti or alfredo, salad, green beans, bread stick, juice or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, gravy, pineapple or cereal, Rice Krispy Treat, apple. L: pizza or cheeseburger, broccoli, corn, peaches or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or mini cini, sausage, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, pears. L: cheeseburger or pizza, Sun Chips, carrot sticks, mandarin oranges or salad meal.

Cassville PR-IN-Middle: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, hashbrown, pears or cereal, granola bar, orange. L: corndog or BBQ pork rib, mac & cheese, glazed carrots, fruit cocktail. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or oatmeal, toast, yogurt cup, mandarin oranges or cereal, Pop-Tart, orange. L: spaghetti or popcorn chicken, salad, broccoli & cheese, bread stick, pears. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, Nutri Grain Bar, pears. L: chicken & noodles or country steak, potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, peaches. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or cinnamon bun, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, banana muffin, applesauce. L: pork patty or cheeseburger, french fries, carrots, juice. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail. L: pizza or chicken alfredo, salad, vegetable mix, mandarin oranges.

Purdy: Mon: B: bacon eggstravaganza, toast, fruit. L: frito pie, corn, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L baked pasta, ww breadstick, romaine salad, tomato, ranch dressing, fruit. Wed: B: french toast sticks, syrup, fruit. L: chicken fried steak, wg roll, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, fruit. Thurs: B: apple strudel, fruit. L: tacos, salsa, refried beans, fruit, chocolate chip cookie. Fri: B: blueberry muffin, fruit, Go-Gurt. L: hot ham & cheese, baby carrots, Sun Chips, fruit.


Southwest: Mon: B: breakfast sausage pizza, mandarin oranges, juice. L: salisbury steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, pineapple. Tues: B: cereal, blueberries, mozzarella cheese sticks, juice. L: chicken fajita nachos, lettuce, cheese, corn, salsa, mandarin oranges. Wed: B: biscuit, pepper gravy, grapes, juice. L: personal cheese pizza, romaine salad, ranch dressing, chocolate chip cookies, pears. Thurs: B: pancake on a stick, peaches, juice. L: general chicken, broccoli, peach cup, fortune cookie. Fri: B: ham & hashbrown sandwich, grapes, juice. L: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, chips, applesauce.


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Fri: Smothered pork chops, rice pilaf, veg., coconut delight

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Launch of COVID-19 dashboard announced

Tuesday, Governor Mike Parson announced the launch of a new COVID-19 vaccination dashboard containing Missouri-specific data submitted by providers from across the state.

"We are excited to announce the launch of Missouri's COVID-19 vaccination dashboard. This dashboard will provide Missourians with the most up-to-date, Missouri-specific data available," said Governor Parson. "It is important that we provide this resource and be as transparent as possible, especially as some individuals tasked with reporting Missouri's vaccine data often fail to report the complete picture."

Enrolled vaccinators throughout the state of Missouri continue to vaccinate those living or working in Missouri who are eligible under Phase 1A and Phase 1B - Tiers 1 and 2.

The interactive dashboard includes total doses administered and also distinguishes the number of individuals who have received one dose or both doses. Seven-day averages of doses administered are also included as well as demographic information on individuals who have received at least one dose. This information shows the shares of individual populations by age group, sex, race, and ethnicity.

Additionally, those who live in Missouri and have received at least one dose are also captured in a county-

level vaccination table. This shows how many residents have received a dose per reported county of residence.

The vaccination dashboard was incorporated into the larger COVID-19 public health dashboard and is also available at [MOStopsCovid.com](#).

Governor Parson participated in a call with the National Governors Association, White House Officials, and federal partners. Governor Parson released the following statement regarding recent reports citing the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) portrayal of COVID-19 vaccination data for Missouri:

"After a call with other governors, I can tell you that Missouri is not alone in our frustration on how vaccination data is being reported by the CDC," Governor Parson said. "I and many other Governors expressed concern that vaccination data from the CDC is being misrepresented and does not fully reflect the situations we are seeing at the state level."

"National rankings on the CDC's dashboard are marginal and are being used to misinform Missourians that the state is falling short in vaccine administration, or worse, that the state itself is stockpiling vaccines," Governor

Parson said. "The fact is that vaccines ship directly to local providers, and our data shows vaccine distribution and administration rates in Missouri are similar to other states."

"With CDC data being used to fit certain narratives that fail to fully inform Missourians of the reality of the situation, we encourage the use of the Missouri COVID-19 vaccine dashboard as one of the best resources to get the latest vaccine numbers without the political rhetoric others may include in their reporting," Governor Parson continued.

Missourians are encouraged to visit [MoStopsCOVID.com](#) to see the latest vaccine updates, find out when they are eligible for the vaccine, and locate available vaccinators in their area.

Registration is now open for the next cohort in CoxHealth's Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Program.

The program gives participants a salary while attending classes – and the chance at a job after successfully completing the program. Thirty individuals will be accepted in the upcoming cohort,

Roark Family Health to offer vaccine clinics

Sheila Harris

Dr. Lisa Roark, of Roark Family Health & Medical Spa in Cassville, announced that her office will be hosting drive-through vaccination clinics as soon as they have vaccine available. There will be no charge to recipients of the vaccine, she said.

However, as of press time, her office has no vaccine available, nor has she received confirmation of when they will receive the vaccine.

Due to the high volume of telephone calls her office has received, they are no longer taking names of interested parties by telephone.

"We will post online scheduling on our website and Facebook page," Roark said.

For information, visit <https://www.roarkfamily-health.com> or Roark Family Health, LLC, on Facebook.

CORRECTION: Whitley taking names

Sheila Harris

In the January 20 issue, it was reported that Whitley Pharmacy in Cassville was *not* taking a list of the names of people interested in receiving the vaccine.

However, Whitley Pharmacy *is* currently making a list with the names of interested people.

"I had *considered* not making a list since we weren't sure if we'd be receiving vaccine or not," pharmacist Logan Whitley said, "but we have received confirmation that we are approved to receive and administer the vaccine, so we are making a list of those people interested in taking it."

"We're not sure yet when we'll receive it, though," he added.

Mercy vaccine clinics to be offered

Sheila Harris

According to Mercy Hospitals spokesperson, Sonya Kullman, appointment times for COVID-19 vaccine clinics on Tuesdays at Mercy Hospital Cassville and on Wednesdays at Mercy Hospital Aurora are being accepted. To get in line virtually for vaccines, people can go online to [www.mercy.net/MO-](#)

Vaccine and fill out a form. They will be notified when they are eligible to schedule a vaccination appointment.

"It may take some time," Kullman said. "We're dependent upon the state for vaccine supply, and are working as quickly as possible to distribute the vaccine we receive."

CoxHealth accepting apps for Med Assistant Apprentices

which begins in April 2021.

In addition to being paid while completing the program, participants' books, tuition, uniforms and stethoscope are also provided at no cost to them.

The program features classes at OTC and time spent training at CoxHealth facilities, and is designed to help

people enter the health care profession. Medical Assistants are trained in multiple skills, from clinical to those for the front office, and work in clinics, urgent cares and physician offices. The classes are held in Springfield, but jobs for Medical Assistants are found throughout the region.

The 16-week program is open to anyone with a high school diploma or equivalent, and the application deadline for the upcoming cohort is Feb. 25.

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17c

Happy birthday, Lee Stubblefield! - From the staff at The Barry County Advertiser

Old dogs, new tricks: The trail running challenge



Josie and Lee Stubblefield

Lee Stubblefield

It has been a mostly barren year for distance running. With race after race cancelled, my workout schedule became more and more monotonous. Spring became summer, summer became fall, and there seemed to be no end to the dull, tedious, and repetitious sessions with no competitions available.

But I harkened back to my

coaching days, when I griped often about too many races and not enough practice days for my fledgling runners. Not only did I embrace the new normal for my running, but I also agreed to be a virtual coach for Travis Sickles, an area high schooler, and Faith Lind, a University of Wyoming runner preparing for her first marathon.

A few races appeared sporadically on the calendar, but with my high-risk classification for the Chinese virus, I shied away from entering. Then I saw it. The flyer for the annual Frozen Toes 15K Trail Run at Mt. Kessler in Fayetteville. The race would fall on my birthday, my 65th birthday in fact.

That would make me the youngest runner in the 65-69 age group, a distinct advantage in the world of masters distance running.

One problem remained. I had never run a trail race. NEVER. In a lifetime of run-

ning, I had limited myself to track, road, and cross country events. I hate to say this, but cross country is really no harder than most track or road distance events. Too many courses are mowed, manicured, and landscaped to the point of losing the difficulty factor previously assigned to the sport.

Trail races are different animals. Have you ever gone deer hunting and passed on a sure kill because you feared having to drag Bambi out of a deep ravine? That's the kind of terrain you encounter in trail racing. Single track, muddy, rocky, root-infested lanes, with challenging vertical stretches and few opportunities to break into a real running pace for an extended period.

My wife, bless her heart, did her best to talk me out of it. I was just then recovering from a bad cycling accident, and she didn't want to have to deal with more road rash, or worse. But I was intrigued by the challenge and I ponied up the entry fee. She entered also, thinking someone should be on hand to scout the hollers and ravines for me, since the week before the race, we did a practice run on the course and we both got lost. Maps?

January 23, race day. Freezing temps and a chilling south wind that covered the sky with dark clouds greeted us at the race site. Tights, long sleeves, and trail-specific running shoes were the order of the day. I wore my battery-heated gloves to protect my hands from the scourge of Raynaud's Syndrome.

Starting at 9 AM, waves of

fifteen runners started every five minutes to relieve congestion on the single track course. The first three mile section wormed mercilessly up the mountainside. Then the course turned north and followed the ridgeline for over a mile before deteriorating into a difficult mountain bike trail. People actually ride bikes up here?

Even with the five minute interval between groups, congestion became a problem in the first four miles. Those groups were assigned alphabetically, not by previous performances. So the slower runners found themselves swallowed by the speed demons rather quickly. But after the five mile point, runners had spaced themselves out by ability. "Social distancing by natural selection."

The sixth mile, a section named "The Eggbeater", challenged runners with big rocks, roots, and mud. I skidded off a wet flatstone, and crashed, rolling downhill into an evergreen bush. There was nothing to do but crawl back up and refocus. Experienced trail runners insist that unless you fall at least once, you are not attacking the course with the necessary abandon.

I passed mile seven, then eight, as indicated on my Garmin. There were no mile markers on the course, only flagging and arrows to point

the way. A 15K race is 9.3 miles. I sailed past nine miles with no end in sight. A confusing labyrinth of switchbacks slowed my pace, before I finally burst out of the timber and sprinted to the finish line.

I finished 41st overall of the 90 runners who completed the course, and placed first in my age group in 1:54:51.6.

My Garmin showed I had run 10.02 miles.

Josie was not far behind, taking 47th overall and winning her age group in 2:02:47.2.

Her Garmin showed she had run 10.04 miles.

Every runner I talked to reported similar mileage discrepancies from the advertised 15K distance. But hey, we all ran the same course.

Congrats to Michael Harris of Clarksville, Arkansas, the overall winner in 1:21:33.6.

Jane Ziegler, of Tulsa, Oklahoma was the women's champion, - and finished 4th overall - in 1:25:23.

Kudos to the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation department for hosting this event, an area bucket list event since its inaugural run in 2016.

Will we do this race, or one like it, again? Why not? I can't wait until my 70th birthday and a new age group challenge. Old dogs relish new tricks.

Wildcats take 7th at Spokane

Lee Stubblefield

Playing in the seventh-place game of the Spokane Tournament on Saturday, the Cats claimed a 48-40 victory over the Southwest Trojans. Cassville improved to 4-11 with a caveat: half those wins came at the expense of the Trojans.

Cassville took an early 11-8 lead, then used a 20-7 second quarter to post a 31-15 lead at halftime. The Trojans chipped away at that lead, holding the Wildcats to just four points in the third quarter. But the lead was too large to overcome.

Cassville's Aidan Cook scored 21, including a 13/20 performance from the free throw line. Zak Starr led Southwest with 19.

Spokane Tournament Quarterfinals

Chadwick 82, Cassville 44
Reeds Spring 62, Southwest 57

Consolation semifinals

Blue Eye 51, Cassville 41
Seymour 57, Southwest 37

7th place game

Cassville 48, Southwest 40

In regular season action, the Wheaton Bulldogs posted a pair of wins. Wheaton defeated Miller, 30-26, then downed Sparta, 61-58.

Purdy claimed a 50-47 victory over Pierce City.

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MU’s Fall 2020 Dean’s List Announced

Barry County students are:

Cassville

- Jesseca Ellen Edie: Senior, Arts & Science
- Hailey E Matthew: Senior, Nursing

Seligman

- Tanner C Leonhardt: Senior, Health Professions
- Washburn**
- Gracelyn Mckenzie Gentry: Junior, Education
- Lacey J Reeves: Junior, Journalism

Cox College Monett satellite open

Cox College’s satellite campus in Monett, a new effort and opportunity to train even more nurses, is now officially open.

“We are so excited about this program and what it means for our region,” says Dr. Amy Townsend, vice president of Student Nursing at Cox College. “Across the country, we are seeing a critical need for nurses, and that is only going to grow. We hope that this program will give even more students the opportunity to train to serve their loved ones, and also build a meaningful career.”

Six students are enrolled in the college’s Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree program in Monett. Classes are held at Scott Regional Technology Center, and clinical rotations will occur at Cox Monett Hospital. Upon graduation, students will be eligible to work in a variety of areas in the medical field.

An additional benefit is the fact that classes are offered on nights and weekends, allowing students to continue employment while they train as a nurse in the two-year program.

“We wanted to make this opportunity attainable for someone who still needs to maintain a job while attending classes,” says Townsend. “This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to go back to school and start a brand new career.”

Since classes have started, registration is now closed for the current semester. However, students may inquire about the next opportunity to start, which is in the fall.

To apply for the ASN nights and weekend courses in Monett, contact Cox College’s admissions team to receive more information. Representatives can be reached by phone at 417-269-3401 or email at admissions@coxcollege.edu.

MU “Computers on The Farm” to meet

With its virtual format, this year’s Computers on the Farm conference, Feb. 8-9, will vividly underscore the increasingly vital role of computers in agriculture.

“The topics are designed to simulate a hands-on experience for both beginner and advanced farm computer users,” says Kent Shannon, University of Missouri Extension agricultural engineering specialist and MU assistant teaching professor.

The annual event is aimed at users of all levels who are interested in on-farm applications of computer technology, Shannon says.

The opening session will look at the ins and outs of virtual conferencing. Other topics include precision ag and drones, farm taxes, social media and rural broadband.

Thirty-minute sessions will be held via Zoom beginning 6 p.m. on Feb. 8 and Feb. 9. The agenda includes breaks between sessions and time for questions and discussion.

Presenters include MU Extension specialists and representatives from the tech companies SpaceX, FBS Systems and Trilogy Networks. Attendees will also learn from farmers sharing their experiences using computer applications in their opera-

tions, Shannon says.

The \$20 registration fee covers access to both evenings as well as recordings of each session.

For details and registra-

Hurley nips Southwest in girls’ action

Lee Stubblefield

The Southwest Lady Trojans dropped a 37-36 game to Hurley in the consolation finals of the Galena tournament on Saturday. It was a tough loss for a young and improving Southwest program.

Southwest’s Juliauna Sierra nailed a three with 3.6 seconds remaining. But Hurley was able to inbound against the press and the clock ran out with the Lady Trojans trying to foul.

“I am so proud of these girls,” said Southwest’s Destiny Jalbert. “This is the second tournament this year where we have played for a trophy.”

Varsity girls recap

Regular season scores

- Greenwood 52, Wheaton 41
- Verona 53, Southwest 45
- Wheaton 50, Pierce City 44
- Sheldon 35, Exeter 27
- Pittsburg 50, Cassville 41

Marionville Tournament

Quarterfinals

Aurora 67, Purdy 37

Consolation semifinals

- Purdy 45, Billings 39

Galena Tournament

Quarterfinals

- Rush 38, Southwest 18

Consolation semifinals

- Southwest 36, Galena 30

Consolation finals

- Hurley 37, Southwest 36

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

So, now, according to an article on the front page of Barry County Advertiser, the city of Cassville wants to look into the wonderful benefits of getting flood insurance through the FEMA? Does that sound familiar, or what?

Two times, in the not too distant past, we had to fight off the idea of entering a flood program, simply because doing so takes so much control away from you as a property owner. Previously, when this insurance was offered, we learned that the cost of insurance would totally be unaffordable. Next we were informed that if you were in this program, and your property flooded, you would be required to elevate your structure to a high enough elevation that it would no longer be in the flood pain.

But reading a bit further into the article reveals what’s really behind this idea. From the article: “If Cassville chooses to rejoin NFIP, the city will be eligible for federal funds to assist with prospective flood management projects.”

There you have it! This is exactly why this idea is being pushed. You may be thinking that “funding for flood management” might just be a good idea. Well, let’s take a closer look at how well the city has done with some of their previous commitments

when it comes to “funding”. Several years ago, the city claimed to be losing money due to water and sewer rates being too low. It is a fact that the city is losing 30%-35% of the water pumped from city wells due to water main leaks. This has been going on for the better part of 40 years. I actually got on board with the suggestion of a rate increase, as it was obvious that something had to be done to our compromised water sewer lines. At the same time, I was told that a portion of this rate increase would be used to address aging utility lines. Well, the rates went up, a plan was put in the works, and here we are 10 years later with not a single water main or sewer main replaced. But the elevated rates continue and we are still losing 30%-35% due to leaks.

Then there was a bright idea that the city pass a sales tax for the purpose of re-paving all the city streets with hot mix asphalt. Once again, the voters fell for it and the tax was passed. Calculating the amount that the tax would generate, council members were saying that ALL the streets in the city limits should be repaved within 7 years. I can show you several dates where the council mentioned this specifically.

Now, take a look around. That seven years has come and gone, yet not even 10% of

the streets have been repaved.

YOU ARE BEING MISLED!

This is nothing more than another attempt by Walensky to get his hands on more spending money for his toy collection by requiring you, the property owner, to conform with FEMA requirements. Just like the water rate increase is not being used to upgrade water lines, just like the sales tax is not being used to pave streets, the funding this plan may generate will not be used for it’s intended purposes.

If the city council cared at all about the flooding issue, they would have addressed it decades ago, instead of waiting until Fasco threatened to leave town before taking any action.

Gail A. Purves
Cassville, Missouri

Disclaimer:

The editor of the Barry County Advertiser reserves the right to edit or withhold from publication any letter for any reason whatsoever. Letters to the Editor reflect the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the Barry County Advertiser or its staff. Email your letters to editor@4bca.com

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16-18c

Cassville Intermediate School December “Students of The Month”

December students modeled the word “respect”

CORRECTION: Students in a previous edition, labeled as “December Students of The Month, were the **November** Students of The Month



Shown above are third graders, left to right: front row: Gavin Craft, Garrett Matthew, Chazlyn Artherton, and Jakobey Wilderbuer; back row: Diesel Berane, Tristan Larson, Reagan Truman, Aubrey Cole, and Roper Wiseman; absent from the photo: Jayson Lawyer, Natalie Thompson and Roxie Koehler.



Shown above are fourth graders, left to right, front row: Wylan Farris, Shyla Wall, Raegan Doucet, Stormy Tanner, and Steven Kloss; back row: Mason Long, Isabella Simpkins, Charlee Felton, Silas Deans, Brody Cannady, and McKinley Miller; absent from the photo: Kenzie Davis.

Wheaton JR/SR High School

First Quarter Honor Roll

- 7th Grade A Honor Roll:

Jayci Park, Riley Roller
- 7th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Raelyn Buchanan, Nevaeh Crandall, Emme Garner, Mallory Kelly, Madisyn Merkle, Leanna Millan-Gomez, Tial Grace, Jelissa Vue.
- 8th Grade A Honor Roll:

Chung Awr, Bailee Gorman, Sarah Holenda, Rose Meng, Houston Roller, Laura Vang, Lakeisha Wise.
- 8th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Jacob Bittle, Michelle Hang, Savanna Hipkins, Colton
- Miller, Jonathan Thomas, Casyn Walling.
- 9th Grade A Honor Roll:

Jianna Cha, Leonel Millan-Gomez, Hayden Royer.
- 9th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Wyatt Gorman, Ro Thawng, Hailey Vandegrift, Eakatrina Vue, Catherine Yang, Rebecca Zingcuai.
- 10th Grade A Honor Roll:

Monica Par, Rowan Wise
- 10th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Emily Daniel, Joselyne Juarez, Zoey Martell, Kadence Mestas, Lily Ray, Allison Whitman.
- 11th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Abbey Bowling, Monica Hinojosa, Candace Lee, Kelton Park, Zane Smith, Pa Vang, Patti Vang.
- 12th Grade A Honor Roll:

Charlene Chang, Zac Leverich, Willow Linton, Jack Mitchell, Sang Zi.
- 12th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Dakota Birchfield, Ty Hudson, Sarah Mattingly.



Shown above are fifth graders, left to right: front row: Kailyn Speer and Mason Smith; middle row: Brylar Beranek, Andrea Housekeeper, Landon Lyles, and Adin Yang; back row: Arabella Darbro, McKenzie Wall, Fantasia Cotton, Brianna Still, and Cylas Austin; absent from the photo: Curtis Grant.

Wheaton JR/SR High School

Second Quarter Honor Roll

- 7th Grade A Honor Roll:

Jayci Park, Riley Roller
- 7th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Nevaeh Crandall, Emme Garner, Mallory Kelly, Madisyn Merkle, Jelissa Vue
- 8th Grade A Honor Roll:

Chung Awr, Bailee Gorman, Sarah Holenda, Rose Meng,
- Houston Roller, Laura Vang, Lakeisha Wise
- 8th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Jacob Bittle, Savanna Hipkins, Colton Miller, Jonathan Thomas, Casyn Walling
- 9th Grade A Honor Roll:

Jianna Cha, Leonel Millan-Gomez, Hayden Royer
- 9th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

David Bik, Wyatt Gorman, Ro Thawng, Hailey Vandegrift, Catherine Yang, Rebecca Zingcuai
- 10th Grade A Honor Roll:

Monica Par, Rowan Wise
- 10th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Emily Daniel, Joselyne Juarez, Zoey Martell, Kadence Mestas, Lily Ray, Allison Whitman
- 11th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Abbey Bowling, Monica Hinojosa, Candace Lee, Kelton Park, Zane Smith, Pa Vang, Patti Vang
- 12th Grade A Honor Roll:

Charlene Chang, Zac Leverich, Willow Linton, Jack Mitchell, Sang Zi
- 12th Grade A/B Honor Roll:

Dakota Birchfield, Ty Hudson, Sarah Mattingly, Madison Pierpont.

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MECHANIC ON DUTY!

Exeter Homecoming candidates announced



Shown above are the 2021 Exeter Homecoming candidates, left to right: front row: freshmen, Zach Lee and Malyea Henderson; sophomores, Dharma Horn and Levi Gautney; back row: juniors, Mason Jones and Aubry Antle; and seniors, Isabelle Lee and Kris Allen. Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned at the January 29 game, when the Tigers will play the McCauley Warriors.

Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week



Diane Copperfield
 Meet Diane Copperfield, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Diane is a shy kitten who used to live outside. She was part of a feral colony being cared for by some kitty loving human friends. They soon realized Diane was be-

coming friendly and brought her to the Haven so she can have a better life. She is enjoying the luxury of being inside, but Diane still needs adjustment time to get used to people. She's learning to trust us slowly. You can see her melt with every scratch behind the ears.
 Diane is not a kitty you can pick up upon meeting her. She enjoys affection with her four paws on the ground only. She is great with the other cats in the front room, and she is litter-box trained. Diane won't do well in a home with small children because they tend to be loud, which will make her hide. Her DOB is 09/08/2020. Meet Diane at the Haven and show her the love that only comes from being in a real home!
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Last baby born at old Cox Monett Hospital



Parents Yakeline and Dylan Bowlin of Monett, pose with their newborn son, Boaz, the last baby to be born in the old Cox Monett hospital. After making his arrival at 9:50 p.m. on January 22, he and his mother were transferred to the new hospital for further care.
 On Jan. 22 at 9:50 p.m., the baby lullaby played for the last time at 801 N. Lincoln Ave., the former location of Cox Monett Hospital. Earlier in the evening, the hospital moved into their new \$42 million facility located on the eastern edge of Monett. The birth of little Boaz

Mom and baby were moved to the new hospital for care after birth.
 “I think it is a wonderful opportunity to deliver the last baby born inside the former hospital,” said mother Yakeline Bowlin. “The significance this moment holds for our community and my baby will forever be etched in time.”
 The final baby born at the hospital was delivered by Dr. Elizabeth Lucore, family practice obstetrician at Cox-Health Clinic Monett.
 “It’s an honor to be a part of the birthing experience every time I help a mother to give birth,” said Dr. Lucore. “It was especially poignant to deliver the last baby born at the old hospital campus and to hear his loud, healthy cry echo throughout the facility, but it’s also invigorating to be moving forward into this next chapter with new memories to be made.”
 Yakeline said her experience at the new hospital has been great and the staff are amazing.

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DOUGLAS CARL “DOUG” NICKLE
Douglas Carl “Doug” Nickle, age 50, of Aurora, passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at his home.
He was born January 27, 1970, in Jackson County, the son of Robert M. and Ruth E. (Martin) Nickle. On May 10, 2003, in Clever, he was united in marriage to Anita Denise Medlin, who survives. Also surviving are his mother, Ruth; one son, Jeffrey Nickle, of Aurora; one daughter, Morale Nickle, of Aurora; four brothers, Robert Nickle, of the Kansas City area, Bill Nickle and his wife, Darlene, of Johnson County, David Nickle and his wife, Dee, of Cass County, and Chuck Nickle, of Jenkins; and one sister, Susan Breeding and her husband, Dan, of Jackson County.
Preceding him in death was his father, Robert.
Doug was self-employed as a construction worker. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing horseshoes and looking for arrowheads.
A memorial service will

be held at 5:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at Madry Christian Union Church in Madry. Nilene McKnight will conduct the service.
The family will receive friends from 4:00 until 5:00 P.M. Wednesday at Madry Christian Union Church. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.
Contributions may be made to the family in memory of Doug.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141



BEVERLY ANN “BETTY” SHOCKLEY
Beverly Ann “Betty” Shockley, age 85, of Cassville, passed away Sunday, January 24, 2021, at The Communities of Wildwood Ranch in Joplin.
She was born July 5, 1935, in Exeter, the daughter of Rolland and Veva (Garrison) Hopkins who preceded her

OBITUARIES

in death. Also preceding her in death were two brothers, Robert Hopkins and Darrell Hopkins; and two sisters; Peggy McCain and Frankie Vanderpool.
Surviving are three sons, Rick Lester and his wife, Jeanenne, of Lawrence, Kansas, Donnie Lester and his wife, Michelle, of Joplin, and Brian Lester and his wife, Sara, of Overland Park, Kansas; three brothers, Wendell Hopkins and his wife, Fern, of Cassville, Jimmy Hopkins and his wife, Sharon, of Cassville, and Jay Hopkins and his wife, Ann, of Pleasant Hope; one sister, Donna Guzman, of San Jose, California; seven grandchildren, Josh, Julie, Tony, Bradley, Addison, Mason and Miles; and two great-grandchildren, Harper and Logan.
Betty received her education in Cassville schools. She worked at Jumping Jacks Shoe Factory which later became Justin Boot from where she retired. After retiring, she worked at Hardee’s and was an Avon lady for years. A favorite pastime was gardening and taking care of her flowers. Betty loved spoiling her grandkids and taking care of others. She was a member of Blessing Heights Worship Center.
Graveside services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Friday, January 29, 2021, at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend James Stewart will conduct

the services.
Viewing will be from 1:00 until 5:00 P.M. Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.
Contributions may be made to Cassville Meals On Wheels in memory of Betty.
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FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141



NOVA JANE SCHWANDT
Nova Jane Schwandt, age 78, of Monett, passed away Friday, January 22, 2021, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield.
She was born November 28, 1942, in Wheaton, the daughter of Oden and Beulah (McLeod) Hendrix. In 1965, she was united in marriage to Otto “Keith” Schwandt.
Nova received her education in Wheaton, where she graduated from high school in 1961. For forty-four years, she was employed by Tyson Foods in Monett, retiring in 2007. Nova was a mem-

ber of First Free Will Baptist Church in Monett. Some of her favorite pastimes were shopping, going to garage sales and Branson trips. She loved little kids, her church and church family. She had such a “green thumb” and loved her plants and flowers.
Surviving are one brother, Edwin Hendrix, of Exeter; two sisters, Zona England, of Wheaton, and Betty Frank, of Springfield; four nieces; seven nephews; and many great nieces and nephews.
Preceding her in death were her parents; two brothers, Marvin Hendrix and C.L. “Pete” Hendrix; two sisters-in-law, Judy Hendrix and Mary Lou Hendrix; two brothers-in-law, Brian Frank and Jack England; one nephew and one niece.
Services were held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Brother Larry Wormington conducted the services. Burial was at Rocky Comfort Cemetery in Rocky Comfort.
Contributions may be made to First Free Will Baptist Church in memory of Nova. They may be sent to the church at 107 West Sycamore, Monett, MO 65708 or left at McQueen Funeral Home.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
MCQUEEN FUNERAL HOME WHEATON, MO. 417-652-7268



FRANCIS “ED” HOUSTON
Francis “Ed” Houston, age 78, of Shell Knob, passed away at 5:02 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, at his home. He was born February 21, 1942, in Ottawa, Kansas, the son of William

and Dorothy (Blankenship) Houston.
Ed worked as a baker for Holsum Bread Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and California, before beginning his career as a Truck Driver as an owner/operator. He was a member of the Victory Baptist Church in Cassville and the Sons of Thunder Prison Ministry.
On July 14, 1960, he married Carol Sue Willis, in Lockwood.
Ed is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carol Sue; one daughter, Carla Gold and her husband, David, of Marionville; one son, Tom Houston and his wife, Abby, of Marshfield; four grandchildren, Amy Ford and her husband, Andy, of Republic, Allie, Addison, and Afton Houston, of Marshfield; and four great-grandchildren, Wyatt, Paisley, Silas, and Hudson Ford.
Ed was preceded in death by his parents, William, and Dorothy; one son, James Houston; and his aunt and uncle, Naomi and Don Klingensmith.
A visitation will be held from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021, at the Crafton-Cantrell Funeral Home in Aurora, with a funeral service to follow at 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home chapel. Burial will follow at the Maple Park Cemetery in Aurora.
Due to Covid 19, the family has requested for those attending the services to please wear a mask and to practice social distancing.
Memorial donations may be made payable to the Missouri Baptist Children’s Home, in care of the funeral home.
Online condolences may be shared at www.Crafton-CantrellFuneralHome.com.

RONALD L. OHLGREN
Ronald L. Ohlgren, age 69, of Monett, passed away Sunday morning, January 24, 2021.

Memorial graveside to be determined at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

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OBITUARIES



HERSCHEL RAY STEHLIK (POSH)
Herschel Ray Stehlik (Posh), age 94, of Cassville, passed away peacefully at his home on January 15, 2021. He was born in Phenix on June 19, 1926, to his parents Joe and Maude (Gainer) Stehlik. He had two brothers, Herbert and William. He was drafted into the Army in September of 1945 and attended basic training at Camp Roberts in California. He spent most of his time overseas in Korea and was honorably discharged in 1947. In 1948, he was united in marriage to Della Mae Jones, and to this union, two children were born.

Surviving are his two children, Corles Stehlik, of Cassville, and Brenda Cardin, of Nixa. Six grandchildren: Brian Stehlik and Jamie, Dala Blisard, Chad Samuel and wife, Jennifer, Brice Stehlik and wife, Carmen, Eli Stehlik and wife, Shayla, and Kelly Wilson and husband, Tyler. Sixteen great-grandchildren: Bo and wife, Jenna, Carlie, Cody and wife, Shania, Brady and fiancé, Alexa, Sydney, Wyatt, Jozi, Haydn, Easton, Avery, Brooklyn, Tyller, Khloe, Rayleigh, Remington, and Beckett. Two great-great-grandchildren: Herschel and Krew. Also surviving are many extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Della; his two brothers; and his son-in-law, Tom Cardin.

Herschel grew up in Phenix, then moved to Walnut

Grove, where he graduated High School in 1945. He began his career in the lumber business working for Westside Lumber and Meek Lumber, before moving to Cassville in 1958. Della and Herschel started their own business, Barry County Lumber. They enjoyed Barry County Lumber until 1994, when they decided to sell and retire. Herschel was a deacon and elder at First Christian Church and served on the church building committee. He proudly served on the Board of Directors at Freedom Bank for many years. He was devoted to bettering his community and serving anyway he could. He was a member of the Industrial Development Corporation, Cassville Chamber of Commerce, and in 2002 was awarded the Cassville Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award. He loved bird dogs, bird hunting, and was an avid fisherman. He thoroughly enjoyed days at the lake teaching his kids and grandkids to fish. He was humble, kind, loving, generous, polite and friendly. He had an unwavering commitment to his faith, family, friends, and his community. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy lives on.

Graveside services with military honors were held Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Stan Kelley conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to Cassville High School Fishing Team, Cassville Community Food Pantry or Barry County Museum in care of Herschel Stehlik Memorial Fund at Freedom Bank.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
CASSVILLE, MO.
417-847-2141



RYLIE RAIN HUNTER
Rylie Rain Hunter, precious baby girl of Steven Hunter and Trisha Ray, was born into the arms of angels on Friday, January 22, 2021. Although Rylie never spent any time with us here on earth, she was loved by so many and will never be forgotten.

In addition to her parents, Rylie is survived by her two sisters, Hazel Hunter and Natalie Ray; paternal grandparents, JD Hunter and his wife, Ashley, of Cassville and Allien Hunter, of Cassville; maternal grandparents, Kenneth Cramer and his wife, Nickel, of Exeter, and Jennifer Hess and her husband, Patrick, of Bella Vista, Arkansas; many aunts and uncles; and several cousins.

Rylie was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Nathan Ray.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the White Funeral Home and

MDC proposes allowing bicycles on service roads

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave initial approval to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its Jan. 22 open meeting on a proposed change to Wildlife Code of Missouri regulations that would allow the expanded use of bicycles on many department-area service roads.

“Many of our conservation-area users have expressed interest in allowing bicycles on service roads for greater access to the areas,” said MDC Deputy Director and Chair of the Regulations Committee Mike Hubbard. “Opening service roads to bicycles will provide greater opportunities for cyclists – and also hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers -- wanting

Crematory, Cassville, with Pastor Donnie Spears officiating. Burial to follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Butterfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family and in entrusted to White Funeral Home & Crematory, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, Missouri, 65625.

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

to access more of their conservation areas.”

Bicycle use on MDC’s approximately 1,000 conservation areas is currently restricted to roads open to public-vehicle traffic and some multi-use trails. This regulation change would expand bicycle access to include most service roads on MDC areas. The proposed change does not apply to electric or other motorized bicycles, which would not be allowed.

Service roads are non-public roads on MDC areas used by staff to conduct resource management activities. They are listed on conservation area maps at areas and on the MDC website. Some service roads are currently used as walking paths by the public. MDC notes that conditions of service roads on department areas vary greatly and are not maintained at the level of public multi-use bicycle trails and public roads.

Exceptions would be

service roads on waterfowl-hunting areas during hunting seasons and other MDC areas that are closed to other activities during hunting seasons. Exceptions would also include area-access roads used by staff at fish hatcheries and other MDC areas where bicycle use could be unsafe or cause damage such as erosion.

MDC invites public comment on the regulation changes March 2-31 online at mdc.mo.gov/about-regulations/wildlife-code-missouri/proposed-regulation-changes and by mail to: Regulations Committee Chairman, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

MDC will then review all comments received and present a final proposal for a final vote by the Commission during its May 21 public meeting. If approved, the regulation change will become effective March 1, 2022.

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MU Extension to host webinar series on selling local foods

Producers selling local foods can learn about best practices, state regulations and available resources at a four-part online series in March presented by University of Missouri Extension.

“This series will help farmers and other food producers gain knowledge to help them sell their food products direct to consumers in these ever-changing times,” said Leslie Bertsch, co-chair of the MU Extension Food Systems team.

Participants will hear from extension specialists, successful producers and representatives from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and exchange ideas.

The sessions, held via Zoom, are 3:30-5:30 p.m. on four consecutive Tuesdays in March:

- March 2. Explore resources offered by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and MU Extension for producers selling local food.
- March 9. Learn the state regulations you need to know to sell your meat and poultry locally and hear about best practices from a successful livestock producer.
- March 16. Learn the state regulations you need to

know to sell your produce and/or eggs.

- March 23. Learn the state regulations you need to follow to sell value-added products such as canned foods, baked goods, etc.

Cost is \$15 per session or \$40 for all four sessions. All sessions will be recorded and available for a period of time after the event.

A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. For more information, contact Bertsch at BertschL@Missouri.edu or 314-400-7397.

Register at <https://bit.ly/3sHJOPl>.

The Selling Local Food in Missouri Series is presented

New Trooper Assigned To Troop D

Captain Justin L. McCullough, commanding officer of Troop D, Springfield, is pleased to announce the assignment of a new trooper to Troop D. Trooper Zachary T. Costley was a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 110th Recruit Class that graduated from the Patrol Academy on January 20, 2021.

Trooper Costley grew up in Lamar, where he was homeschooled. Trooper Costley graduated from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He will be assigned to

Zone 15, which serves Taney and Stone counties. Prior to joining the Patrol, Trooper Costley served as a police officer for the city of Lamar.

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BUDGET from FRONT

vehicles, plus laptops, WI-FI hotspots and radio equipment for all vehicles.

Renovation of the jail is also a priority for the commission and funds have been set aside for the project. Youngblood explained that the plans - including the addition of a dormitory-style room to house short-term inmates - are being finalized, and work is ex-

pected to begin this spring.

A pay increase for elected officials and county employees has also been included in the budget. Each elected official will receive a four percent increase per employee in their office, to be disbursed at the elected official's discretion.

“For example,” county clerk Jill LeCompte said, “my office has two employees, so I will receive four percent above what each employee is currently being paid. It will then be at my discretion - based on their job performance and how long they've worked for me - to decide how much of that money each one of my staff will receive. They may not both get a four percent pay raise.”

Sheriff Danny Boyd is pleased about the pay increase for his deputies, and is hoping it will result in less turnover, which has historically been problematic for the sheriff's department.

Boyd says he currently has 21 commissioned officers, and that their raises will be merit-based.

One elected official, public administrator Sam Madsen, who ran unopposed on the general ballot, is opting to draw a salary, instead of a regular fee, a sum which increases the 2021 budget allotted for his office from 2020's \$33,517.22 to \$82,655 in 2021. The larger sum also includes payment to office staff.

The commission projects sales tax revenue for 2021 to be at \$3,200,000, with total revenue projected to be \$4,625,750, plus \$1,699,343.77 carried over from the previous year. The total expectation for appropriation is \$6,325,093.77.

Commissioner Youngblood says funds received from the federal CARES Act in 2020, totaling over \$4 million, were held in a separate account per government regulations, so were not computed into the county's approved budget and projected revenue.

At the time of this writing, final distributions of CARES funds were being prepared for disbursement to entities who had applied for them.

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Local students named to MSU dean’s list

Each semester, students at Missouri State University who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the fall semester and at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.00 scale).

More than 5,300 students were named to the fall 2020 dean's list. These local students made the list:

- Yesenia Aguinaga, of Cassville.
- Shqiprim Balazoski, of Cassville.
- Amy Barton, of Seligman.
- Cole Beagle, of Cassville,
- Andrew Berndt, of Cassville,
- Gabrielle Boettler, of Verona,
- Jarrett Brattin, of Exeter,
- Sarah Briggs, of Monett,
- Cody Cameron, of Purdy.
- Emma Coenen, of Eagle Rock.
- Madelyn Cole, of Exeter,
- Trey Dalton, of Cassville,
- Karmen DePriest, of Monett,
- Kallie Dickson, of Cassville,
- Lina Hang, of Purdy.
- Madison Horner, of Cassville.
- Grace Idleburg, of Cass-

- ville.
- Teagan Johnson, of Cassville.
- Garret Knight, of Cassville,
- Rachel Lacey, of Exeter,
- Hunter Laney, of Washburn.
- Phoebe Luu, of Cassville.
- Melissa Martinez, of Cassville.
- C. J. Moore, of Cassville.
- Madison Olbertz, of Shell Knob.
- Alysa Oyerly, of Monett.
- Collin Pearman, of Aurora.
- Tori Pinkly, of Verona.
- Jennifer Quintanilla, of Washburn.
- Carrigan Randles, of Cassville.
- Brant Remington, of Monett.
- Chloe Roller, of Cassville.
- Bailey Roman, of Cassville.
- Josi Rose, of Purdy.
- Isamary Salas, of Monett.
- Brett Schellen, of Aurora.
- Anne Sommers, of Golden.
- Cailyn Spears, of Exeter.

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- Kelsey Stringer, of Washburn.
- Laura Stringer, of Cassville.
- Jamie Sweely, of Monett.
- Jarrod Wallace, of Cassville.
- Emily Webb, of Monett.
- Cameron Weston, of Exeter.
- Lucas White, of Monett.
- Kaylyn Whitham, of Cassville.
- Thomas Younke, of Monett.
- Joel Barrientos, of Monett.
- Ian Brown, of Verona.
- Rachel Callison, of Verona.
- Devin Cox, of Pierce City.
- Emily Drollinger, of Pierce City.
- Kenzie Drollinger, of Pierce City.
- Perla Estrada, of Verona,
- Shane Everett, of Aurora.
- Braxton Fulp, of Aurora.
- Megan Gearhart, of Verona.

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BIG SUGAR CREEK STATE PARK
The two fields are located at Big Sugar Creek State Park, six miles and six and one-half miles east of Pineville, south of Sugar Creek road and are approximately 20 acres (unit 1) and 30 acres (unit 2). This agreement will be good for one mowing season and is subject to yearly approval for two successive mowing seasons or can be re-bid at any time if the lessee has not met all guidelines.
Bids will be for Unit #1 and Unit #2 together. Bids need to be received at Roaring River State Park by 4:00 PM, Friday, March 12, 2021. Payment will need to be made prior to the first mowing by certified check to the State of Missouri.
Please contact Joel Topham at Roaring River State Park at 417-847-2539 for bid forms and/or further information.

- Emily Geisendorfer, of Verona.
- Bella Gertiser, of Verona.
- Emma Gibfried, of Monett.
- Garrett Gunter, of Monett.
- Madison Hartwigsen, of Aurora.
- Kaylee Huffman, of Aurora.
- Sydney Kennedy, of Verona.
- Peyton McGlothlin of Aurora.
- Harriett Meyer, of Monett.
- Levi Miller, of Monett.
- Kirsten Powers, of Aurora.
- Zane Price, of Aurora.
- Jake Redus, of Aurora.
- Chloe Ryan, of Aurora.
- Mariana Serrano, of Monett.
- Alexis Sherfy, of Monett.
- Chelsey Small, of Aurora.
- Marissa Swartz, of Monett.
- Melissa Tate, of Aurora.
- Cameron Witt, of Monett.

- Danielle Yoho, of Monett.
- Megan Sanders, of Rocky Comfort.
- Jamie Booth, of Cape Fair.
- Tabetha Drebes, of Cape Fair.
- Khloee Lathrum, of Shell Knob.
- Sadie McMenamy, of Crane.
- Rachel Schrof, of Cape Fair.
- Emily Van Gundy, of Cape Fair.
- Lexie Winfree, of Crane.
- Deziree Wolfenbarger, of Shell Knob.

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Tip Off Candidates Announced at CHS



Tip Off candidates at Cassville High School have been announced. Shown above, left to right are:

Front row: **Senior Zac Acheson** is the son of Derek and Missy Acheson of Cassville. Zac is a member of FCCLA, Student Council and National Honor Society. He also plays basketball and baseball; **Senior Jordyn Stafford** is the daughter of Rhonda Stafford of Cassville. Jordyn is a member of FCCLA, National Honor Society, Student Council and is a member of the cross country and track teams; **Senior Savannah Comfort** is the daughter of Amanda Comfort of Golden. Savannah is a member of FCCLA, Skills USA, Mask & Gavel, the secretary for the National Honor Society, and attends Votech, where she is studying for a healthcare occupation; **Senior Dylan Berndt** is the son of Lacy Freitag and Kurt Berndt of Cassville. Dylan is a member of FBLA, Student Council, National Honor Society and plays soccer.

Second row: **Junior Bailey Messbarger** is the daughter of Travis Messbarger and Sheen Zigeler of Cassville. Sheena is a member of the track team; **Senior Cole O'Neill** is the son of Jake and Jennifer O'Neill of Cassville. Cole is a member of FBLA, National Honor Society, Knowledge Bowl, Student Council, the student body and plays volleyball; **Junior Jesse Taylor** is the son of Wes and Andrea Taylor of Shell Knob. Jesse is a member of the track team, FCCLA, Mask & Gavel, Speech & Debate and the A+ program. He attends the Crowder College Trio program and the Votech nursing program.

Back row, left to right: **Freshman Bryson Jacobson** is the son of Craig and Stephanie Jacobson of Cassville. He is a member of FBLA and FCCLA, and plays football, basketball and is a member of the track team; **Freshman Asusena Haros Perez** is the daughter of Rodolfo and Maria Haros of Cassville. She plays soccer and is a member of the track team; **Sophomore Jillian LeCompte** is the daughter of Jill LeCompte and the late Michael LeCompte of Washburn. She is a member of FBLA, Student Council, Centerstage, and is a member of the cheer squad and the speech & debate team; **Sophomore Jake Anthonysz** is the son of Noel and Janna Anthonysz of Cassville. Jake is a member of Student Council, the wrestling, track and fishing teams, and plays football.

Senior Krista Rawlings is not pictured. Krista is the daughter of Paula and Patrick Rickard of Cassville. She is a member of FCCLA and choir.

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