

Woman killed by train at Purdy railroad crossing

Caden Swearingen & Charlea Estes-Jones

A Purdy woman was killed and her two young grandchildren were seriously injured when a train hit their car in Purdy last week. They were going through a railroad crossing when her vehicle was hit by a train on Washington Avenue in Purdy on Wednesday, February 19.

According to a post by the Purdy Police Department, they responded to the motor vehicle crash at the Washington Avenue railroad crossing around 4:21 p.m. A 2000 Honda Accord, driven by Fransisca Perez Salas, 59, of Purdy, was eastbound on Washington Avenue. The railroad crossing alarm and the train's horn were sounding when she attempted to cross, but that intersection does not have crossing gates. The Honda Accord failed to yield to the southbound Missouri-Arkansas Railroad General Electric SD70 Locomotive, operated by Michael D. Richardson, 51, of Lowell, Ark.

Perez Salas was killed in the crash. Her two grandchildren, a male, 3 years old, and female, 8 years old, were both seriously injured. According to the Missouri Highway Patrol crash report, they were transported by helicopter to Cox South Hospital in Springfield for treatment.

Perez Salas was wearing a seat belt, but the two children were not.

Perez Salas was pronounced deceased at the scene by assistant Barry County coroner Gary Swearingen. She was taken to Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

The Missouri State Patrol Troop D conducted the investigation. This is Troop D's 13th fatality for 2020.

The 2000 Honda Accord was totalled and towed from the scene by Thomas Towing of Monett. The locomotive sustained minor damage and was driven from the scene.

Responding to the scene were Purdy Police Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Purdy Fire Protection District and Barry-Lawrence Ambulance.

Opening Day preparations underway

STATE TREASURER SCOTT FITZPATRICK TO FIRE OPENING GUN

Charlea Estes-Jones

Preparations are well underway for one of the busiest days of the year in the Cassville area. Opening Day of catch and keep rainbow trout season is this Sunday, March 1, and Roaring River State Park is busy with preparations to make sure the waters and facilities are ready for the big event.

Opening Day will begin at 6:30 a.m. with the opening gun fired by State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick this year.

While typical fish stocking and bank clean up have been the focus leading up to Opening Day, Roaring River State Park staff have been busy completing multiple projects, including upgrading some of the electric hookups in campsites, renovating lodge rooms, and cleaning up natural areas near the cabins and completing glade restoration. They are also in the process of making changes to Eagle's Nest Trail and getting the park's new wifi set up for campers.

According to hatchery



One of the bigger improvements made to Roaring River State Park during the off season was the upgrade to 50 amp service at 15 camping sites in Campground 1.

manager Paul Spurgeon, they will be stocking Roaring River's cool, clear waters with 7,000 trout in preparation of Opening Day this weekend. The staff anticipate around 2,000 anglers for the opening of the season if the weather goes according to forecast. Right now, the high for Sunday is 60 degrees.

Since the hatchery is still not operational due to a ma-

jor overhaul renovation project, the fish will come from Montauk State Park's hatchery. Spurgeon said the plan is to bring in fish once a week during catch and keep season. "We'll run the six pools down at the end with recirculation pumps [to keep trout]. They'll be bringing in fish weekly, and we'll be stocking daily. There are 100 lunkers in that number and they are really nice. It's some of the best ones we've had in several years, and they all came in from Montauk," he said.

Hatchery staff also worked on cleaning the stream banks and removing some gravel to ensure the water is clear and ready for anglers. Spurgeon said, "We have dressed up the stream banks and we are in the process of removing gravel out of Dry Hollow, but the stream banks are all dressed up, and there won't be any muddy water for anybody."

Roaring River State Park natural resources manager Joel Topham shared some of the preparations park staff have been completing to be ready, as well.

One of the bigger projects was an electric upgrade to 15 campsites in Campground 1. Topham said, "We upgraded to 50 amp sites. It's always been a call from our customers to upgrade our systems with the ever-changing RV industry. Campers keep getting bigger, and they keep adding a lot of different apparatuses and with that, it increases the need for electric. Thirty amp just doesn't cut it a lot of the time."

The sites that include 50

amp services are numbers 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 54, 55, 56 and family sites 47, 49 and 51. The regular premium sites are \$25 per night versus \$23 for a standard 30 amp electric site. The family sites are \$8 for just the premium electric and \$58 for the single family campsite that includes a full hookup. Family campsites have two camping pads on each site.

Topham also said the wifi upgrade that was planned for the park was almost complete. He anticipates it will be fully ready for campers to utilize by the end of March. He said, "We are actively working with our partner goBec. They've actually successfully hooked up all of their fiber throughout the park, so we are just waiting on our end of that. We are scheduled for March 10 to get all of that hooked up and hopefully do a test run shortly thereafter."

Initially, the former director of Missouri State Parks said the pilot wifi program would be free for 30 minutes and then be a paid service following that. Topham said the details are still being discussed regarding how wifi will operate in the park and how much it will cost, if the state opts for a fee to use it.

Other state park staff improvements include restoration work and rerouting Eagle's Nest Trail, which has been closed for an extended period of time. Topham said, "We are working toward getting Eagle's Nest Trail open. We are rerouting the trail right now. We have several new clearances in the works. We are hoping we can get that completed by the end of

Mason Lowe memory preserved in plaque at St. Jude Children's

PBR RAISED, PRESENTED \$15,000 IN LOWE'S NAME

Caden Swearingen

For Exeter's Blazi Lowe, the devastating diagnosis of a brain tumor shook her family. However, her uncle and well-known professional bull rider Mason Lowe was one of her biggest supporters through it all. Following Mason's untimely

death, the PBR stepped in, raising money in honor of both Mason and Blazi, and that donation of \$15,000 was presented to St. Jude Children's Hospital recently.

Mason Lowe tragically died from complications related to a bull riding accident in Denver, Colo., on January

15, 2019. Four months later, a PBR bull riding event was hosted in Cassville and eventually, they raised \$15,000 in his name.

Stu Crowe, of Cassville, is one of two individuals who organized the inaugural Ridin' with Mason Lowe PBR event. Crowe and Cindy

O'Neill, who both have ties to PBR, decided to put the event together, and it wasn't hard for them to get PBR on board with the idea. The event was held on May 11, 2019. They thought it was a good way to honor the memory of Mason, support a good cause and to help kids just like Blazi. The event featured around 40 riders and 50 bulls. There was estimated attendance of around 3,000 people, which helped accumulate the impressive total.

On June 24, 2019, the Ridin' with Mason Lowe team had the honor of going to St. Jude in Memphis, Tenn., to make the donation, and the plaque honoring the donation was put up at the children's hospital on February 14, 2020.

The Lowe family attended, showing respect for Mason and also honoring Blazi's courageous fight. Blazi Lowe was a normal five-year-old from Exeter prior to her diagnosis. She had just started kinder-

Inside this issue:

Celebrate FFA Week

This week marks National FFA Week. See what all of the area FFAs are up to this week and what they've accomplished this year so far.

Cassville
Exeter
Purdy
Southwest
Wheaton

1B
2B
3B
4B
5B

Purdy, Butterfield Fire trains on extrication

The Purdy and Butterfield Fire Departments participated in a training to learn to use their extrication equipment Saturday.

3A

Aurora crash injures seven

Seven people were injured in a two vehicle crash outside of Aurora.

3A

Upcoming.....4 A
Obits6-7 A
Sports13-15 A
Classified 6-7 B
Auctions 5 A

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Seven injured in crash south of Aurora

Charlea Estes-Jones

Seven people were injured in a crash south of Aurora on Sunday evening, February 23. Around 9:05 p.m., a GMC pickup crashed into a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe after failing to stop at a stop sign. The injuries ranged from minor to serious.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol crash report, the pickup was driven by a 15 year old female from Galena. The Tahoe, driven by John R. Brooks, 33, of Cassville, was southbound on MO 39 about two miles south of Aurora when the pickup failed to stop at a stop sign on a county road. The pickup hit the Tahoe's front

driver side and both vehicles ran off the highway.

There were four people in the pickup, all of whom were ejected during the crash. The driver suffered moderate injuries and was taken to Mercy Hospital in Springfield. Two occupants in the vehicle were also transported to Mercy Hospital. Shawn L. Hair, 21, of Billings, was taken for minor injuries and Cody G. Lomax, 17, of Crane, was seriously injured. The fourth person in the vehicle was also seriously injured. Jacob A. Hair, 22, of Billings, was taken to Cox South Hospital in Springfield for treatment.

The Tahoe had two pas-

sengers, a juvenile one year old male and 35 year old Lindsay J. Brooks, of Cassville. John and Lindsay Brooks suffered moderate injuries in the crash. The one year old suffered minor injuries. All three were transported to Cox South Hospital in Springfield.

All three people in the Tahoe were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

Both the Tahoe and pickup were totalled in the crash. The Tahoe was towed form the scene by Brice's Towing, of Cassville, and the pickup was towed from the scene by Hillbilly's Wrecker.

OPENING from FRONT

March as well."

As with many park projects, the Eagle's Nest project was delayed for weather issues.

Other improvements included five room remodels at the inn, new furnishings at the lodge, and improvements to glade seven on Fire Tower Trail, cleaning up the hillside by the inn and the cabins and drainage improvements in Campground 2.

Topham added the park will be reopening the pool for at least this season probably for the last time and plans to change to a splash pad for next season. The park also moved to increase the camping season at Camp Smokey to April 9 through October 31. There are currently only two weeks opened at Camp Smokey this year.

The last remaining big project at the park is the hatchery renovation. Spurgeon said the project is really only two to three weeks

of work to get the hatchery fully operational again, however, the wet weather has led to many delays. The \$1.9 million renovation began September 2018, and the hatchery has been closed for fish since. Spurgeon said, "We are waiting on lower spring levels because they have to put a concrete connector at the mouth of the cave and build that last structure. It's partially built, but when the rain came, 100% of the spring has to be pumped away from that opening. They haven't been able to do that since 60 cubic feet per second; it's been

130-150. There are only two or three weeks of work to complete once the water goes down. We were very close and then it rained. They did get the footing poured for the structure."

This year's tags will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for children 15 years or younger. The Roaring River Park Store will have tags available beginning on Saturday, February 29, at 9 a.m. and will continue all through the night. Fishing will begin at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 1. Fishing ends on Opening Day at 6 p.m.



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Butterfield, Purdy Fire learn extrication skills

Caden Swearingen

The Butterfield and Purdy Fire Departments got together last Saturday, February 22, at Payless Auto Salvage to train using extrication tools. The training the firefighters underwent will help them save a life in the event of a car crash where someone is trapped inside a vehicle.

Both Butterfield and Purdy use Amkus extrication tools. The training was conducted by Precision Rescue owner Dean Deters who is distributor for Amkus Rescue Systems. There were 32 firefighters present during the training.

During the training, they had cars set up to look like a real emergency scenario. Neither fire department had much training with their tools prior to the event. De-

ters taught both fire departments how to use the tools correctly to save lives.

"It was a good refresher for experienced members and good training for new members on the fire department," said Nick Mercer, Purdy Fire Chief.

Before, Purdy and Butterfield Fire Departments called Monett Fire for auto extrications. Now that they have the tools and experience on how to use them, they can get people help faster without waiting for another department to make it to the scene.

Everyone on the department was hands-on during the training. Experienced extrication specialist Deters gave them advice and ideas on how to properly use the tools after a careful demonstration performed by him-

self while everyone watched and listened.

Butterfield purchased an Amkus ion 2.0 battery powered tool a little over a year ago. Purdy has Amkus hydraulic tools. Both departments learned to use each other's tools for their auto aid agreement, as well.

Donnie Privett, Butter-

See EXTRICATION on 16A



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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:

Starting in March, the Wheaton Depot Museum will be open on Sundays. Watch the Community Calendar for updates on the time and the dates. The Wheaton Depot Museum is the major project of the Wheaton Historical Society.

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.

2020 Southwest Yearbooks are on sale now. The cost is \$25 and the deadline to order is May 31. For more information, contact Mr. Voyak at svoyak@swr5.net.

March 2020 Barry County OATS Transit Schedule: To Springfield: March 2. To Joplin: March 9 and 23. To Neosho: March 18. To Mt. Vernon: March 25. To schedule a ride in Barry County, call the OATS office at (800) 770-6287.

Simple Tax Preparation will be offered at Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob, each Tuesday through April 7, 2020. Please call (417) 858-6952 for an appointment.

Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob will host ‘Walking With Friends’ every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Seligman Chamber will host a dance every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. For information, call (417) 662-3612.

Golden Baptist Church Single Moms Support Group will meet every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. For information, call (417) 271-3605.

Feb. 26th
Monett Library will host Story Time at 4:15 p.m.
Wii Bowling will be held at the Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob, at 12:30 p.m. New players are welcome.

Feb. 27th
The Barry County Republican Club will hold its monthly meeting in Monett at the Angus Branch Steakhouse at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 28th
Music will be held at the Clio Community Building beginning at 6:30 p.m.
A Dance will be held at the Stella Senior Center with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. The dance will start at 7 p.m. with The Timberline Country Band. Cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are available all evening. For information, call (417) 850-4490 or (417) 628-3314.

A Fundraiser for Rebecca Boyd will be held at Cassville Healthcare and Rehab. Bake sale starts at 10 a.m. until all the goodies are gone. The Chili Cook Off starts at 2:30 p.m. and is \$5 to enter and \$3 to taste. All proceeds go to the Boyd family to help with expenses until Rebecca can return to work. Call Shawna at (417) 847-3386 for more information.

March 2nd
The Barry County Democrats will meet at the Cassville Public Library with snacks being served at 6:30 and the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. This will be the last meeting before the Presidential Preference Election on March 10. The April meeting, scheduled for April 6, will be a Mass Meeting where delegates will be selected for the regional, state and national Democratic Conventions. For more information, call or text Maella Blalock at (231) 343-2727 or email maella.blalock@gmail.com.

The Monett Dance will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Monett Park Casino. Everyone is welcome.

The Monett Library will host Teen Book Club at 5 p.m.

March 3rd
Basic Computer Class, by Paul Hughes will be held at Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob, at 1 p.m.
The Monett Library will host Crochet-Knitting at 1 p.m. and Story Time at 4:15 p.m.

March 4th
Wii Bowling will be held at Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob, at 12:30 p.m. All ages and new players are welcome.

The Monett Library will host Rug Making at 1 p.m. and Story Time at 4:15 p.m.

March 5th
The Monett Library will host a February Craft at 1:30 p.m. Participants may call (417) 235-6646 for supply list and details.

March 7th
Jenkins Fire Annual Chili Supper will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jenkins Fire Department at Station #1 located just west of the Junction of Highways 39 and 248. The Flyin’ Buzzards will provide entertainment. Call Sara (417) 342-4243 for more information.

March 10th
Free Smoking Cessation Classes will be offered at Cox Monett. The four class program will meet at 4:30 Tuesdays (March 10, 24, 31 and April 7). The program will cover the basics of making a plan to quit, and include CO level screens and other helpful resources. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 5, and may be done by calling (417) 236-2596.


March 14th
A Fundraiser Breakfast will be served at the fire house in Eagle Rock from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

March 17th
Southwest Community Baccalaureate Committee will be having a meeting to finalize baccalaureate service at Southwest High School Commons Area at 6 p.m. All pastors, parents, and seniors are encouraged to attend.

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School Menus: Mar. 2 - Mar. 6
All meals served with milk and subject to change.

Exeter: Mon: B: cereal, donuts, fruit, juice. L: chicken nuggets, baked beans, green beans, fruit. Tues: B: egg-stravaganza, toast, fruit, juice or cereal, toast, fruit, juice. L: taco soup, salad, baby carrots, cornbread, fruit. Wed: B: french toast sticks, orange, juice or cereal, Vertical Bar, orange, juice. L: chicken alfredo, broccoli, breadstick, fruit. Thurs: B: sausage/egg biscuit, banana, juice or cereal, biscuit, banana, juice. L: popcorn chicken, smiley fries, carrots, fruit. Fri: B: pancake on a stick, apple, juice or cereal, Pop-tart, apple, juice. L: pepperoni pizza, salad, corn, fruit.

Cassville PR-Int.-Middle: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, Rice Krispy Treat, apple. L: pepperoni pizza or chicken alfredo, salad, corn, pineapple. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, applesauce. L: chicken sandwich, burrito, nachos, green beans, mandarin oranges. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, graham cracker, mandarin oranges or cereal, blueberry muffin, applesauce. L: Frito pie or chicken quesadilla, refried beans, corn, fruit cocktail. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage, pears or cereal, Pop-Tart, apple. L: chili or little smokies, cheese sticks, saltines, broccoli, Sidekicks. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or mini cini, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, graham crackers, peaches. L: chicken & noodles or country streak, potatoes, mixed vegetables, peaches.

Cassville High School: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, sausage, apple or cereal, blueberry muffin, applesauce. L: beef burrito, nachos, beans, glazed carrots, juice or cheeseburger meal or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, graham crackers, peaches. L: pizza, corn, veggie salad, tropical fruit or popcorn chicken meal or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, peaches or cereal, Nutri Grain Bar, apple. L: cheeseburger, Sun Chips, carrots, mandarin orange or pizza meal or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, cinnamon toast, mandarin oranges. L: chili, cheese, saltine crackers, green beans, cookie, fruit cocktail or cheeseburger meal or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or mini cini, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail or cereal, banana muffin, tropical fruit. L: chicken sandwich, baked chips, baked beans, veggie mix, fruit cocktail or pizza meal or salad meal.

Purdy: Mon: B: skillet omelet, toast, cereal, fruit. L: popcorn chicken, bread, rice pilaf, carrots, fruit. Tues: B: pancake/sausage on stick, syrup, cereal, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: wg pepperoni pizza, salad, corn, fruit. Wed: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, cereal, fruit. L: chicken nuggets, bread, mashed potatoes, corn on cob, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast pizza, cereal, toast, fruit. L: super nachos, pinto beans, corn, fruit. Fri: B: banana muffin, cereal, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: turkey sandwich, Sun Chips, mixed veggies, fruit.

Southwest: Mon: No School. Tues: B: breakfast sausage pizza, peaches or cereal, juice. L: salisbury steak, gravy, glazed carrots, hot roll, pears or salad/fruit bar. Wed: B: biscuits & gravy, sausage links, apple slices or cereal, juice. L: general chicken, broccoli & carrots, rice, applesauce cup, fortune cookie or salad/fruit bar. Thurs: B: scrambled eggs with bacon, Pop-Tart, dried cranberries or cereal, juice. L: spaghetti, garden salad, breadstick, peaches or salad/fruit bar. Fri: B: sausage & egg sandwich, hash brown potatoes, orange wedges or cereal, juice. L: corn dog, macaroni & cheese, pineapple, peas & carrots or salad/fruit bar.

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D.A.R. honors area Good Citizens with awards

The Alexander McNair chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution honored students from area high schools at their February 8 meeting for good citizenship. Students were congratulated on their citizenship, community service and academic successes. Honorees included: Madry McCrackin, Cassville High School; Wyatt Hoppes, Exeter High School; Zolanna Simpson, Wheaton High School; Jonathan Hughes, Monett High School; and Rachel Jimenez, Southwest High School.

“These students prove that the next generation

of citizens are thoughtful, creative, involved, and dedicated to America’s future success,” said Maella Blalock, award chairperson for D.A.R.

School administrators select a student who represents the best school citizen, then those students are invited to compete through an essay contest for state and national level awards. Selected students are honored with a D.A.R. Good Citizen certificate and pin. Those willing to compete in the essay contest also receive a \$25 scholarship from the Alexander McNair chapter. This year, the

subject was “Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It.” As leaders of tomorrow, students were asked how they would energize America’s youth to fully engage as effective citizens and why it is important.

D.A.R. meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will feature local historian Kavan Stull as he impersonates President Harry Truman during his war time experience. The meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, 10:30 a.m., at the Monett First United Methodist Church.



Those who received Good Citizen awards from the Alexander McNair chapter of the D.A.R. are pictured above. From left to right: Maella Blalock, D.A.R Awards Chair; Wyatt Hoppes, Exeter High School; Zolanna Simpson, Wheaton High School; Jonathan Hughes, Monett High School; and Bonnie Yetter, D.A.R Regent. Not pictured were: Madry McCrackin, Cassville High School; and Rachel Jimenez, Southwest High School.

Upcoming Cassville Library events

- There will be no pre-school story time Thursday, February 27.
- The LEGO Club will meet Thursday, February 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the library’s meeting room.
- A town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at the

Cassville Branch. The session will give information and provide answers about the upcoming tax initiative for the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library system. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

- Crochet with Kathy each Monday at 6 p.m. and

Friday at 10:30 a.m. Instruction is available for beginners.



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LISA MARIE HUDGINS

Lisa Marie Hudgins, age 50, of Seligman, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at her home.

She was born May 13, 1969, in West Covina, California, the daughter of Richard and Linda Lou (Benton) Marmol, who preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death was one son, Zachary Eivins.

Surviving are three daughters, Samantha Coup-land, of Monett, Kati Sharp and her husband, Jase, of San Clemente, California, and Alexa Hudgins and her fiancé, Kason Carmical, of Seligman; four brothers, Randy

Crone and his wife, Bonnie, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Phillip Morgan and his wife, Tanya, of Joplin, Tom Crone, of Seligman, and James Marmol and his wife, Laura, of Fort Sill, Oklahoma; three sisters, Nancy Joyner and her husband, Lonnie, of Chico, California, Penny Gentry, of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and Tish Conrad and her husband, Mike, of Concord, New Hampshire; and five grandchildren, Zoie, Braylee, Kelby, Ava and Jameson.

Lisa grew up and received her education in Eagle Grove, Iowa, where she graduated from high school. Later she attended Iowa Central Community College, earning her degree in nursing. Twenty-four years ago, she moved from Iowa to Seligman to make her home. For many years, she worked as a nurse for different nursing homes in the Rogers area. Some of her favorite pastimes were cooking, decorating and crafting. She loved her family and enjoyed spending time with her grandkids.

OBITUARIES

Graveside services were held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 22, 2020, at King Cemetery in Seligman, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Phillip Morgan conducted the services.

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

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



FRANCISCA PEREZ SALAS

Francisca Perez Salas, age 59, of Purdy, passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2020, in Purdy.

She was born September 17, 1960, in Mexico, the daughter of Maximino Salas and Josefa Gonzales. She was united in marriage to Pedro Perez, who survives. Also surviving are two sons, Jose Manuel Perez, of Rogers, Arkansas, and Jose Alvaro Perez of Purdy; two daughters, Maria Claudia Perez, of Hennessey, Oklahoma, and Maria Veronica Perez, of Monett; two brothers, Alfonso Salas and Juakin Salas, both of Mexico; one sister,

Bernabe Salas, of Mexico; and ten grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, one brother and one sister.

Francisca grew up and received her education in Mexico. In 1994, she moved to Purdy to make her home. For many years, she worked at George's in Butterfield. She was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Monett.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 24, 2020, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Monett, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Father Rahab Isidor conducted the services. Burial was at Purdy Cemetery.

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

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
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PAMELA JEAN "PAM" MITCHELL

Pamela Jean "Pam" Mitchell, age 57, of Wheaton, passed away Monday, February 24, 2020, at Cox Medical Center South in

Springfield.

She was born October 26, 1962, in Purdy, the daughter of Donnie and Mickey (Harris) Mitchell, who survive. Also surviving are three sons, Josh Bateman and his wife, Kallie, of Exeter, Caleb Trogdon and his wife, Tara, of Wheaton, and Michael Clemons and his wife, Miranda, of Purdy; one brother, Scott Mitchell and his wife, Traci, of Exeter; two sisters, Jackie Tichenor, of Wheaton, and Missy Johnson, of Neosho; and five grandchildren.

Pam grew up in the Wheaton area attending school at Wheaton and East Newton. Some of her favorite pastimes were cooking, gardening and going to the creek. She enjoyed birdwatching and loved watching Lifetime shows and soap operas.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton.

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

MCQUEEN FUNERAL HOME
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KENNETH PACKWOOD

Kenneth Packwood, age 90, of Verona, passed away Saturday, February 22, 2020,

at his home.

He was born January 18, 1930, in Ridgley, the son of Wayne and Ina (England) Packwood, who preceded him in death. Also preceding him in death were one son, Joe Packwood, and one brother, Darrell Packwood.

Kenneth grew up and received his education in Ridgley. He married Lenore Privett and later married Eleanor Burbridge. As a young man, he raised and traded horses and cattle. He also combined during wheat harvest. Later, he ran the Ridgley Grocery Store and after that owned and operated a gas station in Verona. Before retiring, he owned an auction business and then turned that building into a furniture store.

Surviving are three sons, Greg Packwood and his wife, Tresa, of Wheaton, Kevin Packwood and his wife, Tammy, of Verona, and Gary Packwood and his wife, Denise, of Aurora; two daughters, Carla Mulvaney and her husband, Gary, of Monett, and Kay Roberts and her husband, Jim, of Nixa; one daughter-in-law, Sheila Packwood, of Wheaton; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. today, Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

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

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garten when she got sick. Blazi's grandmother Melissa Whisenhunt thought it was just an illness going around in the family.

Whisenhunt said, "On Friday [August 21], the baby-sitter called and said Blazi was crying because she had a headache and was throwing up. When I called the clinic, they said take her to Springfield immediately."

Once there, blood tests and a CAT scan were completed, and the family received the devastating news: Blazi had a brain tumor. The last four years had lots of ups and downs, but Blazi is now 10 years old.

Blazi has had four brain surgeries, one in Springfield and three in Memphis. She underwent one round of brain radiation, immunotherapy, and lastly a full brain and spine proton radiation. Blazi is doing as well as she can be expected given the circumstances. She still undergoes both physical and occupational therapy twice a

week due to a massive stroke after the first surgery and all the residual effect from the treatments.

Mason was 25 when he passed away on January 15, 2019, after suffering injuries during a ride in Denver. Lowe, who competed professionally for the seven years prior to his death, was ranked 18th in the world. He ranked as high as 11th during his career.

Crowe said, "I'd known him since he was a little boy. When he was kid, it didn't take a lot to make him happy. He was always in a good mood."

He added, "Mason was just a small town guy, and he never lost that small town feeling. No matter where he was, he was always the same. He always had time to talk to people. He especially had time for kids. That was something that was pretty phenomenal about him."

Kayla Lowe, Blazi's mother, said "Mason loved Blazi so much." Today, Blazi

always remembers what her uncle told her: Don't weaken. "Don't Weaken, Love, Uncle Mason" is even the quote on the plaque that was erected in Mason's name at the hospital.

On February 14, 2020, Blazi and her family shared a special moment when they went to Memphis and had the honor to unveil and dedicate Mason's plaque on the wall. Mason's legacy will forever live on the wall of the hospital that has helped so many children and continues to help countless more.

Whisenhunt said, "It means everything to me to have my son's name on a plaque on the wall of the hospital. That helps my grandchild tremendously. When we first started our journey with Blazi, it took \$1 million a day to even open the doors of the hospital, now it takes \$3 million in five short years, and if one cent of the money donated in Mason's honor helps find a cure, then that's his story. That was God's plan."

The Lowe family knows Mason would be glad that his memory is doing good. In an interview with PBR in 2017, he talked about Blazi and why children's hospital work was important to him. He said, "We are really close. I have some cows and stuff and she names them. She has some wild ones like



Pictured above, Blazi Lowe gets a first look at the plaque with her late uncle Mason Lowe's name on it while family members and PBR representatives gather around her. From left to right: Cody Nance, PBR bull rider; Melissa Whisenhunt, Blazi's grandmother; Jerry Whisenhunt, Blazi's grandfather; Blazi Lowe; Tye Chandler, PBR bull rider; and Kayla Lowe, Blazi's mother.

Snowball. It is kind of funny. It can be a red cow, and its name is Snowball."

He continued, "Some of those kids, it puts a knot in your stomach because you don't know what they are going through, and you went through it with your family."

When asked about organizing the events to raise money for St. Jude in honor of Mason and Blazi, Crowe said, "When you see all the work that they do, it really humbles you. They are so appreciative of any donation they get. Getting to go and see what they do makes

you appreciate what they do for families and kids... Their lives mean everything to me, and I don't know them. Hopefully they overcome what they have."

Crowe added that there will be another memorial ride in Mason's name this year, as well, and he's hoping to raise even more money this year. He said, "My goal for this year's bull riding event is \$20,000."

There is an account set up at St. Jude in Lowe's name. While survival odds are improving thanks to continued research, there is a lot of

room to improve outcomes for kids like Blazi.

To help continuing his story, you can donate to St. Jude by texting PBR to 785833.

The second annual Ridin' with Mason Lowe Memorial Bullriding will be held May 9, 2020, at the Bill Haley Arena in Cassville beginning at 7 p.m. There will also be a silent auction featuring photos of Mason. During intermission, they will have miniature bull riding and event t-shirts will be for sale throughout the bull rides, all benefiting St. Jude in Mason's memory.

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Purdy producer sees success in first-year warm-season crop

The sea of native warm-season grass on Gene Cowherd's Barry County farm is a reminder of a time when buffalo grazed tall prairie grasses. Cowherd's first-year grasses stand more than 6 feet high with thick, green undergrowth. The grasses are part of a diverse grazing system that also includes alfalfa, Bermuda grass, orchardgrass, red clover and novel fescue.

"It's a super stand," says Tim Schnakenberg, University of Missouri Extension agronomist and a NRCS + MU Grasslands Project team member. The project is a collaboration between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and MU Extension that provides technical advice and education to improve grassland sustainability in Missouri.

Cowherd's success dispels the notion that warm-season grasses need three seasons to establish and produce well. "Though train wrecks do happen with native grass estab-

lishment, if a producer pays attention to details and the weather cooperates, we can expect a very high success rate the first year," Schnakenberg says.

Cowherd is one of three Barry County producers who worked with Schnakenberg to establish warm-season grass pastures in 2019. "These producers wanted to broaden forage availability with a more highly productive, adaptive species that could be used for either pasture or hay," Schnakenberg says.

The project provides support for some producers to plant a few acres of warm-season grasses. Cowherd planted a mix of 60% big bluestem, 30% Indian grass and 10% little bluestem. Because of his success, Cowherd plans to plant another 40 acres in warm-season grasses. He grazes two cattle herds now.

Due to the initial investment to establish and manage warm-season grasses, Schnakenberg recommends

that producers make the transition in small increments. Seed cost can be more than six times the cost of fescue.

However, natives have a lower long-term cost of production, he says. Initial costs are offset by lower nutrient needs, extended grazing seasons and less reliance on hay and feed. Producers also should see fewer problems with endophyte toxins.

Heat- and drought-tolerant warm-season grasses flourish during the summer slump when temperatures rise, rainfall diminishes and cool-season pastures decline. Including warm-season grasses in grazing systems may allow 300 or more days of grazing, Schnakenberg says. This reduces Cowherd's reliance on other forage sources in winter and drought.

Cowherd sprayed out a wheat crop last April using glyphosate and at least two imazapic herbicides, Panoramic and Plateau. He seeded 11 pounds per acre of native grasses with a loaner drill from the county soil and water conservation district. This drill was set specifically for drilling native warm-season grasses.

Some seeds are light and fluffy, which makes it difficult to calibrate the drill properly. Cowherd made three trips over the field to insure the correct rate and get good seed-to-soil contact for a strong stand.

He applied imazapic again in July with methylated seed oil (MSO) as a surfactant. It was the first time he used the



Gene Cowherd is one of three Barry County producers working with MU Extension agronomist Tim Schnakenberg to establish warm-season grasses through the NRCS + MU Grasslands Project. Photo by Linda Geist.

oil-based adjuvant, which boosts the performance of certain herbicides.

Despite record rainfall, grasses established well and cattle will graze there next year. NRCS + MU Grasslands Project recommends delaying of grazing until the second year. This lets grasses establish strong, deep root systems before being subjected to the pressures of grazing and production.

Cowherd and Schnakenberg note that warm-season grass pastures need minimal fertilizer. Cowherd plans to add 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre and little to no phosphorus or potash. By contrast, his Bermuda grass pastures typically need 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Warm-season grasses are gaining popularity in part because of new technology for effective in-season control of broadleaf weeds, foxtail and crabgrass.

In addition to providing summer forage, warm-season grasses offer cover for wildlife such as quail and other ground-nesting birds.

Diversity and innovation are not new at the Cowherd farm, which his great-great-grandfather bought in 1892. At one time, the family's Windymonte Vineyard grew 70 acres of grapes for Missouri wineries. They have also raised hogs, dairy cows and poultry. The family dairy operation earned the Holstein Progressive Breeder Award four times.

Cowherd remembers when the field where the dem-

onstration took place became eroded and unproductive due to past tillage and cropping practices. Cowherd hopes to restore pasture diversity and good soil health through research-based methods from his alma mater, the University of Missouri.

He earned a bachelor's in dairy husbandry in 1971 and a master's in reproductive endocrinology in 1973. However, his education did not stop there. "I just keep learning," he says.

Learn more about the NRCS + MU Grasslands Project at extension2.missouri.edu/programs/nrcs-mu-grasslands-project.

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For a lot of students nearing graduation, the adult world brings with it a lot of unknowns, like how to file taxes or cook a meal for just yourself. At Wheaton Junior/Senior High School, school administration and staff took the initiative to help students learn those skills.

Wheaton School hosted its inaugural Active Learning Day that featured a variety of different experience students could choose throughout the day to learn valuable life experience.

Principal Tyler Willis explained staff had been planning a day like this for awhile, and with an opportunity offered by the Missouri Army National Guard. He said, "Mrs. Christman [school counselor] and I have been thinking about it for awhile, and we weren't really sure when the best time would be to make it happen. Then, sergeant Billingsly with the Army National Guard came in about a training they do called HEART, Helping Everyone Achieve Respect Training.

"With that training, they wanted to do it in smaller groups with one grade level at a time. Since that was going to take a good portion of the day anyway, we thought this would be a good opportunity to do these sessions."

The school staff worked together to decide what types of classes to offer students to sign up for. Willis said, "I asked teachers, students, and anyone in the community for potential sessions and potential pre-

senters, and it all came together."

They held the Active Learning Day on February 7, and the school offered experiences on preserving food, emergency first air, vehicle maintenance, graphic design and apps, income taxes, line dancing, cooking, and more. Missouri State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick also attended as a special guest to talk to students.

The whole day was dedicated to hands-on learning and real world experiences.

Willis explained the idea behind the Active Learning Day, "I wanted a day where students got to choose what they learn. I wanted them to find something they were interested in and leave with information they didn't learn before and hopefully they found valuable."

The response from students was overwhelmingly positive, and they are considering hosting one or two Active Learning Days each school year in the future, as well.

Willis said, "It was really positive. I had several students comment asking if we would do it again. Then, I had a lot of people come to me with ideas for sessions for future Active Learning Days. Overall, I think it was really positive."

Sessions that really resonated with students were the cooking for one class, vehicle maintenance and first aid. Willis said approximately 80 percent of the student body attended the cooking class.

He continued, "The emergency first aid was re-



Wheaton Junior/Senior High School's Active Learning Day gave students the opportunity to provide hands-on, real world experience. Above, Doug Henry, from the Barry County Sheriff's Department, provided a hands-on demonstration to students about working in law enforcement.

ally popular where they learned CPR, what to do in the case of an emergency if someone has a seizure and stuff like that."

The session that surprised Willis was the interest younger students took in the income tax session. He said, "The income tax session, the intention was juniors and seniors would bring it in, and we could work through it with them. It ended up having several younger students, including a handful of seventh graders, interested in it, so the presenter could make it a little more appropriate for the students' needs."

Haven of the Ozarks' Pet of the Week: Ruby



Meet Ruby, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week. Ruby is a gorgeous six and a half year old girl who came to the Haven when her owners were moving and couldn't take her along. Ruby is a wonderful, beautiful, friendly dog who loves car rides, has nice crate manners, loves going for walks, enjoys playing with squeaky toys, and adores people of all ages. She is used to living inside, gets along well with other dogs, and doesn't even seem to mind cats. Ruby would love a home with a family to take her on adventures then let her rest on a soft bed afterward. She has just the right amount of energy to be the perfect family companion.

Haven of the Ozarks is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of the week or call (417) 835-3647 for more information. Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary is located at 9617 Farm Road 2190 in Washburn. Visit them online at www.havenoftheoazarks.org.

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Barry County Master Gardeners to host Let's Get Growing

Planting time will soon be here and the fourth annual Barry County Master Gardeners “Let’s Get Growing” workshop can help you in preparing for a successful year. The event will be at Crowder College in Cassville on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Expect great speakers, door prizes and some tasty snacks if you attend.

This year’s speakers will address varied topics providing useful information to home gardeners, whether novice or expert. Dr. Tom Riley, entomologist and Master Gardener, will present “Those Things that Bite and Sting in the Garden.” Tom gave a wonderful presentation on monarch butterflies and other local species a couple of years ago.

Angela Brattin, one of their the Barry County members, is going to share her experience on growing produce in a hoop house. The pictures she shared on Facebook last year testify to her success. Heather Cross is going to share her expertise on growing perennials, a topic that many people have requested. Heather and her husband, Nick, are the new owners of Bear Creek Nursery on Hwy. 23 between Holiday Island and Eureka Springs, Ark.

Kelly McGowan, Field Specialist in Horticulture with the University of Missouri Extension, will share ideas for choosing trees and shrubs for the landscape. Kelly works in the Green County Extension offices at the Springfield Botanical Gardens.

If you want to attend the workshop, register through the Barry Co. Extension Office. Early registration will save you money. The workshop fee is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Call the extension office at (417) 847-3161 or email Eden Stewart at stewarted@missouri.edu to obtain registration information. Early registration ends on Wednesday, March 11.

The Extension office, which is located in the historic Barry County Courthouse, can also provide information to you about the Missouri Master Gardener program. The program is organized through the University of Missouri Extension and facilitated through county extension agents. Candidates may attend a series of classes on many aspects of gardening to develop a knowledge base or work through online sessions individually. The Master Gardener mission is to offer educational opportunities to the public and to help beautify the local community. Statewide, master gardeners provide tens of thousands of volunteer hours each year, and have great impact in beautifying parks, schools, libraries and other public buildings and spaces.

Purdy Elementary announces spelling bee champ



Kora Kelleher, a Purdy Elementary fifth grade student, won the school’s annual fourth through sixth grade spelling bee on Thursday, January 30, by correctly spelling the word “confidence.” She will represent the Purdy Eagles at the annual Joplin Globe Spelling Bee on March 16.

Kora is the daughter of Brittany Scherrer and Brandon Russell and Chad Kelleher.

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She is pictured front left with first runner-up and alternate Zeannndrea Brown, daughter of Travis and Jennifer Brown. Purdy Spelling Bee Officials are pictured in back, from left: Cindy Burnside, Bee Coordinator and Judge; Sarah Willson, pronouncer, and Barbara Warnick, judge.

Purdy FBLA competes at Districts



The Purdy High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter was well-represented at the District 5 Leadership Conference, held at New Site Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 11. A total of 17 Purdy FBLA members placed in the Top 10 in their respective competitions, with nine competitors advancing to the State Leadership Conference competition April 19 through 21.

Purdy’s Top 10 finishers are pictured from left to right. State Qualifiers are indicated with an asterisk. Front row: Lisa Lee, 2nd Place in Intro to Public Speaking and 5th Place in Intro to Business Communication*; Alli Hayes, 4th Place in Intro to Parliamentary Procedures*; Kylie Wood, 3rd Place in Job Interview; Shana Whisman, 1st Place in Hospitality Management* and 4th Place in Publication Design; Sydney Rea, 7th Place in Securities and Investments; Macy Terry, 4th Place in Securities and Investments*; Shelby Haskins, 1st Place in Sales Presentation* and 4th Place in Publication Design; Makenna Orwig, 7th Place in Health Care Administration and 8th Place in Insurance and Risk. Back row: Ashlie Johnson, 6th Place in Spreadsheets; Drew Graham, 4th Place in Health Care Administration* and 5th Place in Journalism*; Zach Henderson, 2nd Place in Intro to Parliamentary Procedures*; Emilee Pierce, 6th Place in Intro to Business Communication and 10th Place in Intro to Information Technology; Jazmin Rueda, 9th Place in Intro to Information Technology and M’Kena Propps, 1st Place in Intro to Parliamentary Procedures* and 2nd Place in Client Services. Breanna Perkins qualified for the state competition with a 5th Place finish in Securities and Investments but was absent for the photo. Purdy FBLA members compete under the guidance of advisers Kay Wright and Ashley Brown.

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Southwest 3rd in SWCL Scholar Bowl Tourney

Marple signs with UCM for track and field



Southwest Middle School won two of three matches and finished third in the SWCL Conference Tournament at Kirbyville. The Trojans beat Blue Eye in the quarterfinals but lost to eventual tourney champ Sparta by one question in the semifinals. Southwest defeated Kirbyville for third place. Members of the team include: Kameron Kelley, Clark Brinkman, Sophia Wyman, Braden Garcia and captain Charlie Pippin.



Cassville High School's Parker Marple signed to play track and field at the University of Central Missouri beginning in the fall 2020 semester studying physical therapy. Parker is the daughter of Jeremy and Stephanie Marple, of Cassville. Pictured, from left to right, in the front row: Logan Marple, Stephanie Marple, Parker Marple and Jeremy Marple. Back row: Erin Flehmer and Thomas Hubbard.

Crowder College releases Fall 2019 Dean's List honors

Crowder College announced the fall 2019 Dean's list with 590 students earning recognition. To earn the honor, a student must complete 12 or more credit hours with at least a 3.5 grade point average or higher.		Students achieving this honor for fall 2019 are listed with their hometowns:	
Edgar Aguilar, of Purdy		Sarah Burton, of Exeter	
Jesus Alberton, of Verona		Todd Butterworth, of Cassville	
Quartny Allen, of Exeter		Ellie Cahalan, of Cassville	
Derrol Armstrong, of Monett		Jasmine Canales, of Purdy	
Jacob Balmas, of Monett		Kaysi Carr, of Aurora	
Justin Barnes, of Cassville		Thema Carr, of Monett	
Ashley Batson, of Monett		Sonya Carter, of Cassville	
Betime Begzati, of Aurora		Kyle Cheek, of Cassville	
Maycee Blake, of Purdy		Emma Coenen, of Eagle Rock	
Samantha Blangger, of Cassville		Madelyn Cole, of Exeter	
Kobe Blisard, of Cassville		Kristen Crawford, of Cassville	
Matthew Bonass, of Shell Knob		Trey Dalton, of Cassville	
Skyler Boxley, of Washburn		Devany Davis, of Aurora	
Tyler Boxley, of Washburn		Sara Drewianka, of Monett	
Brittany Bricker, of Monett		Lacey Elkins, of Cassville	
Gregory Brown, of Monett		Michael Foster, of Seligman	
Ian Brown, of Verona		Elizabeth Garcia, of Aurora	
Zoe Brown, of Monett		Madison Genzer, of Monett	
Sadie Burk, of Aurora		Angie Gold, of Aurora	
Laura Burton, of Cassville		Morgan Grissom, of Purdy	
		Haley Hagan, of Cassville	
		Lina Hang, of Purdy	
		Blake Hamelink, of Aurora	
		Emma Harkey, of Purdy	
		Bucky Harrell, of Rocky Comfort	
		Mary Hayse, of Cassville	
		Maria Hernandez Reyes, of Purdy	
		Caleb Hillhouse, of Verona	
		Elexia Hobbs, of Cassville	
		Misty Hughes, of Purdy	
		Tiffany Hull, of Monett	
		Eric Hurtado, of Monett	
		Isbell Ibarra, of Purdy	
		Breyana Jacobs, of Rocky Comfort	
		Julius Jager, of Aurora	
		Jacob Johnson, of Aurora	
		Teagan Johnson, of Cassville	
		Abner Juarez, of Monett	
		Zylin Jung, of Shell Knob	
		Kortney Juracek, of Aurora	
		Blanche Kirk, of Washburn	
		Patty Kyle, of Monett	
		Savannah Lawrence, of Cassville	
		Ana Lesue, of Monett	
		Joshua Lopez, of Monett	
		Ariana Madison, of Monett	
		Timothy Mays, of Monett	
		Ashtyn McFarland, of Cassville	
		Lauren McManus, of Cassville	
		Jonika Miller, of Exeter	
		Charles Moore, of Rocky Comfort	
		Trevor Morgan, of Cassville	
		Brianna Murphy, of Monett	
		Steven Murray, of Purdy	
		Trevor Nelson, of Exeter	
		Anita Nickle, of Aurora	
		Michael Ortiz, of Cassville	
		Chandler Orwig, of Monett	
		Liliana Outhouse, of Seligman	
		Colten Phillips of Monett	
		Jordan Porter, of Cassville	
		Taylor Powers, of Aurora	
		Jennifer Quintanilla, of Washburn	
		McKenzie Renkoski, of Purdy	
		Patrick Reyes, of Verona	
		Maggie Robbins, of Washburn	
		Jessica Roberts, of Washburn	
		Camden Roller, of Cassville	
		Andie Roper, of Eagle Rock	
		Josi Rose, of Purdy	
		Angelica Ruiz Villa, of Monett	
		Christopher Rush, of Monett	
		Susy Salas, of Monett	
		Mary Sandlin, of Exeter	
		Ashleigh Schafer, of Aurora	
		Katlin Schmidt, of Monett	
		Rachel Scott, of Cassville	
		Shubhechhya Schrestha, of Monett	
		Luke Shoemaker, of Verona	
		Gage Singer, of Aurora	
		Shelby Snyder, of Washburn	
		Cailyn Spears, of Exeter	
		Lilly Sumners, of Aurora	
		Ruby Vela, of Monett	
		Jessica Velasquez-Vail, of Cassville	
		Diana Villa, of Purdy	
		Nicole Walker, of Cassville	
		Nicole Walker, of Cassville	
		Joshua Wilkins, of Cassville	
		Grace Wormington, of Monett	

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Cassville wrestler Zach Coenen takes fifth in state wrestling



Wrestler Zach Coenen and Cassville wrestling coach Nathan Fortner. Coenen earned his fifth place spot at the MSHSAA State Wrestling Championships in Columbia on Saturday, February 22.

Purdy Lady Eagles upset Golden City in Class 2 districts

Lee Stubblefield

The Class 2 District 12 girls tournament opened at Webb City on Saturday afternoon with Thomas Jefferson defeating Diamond in a play-in game, 25-16.

On Monday night, top seed College Heights opened the quarterfinal round by routing TJ, 54-7.

Verona Lady Wildcats 59, Southwest Lady Trojans 34

In the second game, the Southwest Lady Trojans ran into a Verona buzz saw. Carolina Castillo scored half of her game high 26 points in the first quarter to give Verona a double digit cushion, and the Lady Wildcats went on to win, 59-34.

After trailing 15-5 at the first break, Southwest doubled both Castillo and prolific career scorer Paige Bauer. The strategy limited Castillo to a single

point in the second quarter, and Southwest played the Verona team to a 9-9 deadlock in that frame.

But Verona built on that 24-14 halftime lead, blitzing Southwest to start the third quarter for a 34-16 lead. But the Lady Trojans fought back with a stirring 11-0 run to pull within 34-27.

Verona shrugged off the run, and pushed the lead back to double digits, taking a 40-27 lead at the final break. The Lady Wildcats ramped up the intensity in the final eight minutes, leading by as many as 26 while cruising to a 59-34 victory.

Verona improved to 12-11 and moved on to a semifinal game against College Heights.

Southwest finished at 8-18, showing huge improvement after a winless season a year ago.

Verona scorers; Carolina Castillo, 26; Paige Bauer, 20; Ashley Freiburger, 8; Anahli Reyes, 4; Courtney Freiburger, 1.

Southwest scorers: Brylee Wilson, 10; Emily Wilson, 6; Destiny Dulin, 6; Anna Church, 5; Haily Erwin, 3; Olivia Ayer, 2; Laney Moore, 2.

Purdy Lady Eagles 43, Golden City Lady Eagles 31

The seventh-seeded Purdy Lady Eagles faced second-seeded Golden City in the second game of the evening at Webb City's Cardinal Dome.

Purdy raced to a 9-2 lead before GC climbed back into contention. Kyndall Scott scored back-to-back buckets to pull Golden City within a point at 9-8 at the 2:26 mark. But Purdy's Kinsley Mattingly scored from inside and Bayleigh Robbins drained a three to give Purdy a 14-8 lead at the end of the quarter.

Golden City tied the score at 14-14 on a pair of treys from Brooke Beerly. But Purdy, led by six straight points from Anna-

belle Grace Bowman, finished the period with a 13-2 run to claim a 27-16 half-time lead.

Kyndall Scott scored 8 of Golden City's third quarter points to pull her team within 33-26 at the final break.

Purdy crept out to a 41-31 lead in an ugly fourth quarter, and a pair of late free throws from Mattingly sealed the 43-31 upset victory.

Golden City lost this game at the free throw line, hitting only 7 of 17 attempts. Two of those misses were front ends in the closing minutes when GC was still within striking distance.

Purdy improved to 5-20 and advanced to a Wednesday semifinal against Jasper.

Golden City ended the year at 17-9.

Purdy scorers; Bayleigh Robbins, 20; Annabelle Grace Bowman, 10; Kinsley Mattingly, 6; Breanna Perkins, 5; Kylie Wood, 2.

Golden City scorers: Kyndall Scott, 19; Brooke Beerly, 8; Ahree Lutes, 4.

Jasper Lady Eagles 41, **Wheaton Lady Bulldogs 29**

The Jasper Lady Eagles overcame a hot start by Wheaton, and recovered to claim a 41-29 victory in the nightcap.

A deliberate first quarter saw Jasper slide out to an early lead as three treys propelled the Lady Eagles out in front, 11-4. But Wheaton opened the second quarter with a 6-0 run, and went on to grab a 15-14 lead on a Monica Hinojosa basket.

The Lady Bulldogs tough defense stymied Jasper in that quarter, limiting the Lady Eagles to just 4 points, and Jes Lombard's girls held a slim 17-15 lead at the half.

But Jasper exploded in the second half, racking up 26 points while limiting Wheaton to just 12. Jasper's Kristy Holliday converted a late three-point play to finish the scoring as the Lady Eagles claimed a 41-29 victory.

Jasper improved to 17-9 and moved on to a date with Purdy in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Wheaton finished at 9-16.

Jasper scorers: Baylee Jeffries, 12; Kristy Holliday, 10; Alexis Durman, 9; Addyson Primm, 8; Sydney Webb, 1; Mercadez Scott, 1.

Wheaton scorers: Monica Hinojosa, 10; Allison Whitman, 7; Lori McNeill, 5; Lily Ray, 5; Zoie Simpson, 2.

Class 1 District 4 @ Norwood

Bradleyville 63, Exeter Lady Tigers 38

Class 4 District 12 @ Monett

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Wheaton, Purdy boys win district basketball openers

Lee Stubblefield
 The Wheaton Bulldogs overcame an early 16-2 deficit and earned a 60-56 upset of Diamond in Class 2 District 12 action at Webb City on Saturday.
 The Diamond Wildcats outhustled and outmuscled Wheaton in a one-sided first quarter. Diamond led 13-0 before Kelton Park finally put the Bulldogs on the scoreboard. Wheaton cut the lead to 18-9 at the first break.
 Wheaton trimmed the lead again in the second quarter, pulling within 29-25. But Diamond's Hunter Schallenburger poured in a late bucket to give the Wildcats a 31-25 halftime lead.
 The Bulldogs bit hard in the third quarter, taking their first lead of the game when Zach Leverich swished a three for a 35-34 Wheaton advantage. From that point on, the Bulldogs were in control. Chad Myer, after scoring only 2 in the first half, erupted for 15 in the second half to key the Wheaton comeback.
 Diamond struggled to score in the fourth quarter and Wheaton led by as many as 11 before Diamond chipped away in the late going. But the Bulldogs stalled away precious minutes, and fouled to keep Diamond from shooting treys as the clock ran down on a 60-56 Wheaton victory.
 Wheaton advanced to face top-seeded Thomas Jefferson on Wednesday. The Cavaliers easily dispatched Jasper on Saturday, 73-32.
 Wheaton scorers: Chad Myer, 17; Kelton Park, 16; Jack Mitchell, 11; Ty Hudson, 6; Ricky Miller, 5; Zach Leverich, 3; Brody Prewitt, 2.
 Diamond scorers: Hunter Schallenburger, 24; Luke Lawson, 12; Blake Savage, 5; Eli Cupp, 5; Austin Grube, 4; Jake Frazier, 3; Ty McDermott, 3.
Purdy 60, Southwest 42
 The Purdy Eagles rolled to a 60-42 district win over Southwest on Saturday in Webb City's Cardinal Dome. Purdy's Osiel Aldava led all scorers with 23, and Scotty Henry added 17 in a dominant performance.
 Purdy's Harley Stephens opened the scoring, but Zak Starr answered with a trey for a 3-2 Southwest lead. It would prove to be the only lead of the game for the Trojans.
 Purdy held a 13-8 first quarter lead with the clock winding down, but Caden Utte converted a steal into a coast-to-coast layup to beat the buzzer and pull Southwest within 13-10 at the first break.
 But Southwest struggled to score in the second frame. And Purdy pushed to a 26-14 half-time lead.
 Aldava opened the third quarter with a trey, but Southwest's Marquez ripped back-to-back bombs and kept the lead under double digits at 29-20. But Purdy finished the quarter with a 14-5 run, and the Eagles held a 43-25 lead at the final break.
 Purdy held 20-point leads three times in the fourth quarter, and the Eagles cruised home with a 60-42 victory. Purdy moved on to a second round contest against second-seeded College Heights. The Cougars dropped Verona on Saturday, 58-37.
 Purdy scorers: Osiel Aldava, 23; Scotty Henry, 17; Jacob Brown, 10; Zackary Brewer, 4; Harley Stephens, 4; Clay Henderson, 2.
 Southwest scorers: Cruz Marquez, 19; Caden Utte, 8; Zak Starr, 8; Allen Hendrix, 6.
Dora 111, Exeter 51
 In Class 1 District 4 play at Norwood, the top seeded Dora Falcons flew to a 111-61 win over Exeter. Dora has topped the century mark for the second time this season, improving to 26-2.
Class 4 District 12 @ Monett
 After defeating Aurora twice last week to improve to 9-15, the Cassville Wildcats will take on Carl Junction in Class 4 District 12 action at Monett on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Cassville softball team earns Academic All-State



Cassville High School Softball team has earned Academic All-State honors for the 2019-2020 school year. Several members have earned individual recognition as well. They are pictured from left to right: Emilee Mann, Makenzie Dilbeck, Kelsey Harris, Isabelle Edwards, Taylor McCullah and Natalie McNeil.

Cassville Girls City
Softball Sign Ups

Saturday, February 29th
& Saturday, March 7th

- Family Life Center Cassville
- 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Ages 5-17 •Cost \$35.⁰⁰ ea. player

Questions: 417-342-4993

19-21pd

Cassville High School Softball team has earned Academic All-State honors for the 2019-2020 school year. Several members have earned individual recognition as well. They are pictured from left to right: Emilee Mann, Makenzie Dilbeck, Kelsey Harris, Isabelle Edwards, Taylor McCullah and Natalie McNeil.

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Cassville
Baseball

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19-23c

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Washburn MO

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Bags Fly @ 12:00 noon
All proceeds go to support the Southwest FFA.
Thank you Hawg Country for helping with our fundraiser.

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3rd - Hydro Flasks
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20-21c

Wildcat Players of the Week
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& 2020 Winter Sports
As picked by the Wildcats coaching staff

Jake Thomas
Basketball
20 points in second win against Aurora

Lilly Harrison
Basketball
Combined for 21 pts, 6 rebs, & 3 blks in games against Marshfield & Aurora

Zach Coenen
Wrestling
Third wrestler in history to bring home a state medal! Zach placed 5th in the 195 lb. bracket.

CASSVILLE WILDCATS

21c

EXTRICATION from 3A



Both Purdy and Butterfield Fire Departments worked together during the extrication training. The firefighters in attendance were: Mason Brewer, Avery Evans, Morgan Grissom, Jeffery Hilton, Levi Maddocks, Nick Mercer, Tiffany Mercer, Bo Prock, Antonio Rodriguez, Ryan Solley, Dalton Stephens, Trent Walker, Dean Deters, Donnie Privett, Seth Stockton, Chris Utter, Jake Wolf, Tony Young, Ethan Youngman, Brian Atkinson, John Bickford, Ed Carrothers, Stephanie Cossey, Alexis Coursey, Colton Dilbeck, Rusty Dilbeck, Schauna Dilbeck, Joey Drake, Larry Littler, Ryan Lynxwiler, Dakota Miller and Suzanne Morin.



Above, Suzanne Morin, of Butterfield Fire, learns to use extrication equipment during training on Saturday, February 22.

field Fire Chief, said, "De- dealing with." what not to do. One of the
ters is the best instructor Both fire departments things they had to remem-
I've ever had the pleasure of learned what to do and ber was, always lay a car

door on the metal side be-
cause of the airbag. It was
first time experience for a
lot of them on each of the
fire departments. So, little
information like that was
a good thing for them to
grasp onto in the event of a
real world situation.

"It's life-saving. It's im-
portant to better our skills
and knowledge about how
to extract someone out of
a vehicle accident," said
Rusty Dilbeck, Butterfield
Fire Assistant Chief.

After the first part of
training with the hands-on
learning, Deters sent them
in two teams. Each of the
teams had a different sce-

nario. They used the skills
and knowledge they gained
from Deters and put it to-
gether to work as hard as
they could together just as
they would to save some-
one's life.

Trent Walker has been
on the Purdy Fire Depart-
ment for around seven
months. He said, "It was im-

portant for me to get expe-
rience and to know how to
properly use the tools and
gain more experience on
how they work."

Dilbeck added, "We also
want to thank Payless Auto
Salvage in Butterfield for
supplying the cars and the
area to do the training."



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60147834 - Newer single-wide mobile home with almost 11 acres m/l. Garden area, some pasture land and some hunting land. Several outbuildings and 1-car carport. Sits on paved road close to shopping, schools, & Table Rock Lake. Affordable.



\$40,000

60137076 - Great lake community property. 5.2 acres m/l of park-like setting. No restrictions. Paved road on two sides. Golf cart distance to water's edge. Nice homes in this area.



\$444,444

60154613 - EXCELLENT POSSIBILITY for a corporate get-a-way, or Bed & Breakfast. 5-bedrooms, 3 baths. Newer kitchen. House is situated in the middle of 30 acres m/l of paradise. Close to Roaring River State Park.



\$235,000

60149364 - With top-of-the-line kitchen and bath remodel, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is move-in ready! Dream kitchen and 2 large decks. Sitting on 6 acres m/l, it also boasts a 30 x 50 shop, 24 x 40 machine shed, 2 large chicken coops and fenced-in garden.



\$189,000

60151172 - Newer master bath & master walk-in closet, newer flooring, newer roof, newer windows, Newer HVAC system. Large shop 40 x 50 with heat & air. Storage building is 40 x 40. 4.5 acres m/l.



\$169,000

60148813 - Great small farm with 18 acres m/l. Home has some updating. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Central h/a. Hardwood floors. 32 x 40 shop, several outbuildings including barn storage sheds & well house. Pasture has good fencing & pond. Close to town on paved hwy.



\$500,000

60148911 - ONE-OF-A-KIND! Over 600' of shoreline. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2-story home with 3-car attached garage, on 1.5 acres m/l. Come see all the The patio and deck face the lake and your 10 x 24 boat slip with lift. 49 x 60 insulated shop w/ 14' sidewalls. Carport and other storage bldgs.



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60148542 - Berm home is well insulated all around. 40 solar panel heat and cool it. Beautiful inside with lots of extras. Kitchen is designed for entertaining. Appliances, w&d, all convey. Detached garage/workshop is insulated with 2 overhead doors. Shop is 32 x 40. Out in the country but close to town.



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Keisha Drost
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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020 CASSVILLE



Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, Cassville High School FFA has accomplished many great things and shows no sign of slowing down. Beginning in March 2019, Career Development Events marked the beginning of the Contest Season for FFA members nationwide. CDE's are contests designed to educate students about agricultural careers by demonstrating skill and knowledge within a certain career field. Some of these include: Dairy Cattle Judging, Livestock Judging, Dairy Foods Evaluation, Food Science, Horticulture, Forestry, Agronomy, Meat Evaluation, Poultry Judging and many more.

Cassville's Meat Evaluation team and Food Science team each took first place at the state contest and competed at National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 2019. Shortly after CDE season, Chapter Officers were selected by an interview process.

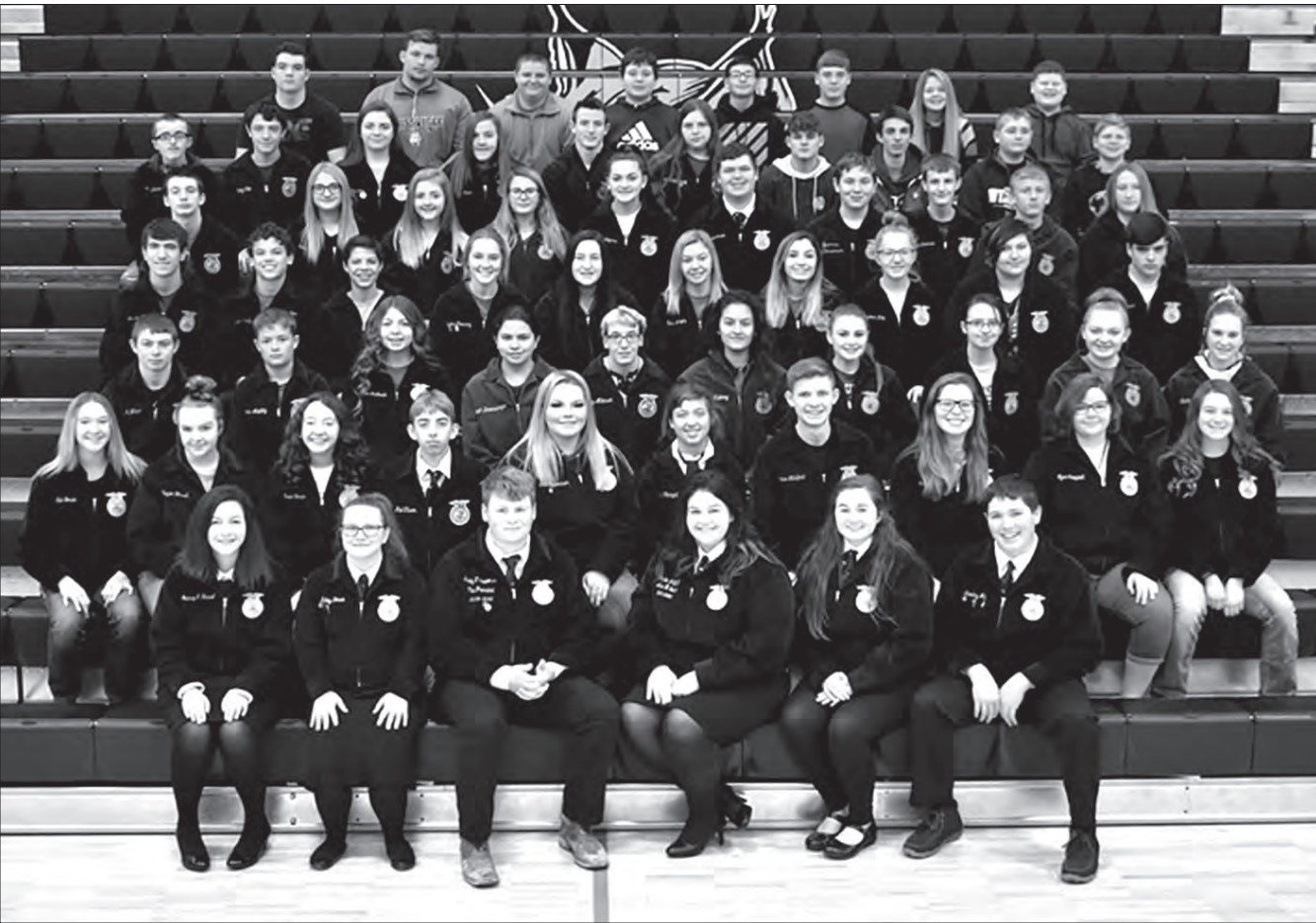
Over the summer, many of FFA and 4H members showcased the Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs at county, district and state fairs with their livestock, horticultural, and mechanical exhibits. Some of these animals include pigs, rabbits, chickens, goats, heifers, bulls, calves, sheep, and other livestock animals. The chapter also helped work the FFA Booster Club Ranch Rodeo Series fundraiser where four ranch rodeos were hosted at Bill Hailey Arena.

Once back to school, the fall season came at full force with many events, includ-

ing Greenhand Conference, UMC Field Day, Silver Dollar City Career Day trip, Fruit and Meat Sales, Chapter Barnwarming, National Convention, Homecoming Float Construction, Farmfest Agriculture show, and more.

CDE practices began at the first of February 2020 with their first contest in Eldon at the end of February. Also approaching are the Area Banquet and National FFA Week. They began National FFA Week on Sunday, February 23, at Mill Street Church of Christ, followed by Overall Day, Drive your Tractor to School Day, Ag. Careers Day, and other agricultural themed spirit days. This year, the chapter decided to kick off National FFA Week by hosting the first Area Barnwarming on Saturday, February 22.

Cassville's complete FFA roster is: Dalton Anderson, Jake Anthonysz, Jesse Anthonysz, Kailey Artherton, Maci Barton, Britley Bateman, Skylar Bilyeu, Brianna Birchfield, Kaden Blisard, Kaylee Blisard, Linda Brownsburger, Jacob Bundy, Kayla Cheek, Samuel Cochran, Aidan Cook, Brandy Creason, Jenna Crim, Alexia Davidson, Andrew Dickinson, Mackenzi Dilbeck, Wendy Dunfee, Catherine Edmondson, Mykah Estes, Jadon Ewing, Calvin Farris, Ethan Fuchs, Mason Gautney, Audrey Goutney, Tyler Hagerman, Hailey Bowen, Lucas Hall, Newt Howe, Timothy Hudson, Garrett Kritz, Caleb Leach, Carter Lee, Peter Littlefield, Sara Longley, Taylor McCorkle, Landry Mills, Riley Mills, Lindee Mitchell, Ethan



The Cassville FFA is pictured above, from left to right. In the front row are the officers: Lindsay Russell, Hailey Bowen, Grady Stephenson, Lindee Mitchell, Riley Mills and Landry Mills. Second row: Faith Yocum, Kaylee Blisard, Grace Yocum, Carter Lee, Catie Edmondson, Belle Sturgell, Peter Littlefield, Maci Barton, Tyra Campell and Kenli Stone. Third row: Trey Wilson, Mason Gautney, Taylor McCorkle, Linda Brownsburger, Brandy Creason, Dulce Rivera, Chloe Thomas, Jenna Crim, Kayla Cheek and Kelsey Harris. Fourth row: Jesse Anthonysz, Jake Anthonysz, Caleb Leach, Kailey Artherton, Kavery Postlewait, Sarah Longley, Lexi Davison, Elizabeth Ray, Abby Pate and Kaden Blisard. Fifth row: DJ Pettyjohn, Windy Dunfee, Audrey Gautney, Brook Davis, Sharayah Seymour, Dalton Anderson, Logan Whisman, Brayden Schwartz, Schyler Biylou and Alexis Vance. Sixth row: Logan Johnson, Joe Robinson, Mykah Estes, Mackenzi Dilbeck, Ethan Fuchs, Ariana Lemus, Jadon Ewing, Newt Howe, Drew Dickinson and Ethan Morgan. Back row: Timothy Hudson, Garrett Kritz, Ethan Youngman, Ethan Stotts, Jacob Bundy, Calvin Farris, Chloe Ragan and Lucas Hall. The advisers are: John Littlefield and Jimmy Hinson.

Morgan, Michael Morgan, DJ Pettyjohn, Kavery Postlewait, Lannin Pryor, Chloe Ragan, Elizabeth Ray, Dolce Riviera, Joe Robinson, Riley Ruark, Lindsay Russel, Ryder Schell, Samuel Seeley, Ashton Sell, Sharayah Seymour, Haydn Stehlik, Grady Stephenson,

Sahara Stettensch, Anthony Stiversen, Kenli Stone, Roper Stone, Ethan Stott, Belle Sturgell, Brayden Swartz, Chloe Thomas, Dayton Thomas, Alexis Vance, Logan Whisman, Trey Wilson, Faith Yocum, Grace Yocum, and Ethan Youngman.

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020
EXETER





Exeter's FFA is pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Madison Crumpler, Macy Barrett, Lane Willis, Riley Still, Makenzie Hopper, Wyatt Hoppes and Yvonne Bradford. Second row: Jasmine Hall, Levi Gautney, Aylssa Whisenhunt, Jamison Nichols, Samantha Crouch, Aubree Reed and Aubry Antle. Back row: Emily Sandlin, Trenton Raney, Korbin Mahurin, Logan Rayburn and Corey Hilburn. Not pictured: adviser Rachael Brown, Savannah Jones, Lindsey Nelson, Izabella Logan, Biak Sang, Emma Sorsenson, Timothy Birchfield, Artie Cole, Aubree Donovan, Halie Nelson, Hunter Reed and Skyy Xiong.

Exeter FFA had another busy and successful year. FFA members planned and hosted many great activities throughout the year so far.

Barnyard Day was held to educate the elementary students about the different species of farm animals and how they benefit our everyday life. The FFA officers hosted Smokey Bear as a fire prevention and safety activity. The officers then explained the dangers of fires to the elementary students, how to prevent fires, and what to do in the event of a fire with special guest Smokey Bear.

Exeter FFA hosted its second annual Angel Tree Program during Christmas time. Exeter FFA chapter accepted donations from the community to help give Exeter students in need a better Christmas. The group hopes to continue each of these events and continue to grow them in the coming years.

Exeter FFA also attended many events, including Farm-Fest, PBR, multiple Greenhand conferences, State FFA Leadership Camp, National FFA Convention, officer training, and many more activities.

In May, Exeter FFA will celebrate 30 years since being chartered during their annual FFA banquet.

During the year, Exeter FFA chapter was awarded 29th place chapter in Missouri and was ranked as a 3-star National Chapter at National Convention in October. In January, Riley Still competed in state competition and placed 3rd in state with her AQHA speech. The chapter is also eagerly awaiting contest season in hopes of sending teams to compete at state and another year of National Chapter competition. The chapter has four teams competing: Entomology, Food Science, Horses and Speaking.

During FFA week, FFA members will be hosting a supporters breakfast and encourage all of their supporters to attend on February 28 from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the Exeter Agriculture Department.

Exeter FFA 2019-2020 Officer Team
Riley Still, President
Madison Crumpler, Committee Chair
Lane Willis, Vice President
Makenzie Hopper, Sentinel
Alyssa Whisenhunt, Emma Sorensen, Madison Crumpler, Committee Chair
Macy Barrett, Reporter
Wyatt Hoppes, Secretary
Yvonne Bradford, Treasurer
Rachael Brown, Adviser

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020 PURDY



This year, the Purdy FFA had many great events and plan to have even more. Some events this year included the annual chapter barn warming, a goat roping, a lock in, and the annual float trip.

Events later in the year include the fish fry and labor auction, truck and tractor pulls and FFA week. At barn-warming, candidates and students play competing games against one another for points. They also have a chili cook off and crown a king and queen. At the fish fry and labor auction, students get auctioned off to do work for someone in the community. The truck and tractor pull is a great fundraiser for the FFA alumni, and everybody has a great time. Students have fun working concessions, parking cars, and watching the show.

During FFA week, students do many leadership and team bonding activities. The greenhands dress up in their best redneck clothes as an initiation.

This year's Purdy 2019-2020 contest teams include FFA Knowledge, Forestry, Ag Sales, Horses, Floriculture, and Dairy Cattle.

The Purdy FFA knowledge team consists of Alli Hayes, Bosten Goetz, Destry

Patton, and Carlee Deditius. The Forestry team consists of Jacob Corter, Dawson Abramovitz, Jake Brown, Josh Brown, Matthew Cornelius, Michael Stanford, Travis Hughes, Robyn Schad, Jordan Corter, Bentley Stephens, Shelby Haskins, Brady Garner, Dax Henry, Xo Lai Lee, Ethan Moore, Levi Maddocks and Joey Biloki.

The Ag Sales team consists of Clay Henderson, Weston Ellison, Andres Aldaba, Brad Hudson, Mason Harkey, and Andrew Martinez. The Horses team consists of Ezequiel Garcia, M'kena Propps, Joey Billingsley, Taryn Orwig, Javier Villa, Jacob Corter, Lauren Schallert, Eli Webb, Dally Craig, Jake Young, Alan Rodriguez, Alexis Aldaba and Trey Hughes.

The Floriculture team consists of Kylie Wood, Kinsley Mattingly, Audrey Lowe, Macy Terry, Annabelle Bowman, Addy Abramovitz, Francis Matthews, Libby Roden, Alyssa Bolin, Lesly Haros, Sophia Hutchens and Ashley Pancratz. The Dairy Cattle team consists of Elmer Rueda, Osiel Aldava, Randy Schad, Sean Thomas, Zack Henderson, Jessie Robertson, Stephanie Webb, Zane Brown, Erik Cruz and Brayden Hintt.



The Purdy FFA is pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Randy Schad, Clay Henderson, Dawson Abramovitz, Macy Terry, Audrey Lowe, Lauren Schallert, Kinsley Mattingly, Shelby Haskins, Eli Webb, Andres Aldaba, and Zane Brown. Second row: Adviser Jordan Ellis, Matthew Cornelius, Zach Henderson, Brad Hudson, Ezequiel Garcia, Jake Young, Alexis Aldaba, Joey Biloki, Bosten Goetz and Xo Lai Lee. Third row: M'kena Propps, Alli Hayes, Robyn Schad, Alyssa Bolin, Addy Abramovitz, Libby Roden, Travis Hughes, Bentley Stephens, Javier Villa, Joey Billingsley and Destry Patton. Fourth row: Dax Henry, Daniel Farris, Michael Stanford, Taryn Orwig, Lesly Haros, Sophia Hutchens, Francis Matthews, Jaclin Fenske, Jessie Robertson and Carlee Deditius. Fifth row: Stephanie Webb, Jordan Corter, Zack Brewer, Annabelle Bowman, Alan Rodriguez, Weston Ellison, Jake Brown, Andrew Martinez, Brayden Hintt and Trey Hughes. Back row: Erik Cruz, Dylan Bowman, Sean Thomas, Harley Stephens, Osiel Aldava, Scotty Henry, Matt Nicholls, Mason Harkey, Brady Garner and Lowgan Gabriel. Not pictured: Elmer Rueda, Charles Mitchell, Kylie Wood, Jacob Corter, Josh Brown, Ethan Moore, Jordan Baxter, Chase Brattin, Caden Brown, Dally Craig and Levi Maddocks.

Purdy FFA 2019-2020 Officer Team
Randy Schad, President
Shelby Haskins and Clay Henderson, Vice Presidents
Lauren Schallert, Secretary
Dawson Abramovitz, Treasurer
Macy Terry and Kinsley Mattingly, Reporters
Zane Brown, Sentinel
Audrey Lowe, Historian
Eli Webb, Parliamentarian
Andres Aldaba, Chaplain
Jordan Ellis, Adviser

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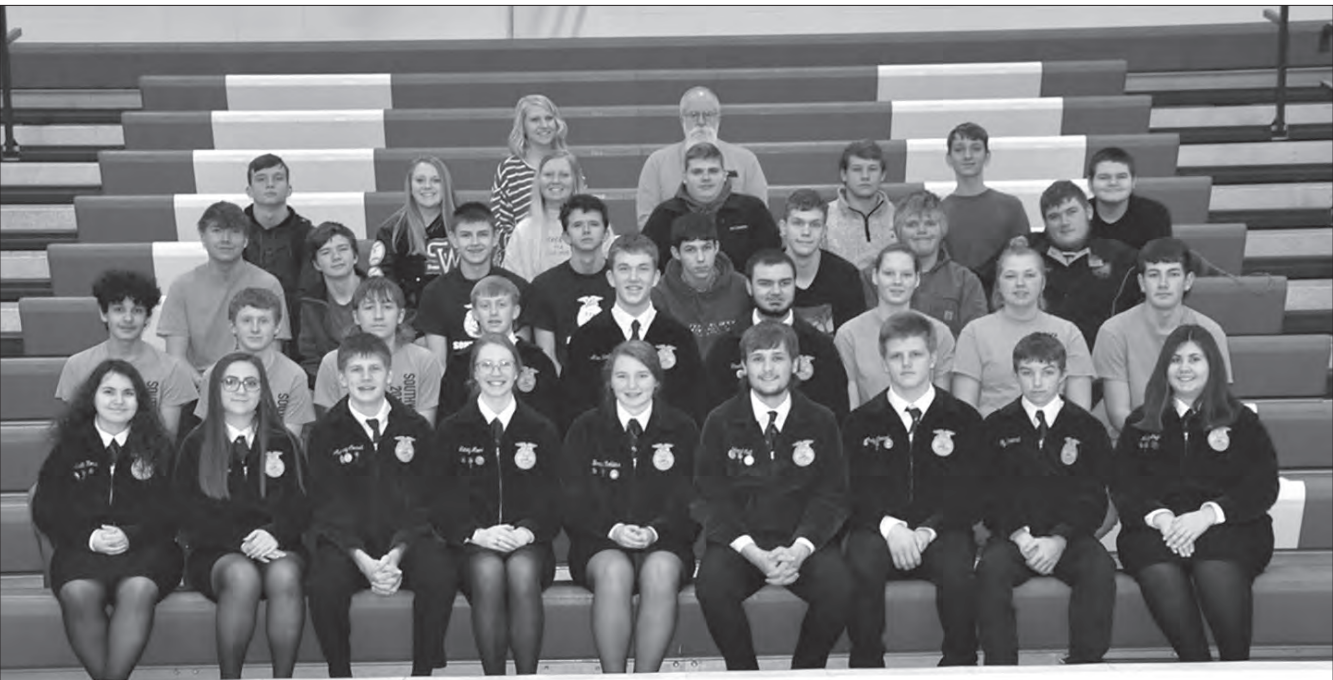
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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020

SOUTHWEST



Southwest's FFA is pictured above, from left to right. In the front row are the officers: Elizabeth Ross, reporter; Teresa Thompson, Chaplain; Aubrey Cornell, Parliamentarian; Laney Moore, Secretary; Bonnie Robbins, Vice President; Leland Colf, President; Andy Cornell, Treasurer; Ty Howard, Sentinel; and Macy Colf, Historian. Second row: Joe Stockton, Coy Shrum, Zakary Starr, Brandon Brooks, Allen Hendrix, Timothy Deshields, Skyler Sadr-Momtaz, Destiney Dulin and Colton Pendergraft. Third row: Travis Sickles, Cameron Pendergraft, Samuel Jennings, Kobi Roland, Garrett Stanley, Matt Robbins, Henry Reed and Isaac Taylor. Fourth row: Matthan Wheeler, Amy Reeves, Karlea Holder, Tyler Miller, Tristan Smith, Jared Hayworth and Seth Nipps. Back row: advisers Lena Alsop and Bill Caldwell. Not pictured: Mason Bernard, Trevor Blair, Roberto Cabrillo, Harley Carter, Allison Corwin, Rachel Jimenez, Kamryn Jones, Denali McGarrah, Calob Stewart, Hannah Swadley, Sarah Terry, Caison Uthe, Sawyer Varner, Rayden Blackburn, Kayleigh Booher, Benjamin Cron, Nathaniel Hamilton, Laine Hudgins, Colten Jones, Axel Keener, Michael Lollar, Jacob Nelson, Devin Sharp, Maysie Soole, Hunter Stanely, Roper Varner and Jasmine Young.

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The Southwest FFA Chapter does many activities throughout the year, such as a Back-to-School Bash, Cornhole Tournaments, a 5K run, Officer Training, WLC, National Convention, Barnwarming, and more.

National FFA Week is a widely celebrated event, and means a lot to the students who celebrate it. This year, FFA Week is February 22 through 29. It is meant to share what FFA is and the impact it has on many students' lives.

Each day of the week, Southwest students and staff will participate in dress up days to be aware of the FFA Chapter. Sunday is FFA Church where the chapter picked a local church to attend and support. Monday will be overall day, where they all wore overalls. Tuesday was Greenhand Day, where they will paint their hands green to show support for all the Greenhands. Wednesday is Blue and

Gold day where everyone wears the FFA colors blue and gold. Thursday will be Official Dress day, which is also when the members will host and serve a community breakfast beginning at 6 a.m., at the Southwest Ag Building. All community members are encouraged to attend. Friday will be cowboy day, where all show up wearing their best cowboy attire.

The Southwest FFA closes out the week with their annual Labor Auction on Saturday, February 29, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be a Labor Auction, normal auction and dinner. All Southwest students and staff are encouraged to participate in FFA Week. Throughout the rest of the year, FFA students are competing in CDEs and LDEs. The first judging team and speaking contest they will attend will be at McDonald County on March 14.

Southwest FFA 2019-2020 Officer Team

Elizabeth Ross, Reporter
Teresa Thompson, Chaplain
Aubrey Cornell, Parliamentarian
Laney Moore, Secretary
Bonnie Robbins, Vice President
Leland Colf, President
Andy Cornell, Treasurer
Ty Howard, Sentinel
Macy Colf, Historian
Lena Alsop and Bill Caldwell, Advisers

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NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020
 WHEATON



Wheaton FFA had a busy schedule so far from 2019 into the start of the 2020 school year. Summer events started with the newly elected officers placing American flags on the tombstones of veterans throughout the Wheaton community to celebrate Memorial Day. Shortly after that, the newly-elected officers went to LEAD training at Crowder College.

The chapter took seven students to FFA camp at Lake of the Ozarks in June. In July, the Wheaton FFA chapter took their hay trailer to be judged at the Ozark Empire Fair where it received a blue ribbon. Twenty members went to support a future FFA member, Hayden Royer, show his pigs at the fair, as well.

In August, Wheaton FFA hosted their annual summer meeting to kick off the beginning of the school year with burgers and welcoming of the new members. At the end of August, the chapter put on a petting zoo for kids at the annual Wheaton BBQ.

September was a busy month as the chapter started their fruit sales. Shortly after that, members began selling mums that they have been caring for to people in the community. Wheaton FFA co-hosted a Ford Drive event with the Wheaton Robodogs where they raised over \$1,000.

Wheaton FFA attended events such as UMC Field Day in Mt. Vernon, Area Greenhand Conference at Crowder College, Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture PBR event in Springfield, and Area 11 Barnwarming at McDonald County High School.

In October, the chapter hosted two events: one of those was a farmers breakfast to show support to the local farmers in the area on Nationals Farmers Day, the other event was the annual fall Labor Auction for the Wheaton FFA Booster Club. The chapter attended events such as Farm Fest at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds and the National FFA Convention at Indianapolis, Indiana.

In November, Wheaton FFA hosted their annual Barnwarming event. The officers served lunch to local veterans and their families after the Veterans Day assembly at Wheaton High School as well. In December, the Animal Science Class toured a local organic feed mill, Majestic Milling Company, in Wheaton. The chapter also had a Christmas party and fellowshiped together before going into Christmas break.

In January, the Wheaton FFA Chapter started off the new year by attending the District Greenhand Conference at Springfield. Seven Wheaton FFA members



The Wheaton FFA is pictured above, from left to right. In the front row: Lori McNeill, Cade Woolaway, Zac Leverich, Burlie Lundgren, Sarah Brattin, Taylynn Banks, Calista Burns, Jack Mitchell and Cody Hendrix. Second row: Abbey Bowling, Patti Vang, Willow Linton, Emily Gonzalez, Zoie Martell, Trenton Imel, Brody Prewitt, Madison Pierpont, Nene Nunez and Ty Hudson. Third row: Diego Grimaldo, Kadie Mestas, Monica Par, Jessica Munday, Galaxy Loftis, Candace Lee, Pa Vang, Monica Hinajosa, Ariana Williams, Janessa Chang and Elijah Holenda. Fourth row: Ricky Miller, Jr. Nunez, Clay Burns, Kelton Park, Lily Ray, Adriana Barrientos, Allison Whitman, Grant Bradford, Robbie Prewitt and Elijah Chavis. Back row: Amy Cunningham, Domenque Elkins, Truman Thompson, Cayden Hopkins, Daniel Barrientos, Haley Remington, Josiah Miller, Harley Cookson, Kollin Garner and Zane Johnson. Not pictured: Lily Allen, Caitlin Blades, Bryce Brattin, Larry Chang, Steven Chavis, Ashley Daniel, Emily Daniel, Leanna Duchene, Gavin McManus, Lexi Miller, Justin Munday, Brian Nunez, Haley Parks, Kalie Pendergraft, Kobe Robbins, Raydin Smart and Randy Williams.

applied for their state FFA degree, as well. In February, Wheaton FFA toured the John Deere Reman plant in Springfield.

The future plans for the Wheaton FFA Chapter will be attending the Area 11 FFA Banquet where eight members will be receiving

their Area FFA Degree. They will begin planting flower plugs and vegetable seeds for their annual spring plant sale.

Shop class students have been busy building oak mineral feeders to sell to farmers throughout the community. Members will

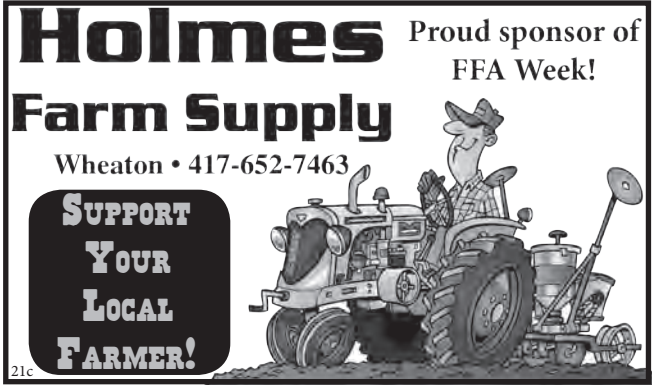
gather one day during FFA week to do a trash clean-up on Wheaton FFA's adopted stretch of highway. The chapter plans on attending several FFA contests this year with their Poultry, Food Science, Forestry, Dairy Cattle Judging, Dairy Foods, and Knowledge

Teams.

They will attend the annual state FFA convention in April and host their annual Banquet in May where they will install their new officers and begin planning events for the next school year.

Wheaton FFA 2019-2020 Officer Team

Sarah Brattin, President
 Taylynn Banks, Vice President
 Calista Burns, Secretary
 Zac Leverich, Treasurer
 Burlie Lundgren, Sentinel
 Cade Woolaway, Reporter
 Lori McNeill, Historian
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**Ritchie named to the Kennesaw
State Fall 2019 Dean's List**

Matthew Ritchie, of Cassville, was named to Kennesaw State University's Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester.

Students named to the Dean's List were enrolled in at least 9 credit hours of courses and earned a grade point average of at least a 3.5.

Ritchie was among the more than 6,300 Kennesaw State students who earned this honor.

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lanta campuses, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia and the third-largest university in the state. The university's vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the region and from 92 countries across the globe. Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 6 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status, and one of the 50 largest public institutions in the country. For more information, visit kennesaw.edu.

Cassville Middle School TSA competes in regionals



On Friday, January 31, Cassville Middle School Technology Students Association (TSA) members traveled to Neosho to compete in the regional TSA competition. Results are as follows: Tech Bowl 1st Place- Bentley Barber, Kayden Fuchs, Gracie Harmon; Tech Bowl 2nd Place- Avery Chappell, Cosmo Rhoads, CJ Rose; Forensic Technology 1st Place- Gracie Harmon, Kaylynn Wilson; Mass Production 1st Place- Bentley Barber, Joseph Burton; Digital Photography 3rd Place- Avery Chappell; Problem Solving 1st Place- Joseph Burton, Cosmo Rhoads; and Video Game Design 1st Place- Bentley Barber, Kayden Fuchs, CJ Rose, Kaylynn Wilson. TSA students will compete at the state competition at the University of Missouri-Rolla this spring.

Pictured above, from left to right: CJ Rose, Avery Chappell, Gracie Harmon, Kaylynn Wilson, Cosmo Rhoads, Joseph Burton, Bentley Barber and Kayden Fuchs. Not pictured: Robbie Artherton, TSA sponsor.

Reid makes KU fall 2019 honor roll

More than 6,100 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2019 semester.

The students, from KU's Lawrence and Edwards campuses and the schools of Health Professions and Nursing in Kansas City, Kansas, represent 84 of 105 Kansas counties, 46 other states and territories, and 43 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and in the schools of Architecture & Design; Business; Educa-

tion; Engineering; Health Professions; Journalism; Music; Nursing; Pharmacy; and Social Welfare. Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average, and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Hannah Reid, of Purdy, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**Sater honored by
Shell Knob senior center**



Above, David Sater was honored for his work on behalf of senior citizens on Friday, January 31, by SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging and the Central Crossing Senior Center in Shell Knob. At the 11th hour of the last legislative session of 2019, Senator Sater and several others presented the Senior Services Health and Development Fund under Senate Bill 275. The bill passed and seniors all over the state will receive the benefits of additional funding to local senior centers.

A good crowd showed up to honor the senator and enjoy a delicious lunch after the presentation of the award. Ron Clark made the presentation on behalf of SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging.

Central Crossing Senior Center in Shell Knob is one of 36 senior centers in the SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging operational area in Southwest Missouri that will benefit with expanded or renewed services for our seniors.

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Whisman, Lee represent Purdy on All-State stage

Purdy High School Vocalist Shana Whisman represented her district, school and community at the 2020 Missouri All-State Choir, presented by Missouri Choral Directors Association, at Lake of the Ozarks. Whisman and Purdy Vocal Music Department Head Lauren Lee traveled to Margaritaville Resort (formerly Tan-Tar-A Resort), where they attended seminars and concerts and Whisman participated in a grueling three-day schedule of rehearsals that culminated in an afternoon performance on Saturday, January 25.

Whisman joined 191 of the state's premiere vocalists to perform seven pieces, including a stirring rendition of *America the Beautiful*; *We Remember Them*, a somber and reflective work written by Susan LaBarr, wife of Missouri State University Director of Choral Studies Cameron LaBarr; and the rousing *I Sing Because I'm Happy*, which brought the audience to its feet at the conclusion of the concert.

The 2020 Missouri All-State Choir rehearsed and performed under the direction of Jason Max Ferdinand. A native of Trinidad & Tobago, Ferdinand serves as Full Professor, Chair of the Music Department and Director of Choral Activities at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, where he conducts the Aeolians of Oakwood University. Ferdinand received the "Most Outstanding Director" award at the International Musical Festival in Wales, UK, in 2017. His Aeolians ensemble was named 2017 Choir of the

World. Ferdinand was named 2017 Teacher of the Year at Oakwood University.

Of her time at the All-State Choir festival and her experience under the conductorship of Ferdinand, Whisman noted, "I've never seen or felt anything in my life like I did during State. I felt at home, like I'd been searching for something my entire life and I finally found it. It was the most amazing feeling in the whole world, and even though I was exhausted, I would take the exhaustion every day of my life if it meant I got to sing with those incredible people every day."

Lauren Lee is no stranger to the All-State Choir experience. During her 15 years of service at Purdy Schools, she has mentored five vocalists who graced the All-State stage, three of whom made the trip for two consecutive years, totaling eight years that Lee and her students have represented Purdy Schools in the elite Choir. Lee observed of this year's concert, "I was blown away by the 2020 Missouri All-

State Choir. The music was superb, breathtaking and glorious. The thought put into each and every note and word was stunning. I was blessed to have witnessed such an extraordinary performance. Brava!"

Whisman credits Lee with her growth as both a vocalist and a person over the past four years. "Mrs. Lee is the reason I got to experience All-State Choir. After a couple of pretty intense setbacks as a sophomore and junior I was really discouraged. I seriously considered giving up on singing, but Mrs. Lee would not allow it. She encouraged, instructed and ordered me to continue. I sing in large part because of her."

After graduating from Purdy High School this May, Whisman plans to continue performing at the college level, while pursuing a degree in Music Education. She intends to follow in her mentor's footsteps, changing the world by teaching music. Whisman is the daughter of Shane Whisman, of Purdy, and Denise Hembree, of Granby.



Purdy High School senior Shana Whisman, right, performed with the All State Honor Choir on January 25. Whisman is pictured with choir director Lauren Lee (left).



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