

Fairview Youth Takes First at Junior World Finals



Sheila Harris

Bronc Evans, of Fairview, left Las Vegas in mid-December with the title of 2021 Junior World Champion in Breakaway Roping in the age 10 & under bracket at the Junior World Rodeo Finals. For the then-10-year-old Evans, the award represented the results of nearly a lifetime of practice, said his mother, Mandy Evans.

“He’s been roping since he could walk,” Mandy Evans said of her son, “and competing since he was seven years old.”

Mandy Evans and her hus-

At left, 10-year-old Bronc Evans, of Fairview, competes in the Junior World Finals Breakaway Roping competition in Las Vegas on December 11. Submitted photo.

band, Jimmy, own a couple of hundred acres outside of Fairview, where they raise cattle, sell hay and train and sell the quarter horses that have been equine companions for their children throughout their formative years.

Bronc’s older sister, 17-year-old Jaylen, is a roper, too, and has taken home several saddles won in breakaway competitions throughout her lifetime.

In order to qualify for the Junior World Finals in Las Vegas.

See BRONC EVANS 6A

At right, 10-year-old Bronc Evans, of Fairview, poses with some awards garnered from his Junior World Champion win in Las Vegas. Submitted photo.



Event center re-purposed as youth outreach



Bridget and Kasey Rundall, of Cassville, are organizing “The Hive Youth Outreach,” a place which will offer healthy entertainment options and resources for kids and teenagers. The Hive will occupy the building formerly known as Stumpff’s Event Center at 463 Highway 76 in Cassville.

Ezra DeVore

“Youth Outreach is a program to assist the lives of teenagers in our area,” says Bridget Rundall, co-owner of the program, along with her husband, Kasey.

The Rundalls are the new occupants of Stumpff’s Event Center and have a contract to purchase the building at the end of a one-year lease.

Bridget Rundall graduated from Cassville High School

in 2009 and realized that, “typically in a small town, there are not a lot of options when it comes to doing much. So, our goal is to not

See THE HIVE 7A

Expanded Cox Rehab space makes work feel like play for kids

Sheila Harris

There’s a new play-place in Monett, or so it seems to kids involved in speech, occupational and/or physical therapy in the newly renovated area devoted to pediatrics at Cox Rehab and Sports Medicine at 700 E. Cleveland in Monett.

In the building that was long ago the site of a Ramey’s Market, physicians offices in the Cox Rehab facility were relocated to the new Cox-Health Monett Clinic adjacent to the Cox Monett Hospital. The relocation freed up floor space in the current Rehab building for larger specialized equipment specific to the needs of children. Much of that equipment - including a rock-climbing wall, a rocking barrel and a pediatric gym - was made available through a \$10,000 donation from Children’s Miracle Network. A smart board, an interactive educational device, was provided by a previous donation.

“With this equipment, kid’s don’t know they’re working,” said physical therapist Kalle .

The Cox Rehab and Sports Medicine sees about 40 to 50 patients per week, said former director, Kevin Norris, who has since accepted the position of director of Rehabilitation Services at Cox-Health in Springfield. Therapists are able to work with children as young as just a few months old as long as a diagnosis has been made by a referring physician, he says.

“Some disabilities aren’t recognized until a child is 14

See COX REHAB 6A



Above, five-year-old Lathem Briggs, of Monett, works with physical therapy assistant, Jennifer Brown, at Cox Rehab in Monett. Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above, Abel Tucker, of Monett, works with speech therapist, Ainsley Cotherman, at Cox Rehab in Monett. Photo by Sheila Harris.

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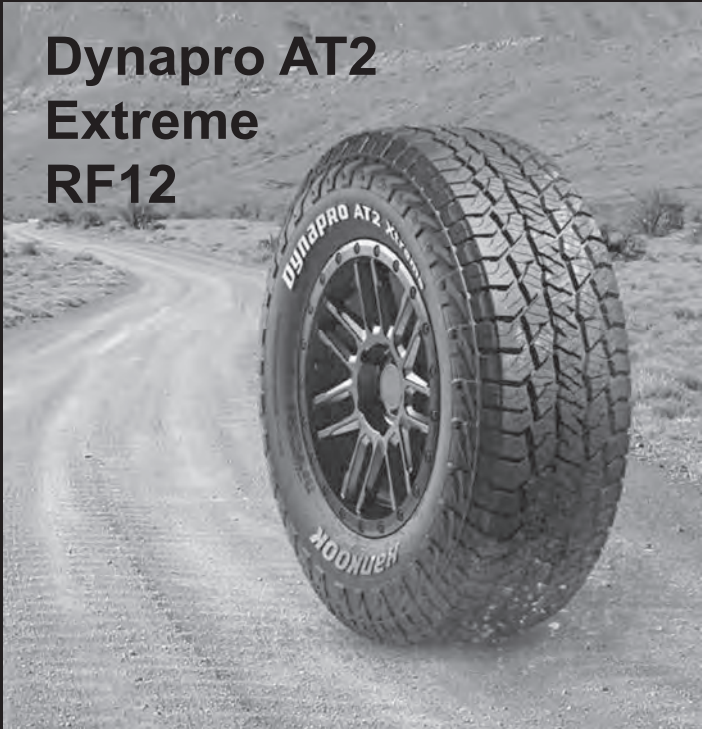
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Omicron variant prevalent in area

Sheila Harris

According to an update from the Barry County Health Department, the week between December 28 and January 4 brought an increase of 104 confirmed new active cases of COVID-19 to Barry County, as well as a significant increase in case numbers in surrounding counties.

A January 12 update reports 246 new active cases, an increase of 137 percent above the amount of last week's new cases.

The positivity test rate from December 28 through January 4 jumped from 14.36 percent, to a positivity rate of 26.74 percent from January 4 through January 12, with 26 more tests administered during the past week than the week prior.

The death of one additional Barry County resident was reported on January 4: a male in the 61+ age group, who had significant underlying health conditions and lived in a residential care facility.

Area hospitals are reporting a shortage of bed space and staffing due to the effects of the virus.

In emails received by patients of CoxHealth on Tuesday, January 11, Dr. Tim Jones, President of Cox Medical Group, says, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise, CoxHealth's primary care physicians are adjusting their schedules to treat more patients who are acutely ill.

Beginning this week, Jones

says, primary care clinics will be calling patients to reschedule some wellness and maintenance management appointments.

"A provider will review and approve any rescheduled appointments to ensure that all patients are receiving timely care," he said.

According to Jones, wellness and routine appointments currently scheduled in the next 30-45 days could be rescheduled.

"The approach," he said, "is part of CoxHealth's multi-tiered plan to reallocate resources as we manage the current COVID-19 surge and will allow our primary care physicians to add appointment times to treat patients who need symptomatic or emergent care."

According to Jones, CoxHealth's urgent care facilities are currently operating beyond capacity. In recent weeks, they have served more than 700 patients per day in their urgent care locations, up from 350-400 daily visits at this time last year.

CoxHealth is asking patients who are ill and seeking care to call their primary care physician's office first, rather than visiting an urgent care. They can also use the Virtual Visits on Demand service to connect with a provider.

In the coming weeks, CoxHealth expects busy hospitals, emergency departments and urgent cares.

"We are asking for pa-

tience and understanding as we manage the surge and work to meet the needs of our communities," Jones said.

CoxHealth President and CEO Steve Edwards said, in a video uploaded January 8, that, based on a formula which uses the current number of positive cases of COVID diagnosed in CoxHealth's facilities, healthcare providers expect that 220 - 320 patients could be hospitalized with COVID in upcoming weeks.

"One of the big challenges we face," he said, "is dealing not only with an increasing number of patients, but also with a decreasing number of staff members who are out, or will be out, with COVID."

Edwards says, based on numbers coming out of hospitals in London, staffing shortages could reach as much as ten percent of personnel.

"The omicron variant is much more contagious than the delta variant, although symptoms are not generally as severe," Edwards said.

According to Edwards, many factors affect the severity of a patient's reaction to COVID, including age, immune status, obesity and vaccination status.

"The number one weapon against the virus continues to be the vaccination," Edwards said. "Ninety-five percent of the patients we see who are diagnosed with COVID have

not been vaccinated."

Edwards said that due to its transmissibility, omicron does affect many vaccinated patients, but that they're not as likely to become severely ill.

Edwards also recommends bolstering one's immune system with Vitamins C and D, zinc supplements and getting plenty of sleep.

Edwards says that while many patients who contract COVID are eligible for omicron antibody infusions to ward off severe complications, supplies of the antibodies are limited and are reserved for those with high risk factors for serious illness.

"Plan ahead," Edwards advised residents. "Stock up on necessities, including an oximeter; plan how to get a test and how to isolate if you do start experiencing symptoms; avoid risky behavior, such as attending large gatherings; step up masking; and be patient with waits to see local healthcare providers."

Edwards does say that after a person recovers from omicron, there seems to be a 14-fold increase in immunity against another case in the (as of yet undetermined) future, and four times the increase in protection against the delta variant.

Edwards expects the omicron virus to peak over the next four weeks, then for numbers to begin to gradually taper off.

WGU announces new "I Have a Dream" scholarship

In celebration of the life and legacy of late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., WGU Missouri has launched a new scholarship for those who have always dreamed of completing their college degrees and advancing their careers but faced challenges along the way that prevented them from moving forward. The fully online, nonprofit university will award \$75,000 in scholarships to new and returning students to provide support and help encourage them to fulfill their educational goals.

The "I Have a Dream" scholarships are open to new and returning students enrolling in any of WGU's 60-plus undergraduate and graduate degree programs in information technology, business, teacher education and health professions, including nursing. Each scholarship is valued at up to \$4,000 and will be credited to students' accounts at a rate of \$1,000 per six-month term, renewable for up to four terms. Applications are being accepted now through June 30 at missouri.wgu.edu/dream.

"Nearly 60 years ago, Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., laid out his vision for a future where people of all races and backgrounds were afforded the same rights, opportunities and privileges," said Dr. Angie Besendorfer, Chancellor of WGU Missouri. "His activism opened minds and inspired people to strive for a more equitable society, and his words and actions continue to challenge us today. In that spirit, we are proud to offer this scholarship in his honor in hopes that those who have consistently faced challenges that prevented them from moving forward with their education plans can be inspired to go back to school and complete their degrees."

The "I Have a Dream" scholarships are competitive and will be awarded based on the students' academic record, previous college experience, readiness for online study, current competency, as well as other considerations.

For more information about WGU Missouri and the "I Have a Dream" scholarship, visit missouri.wgu.edu.

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Purdy Schools report student illnesses

As of 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Purdy R-II Schools reported the following number of cases of COVID-19, numbers which could change as the day progresses, said administrative assistant, Susan Funkhouser:

- PK-12 Students Positive: 14
- Staff Positive: 4
- Total Positive: 18
- PK-12 Students Excluded from School (due to household contact): 18
- Staff Excluded from School (due to household contact):2

- Total Excluded from School (due to household contact): 20
- Statistics from other school districts were not available at press time.

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Wed: Loaded chef salad, garlic bread, dessert

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Fri: French dip, pasta salad, pickle, dessert

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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.

Notice:

The Barry county Courthouse and Judicial Center will be closed Monday, January 17, 2022, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

Emerald Beach Drive off Farm Road 2260 will be closed until further notice for bridge repair.

Cassville Branch Library is hosting these events:
Saturday, January 15 at 2 P.M. - Kelly's Kaleidoscope, a children's program; **Monday, January 17** - Library is closed; **Tuesday, January 18 at 1 P.M.** - Techy Tuesday, basic computer skills for adults; **Wednesday, January 19 at 9 A.M.** - UFOs, Unfinished Objects for adults; **Wednesday, January 19 at 4 P.M.** - Coloring Adults & Teens; **Thursday, January 20 At 4 P.M.** - B.H.A., a new club for 3rd graders who think reading and libraries are a waste of time, call the library to register before Thursday as space is limited. Call (417) 847-2121 for more information or questions about any of the events.

Seligman Chamber Event Center is having a country dance with live bands every Saturday night from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. No alcohol allowed. Admission is \$10 per person. 18 and under are free. There is pot luck, 50/50 and door prizes. For more information, call (417) 662-3612.

Wheaton Church of Christ will have clothing available the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. For more information, call (417) 652-3873 or (417) 669-6935.

Donations of new and gently used clothing are being collected by the Wheaton Church of Christ. They are looking for all types of clothing for all ages. Please

call (417) 652-3873 to set up an appointment to drop off donations.

Cassville Pantry is currently well stocked and offering free food assistance via a curbside method. The agency is a Feeding America Pantry located at 800 W. 10th Street, Cassville. It provides fresh produce, meat, bakery, dry goods, and personal care products. Pantry is open every Monday through Thursday morning from 9 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. and every Thursday afternoon from 3:15 to 5:30 P.M.

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

Garden Sass Farmers Market will be held every Saturday, rain or shine, 8 A.M. to noon on the south side of the square in Cassville.

The Wheaton Depot Museum in Wheaton will be open on Sundays from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. Visitors are encouraged to check out the history of Wheaton and the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA).

OATS Transit is open for regular transportation service, however, face masks are required on the bus due to COVID-19. Please call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about service in your area. Visit their website at www.oatstransit.org and click on the bus schedules tab for your county to see the full schedule. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. They also contract with a number of agencies.

Discovery Quilters meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 9:30 A.M. at the Shell Knob Central Community United Methodist Church. New members are welcome.

Soil samples need to be received at the MU B.C. Extension office by 12 P.M. on Thursday. Shipments go out once a week on Friday. The fee for the soil sample test is \$15. A \$6 shipping fee will be added if you choose to have your soil samples mailed the same day you bring it in. Contact the Extension Office at (417) 847-3161 with any questions.

Southwest Missouri Coalition of Charities provides a network where non profits can belong, share knowledge and support one another. The organization hosts meetings via Zoom. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

Jan 14th

Purdy High School will crown their 2022 Homecoming Queen at a special coronation between JV and Varsity boys' basketball games. The JV contest versus Sparta begins at 6 P.M. This year's Homecoming theme is "the Purdy Homecoming Olympics".

The Stella Senior Center will have a Dinner and Dance with doors opening at 6 P.M. Chicken vegetable soup, salad and rolls will be served from 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. Timberline Country Band will be playing for the dance. Cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are always available. Please call (417) 628-3314 or (617) 640-6742 for information.

Jan 15th

A Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction will be hosted by The Hive Youth Outreach from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. at Stumpff Event Center (formerly the American Legion building), 463 State Highway 76, Cassville.

The Barry County Genealogical & Historical Society will hold its first Business Meeting of 2022 at 1 P.M. at the Historic Bayless/Salyer House located at 9th and Townsend behind the Post Office in Cassville. Immediately following the business meeting, the Program Committee will meet. Any member intersted in joining this committee is welcome to attend. The Program Committee schedules special programs for the Society as well as fund raising events. New members are welcome. As always, membership in the Barry County Genealogical & Historical Society is only \$15 annually per household and includes the four quarterly newsletters, Ancestor's Unlimited, which are filled with a lot of interesting area history and family genealogy research.

Jan 20th

Purdy Elementary's audition choir, The Eagle Echoes, will host a special concert at 7 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center. Admssion is free. The Eagle Echoes perform under the direction of Mrs. Christina Harmon.

Jan 25th

The Barry County Republican Club will hold its monthly meeting in Monett at the Angus Branch Steakhouse at 6:30 P.M.

Feb 3rd

There will be a Barry County Fair board meeting held in the Cassville High School Agriculture Building at 6:30 P.M. This meeting is open to anyone interested in planning or supporting the Barry County Fair. For more details, please consult the Barry County Fair Facebook page or contact Jimmy Hinson or Jordan Ellis at (417) 847-3137.

School Menus: Jan 17 - Jan 21

All meals served with milk and subject to change.

Cassville R-IV High School: Mon: No School. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: crispito or burrito, corn, nachos, applesauce or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, tropical fruit or cereal, toast, applesauce. L: chicken sandwich or country steak, Sun Chips, broccoli & cheese, fruit cocktail or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or waffles, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, yougrut cup, fruit cocktail. L: soft taco or quesadilla, salad, refried beans, applesauce or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, tropical fruit or cereal, PB&J, orange. L: chili cheese fries or pizza, salad, green beans, chocolate chip cookie, juice or salad meal.

Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle: Mon: No School. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, animal crackers, pineapple. L: corndog or fish sticks, mac & cheese, carrots, mandarin oranges. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or oatmeal, toast, sausage, mandarin oranges or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: hot dog or cheeseburger, Doritos, mixed vegetables, juice. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or pancakes, sausage patty, orange or cereal, graham crackers, pears. L: little smokies or sub sandwiches, potato wedge, baked beans, crackers, pears. Friday: B: biscuit & gravy or mini cini, Go-Gurt, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, applesauce. L: chicken & nodles or country steak, green beans, potatoes, gravy, peaches.

Purdy R-II Schools: Mon: No School. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: chili, cornbread, string cheese, vegetables, fruit. Wed: B: mini maple pancakes, fruit. L: chicken tenders, potato wedge, fruit. Thurs: B: cherry frudel, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: pizzaboli, marinara sauce, vegetables, fruit. Fri: B: strawberry parfait, chocolate chip muffin, fruit. L: BBQ rib sandwich, potato chips, vegetables, fruit.

Southwest Schools: Mon: No School. Tues: B: sausage & hashbrown sandwich, yogurt cup, pineapple, juice. L: vegetable beef stew, corn muffin, crackers, peaches. Wed: B: biscuits & gravy, applesauce, juice. L: cheese pizza, romaine salad, corn, tropical fruit. Thurs: B: scrambled eggs with bacon, blueberry muffin, mixed fruit, juice. L: orange chicken, rice, broccoli, fortune cookie, pineapple. Fri: B: ham & hashbrown sandwich, tropical fruit, juice. L: cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, dill pickles, baked beans, applesauce cup.

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Missouri to Honor First Responders with new Red, White and Blue Award

Governor Mike Parson announced January 4 that the state, for the first time, will begin honoring first responders who are seriously injured in the line of duty as they carry out their official responsibilities. The Missouri Red, White and Blue Heart Award will be awarded for injuries sustained on the job, beginning with the year 2021.

“Our first responders courageously and selflessly risk their lives each day to apprehend criminals and protect their fellow Missourians, too often suffering serious injuries or even death because of their heroic actions,” Governor Parson said. “The new Red, White and Blue Heart Award will honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other emergency first responders whose extraordinary actions to protect others lead to serious injuries or death in the line of duty.”

The Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board, an 11-member panel appointed by the Missouri Governor, has approved the addition of the Red, White and Blue Award to the annual state public safety awards for which it reviews nominations and recommends honorees to the Governor. The new award is intended to recognize first responders who sustain injuries that require long-term treatment by a medical professional and involve considerable loss of time from duty. In cases in which a first responder is killed, the award will be presented to a family member.

The Red, White and Blue Heart Award will be the first state award recognizing

Missouri peace officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs or other emergency first responders seriously injured in the line of duty. For purposes of the award, “peace officer” includes persons serving as state or local corrections or court officers.

The application for the award for persons sustaining serious injuries in the line of duty during 2021 is available on the Missouri Department of Public Safety Medals website at <https://dps.mo.gov/medal/>. Nominations will only be accepted from the chief executive of the public safety agency that employs the nominee.

The nomination deadline is Feb. 28, 2022. A date has not been set for a ceremony recognizing the Red, White and Blue Heart Award recipients for injuries sustained in 2021.

The Medal of Valor Review Board reviews nominations and makes recommendations to Missouri’s Governor for the Missouri Medal of Valor and the Governor’s Medal (a team honor), awards that recognize first responders for heroic, life-saving acts.

The review board also reviews nominations and makes recommendation to the Governor for the Public Safety Civilian Partnership Award, which recognizes civilians who provide courageous assistance to public safety agencies during an emergency.

The review board includes members with experience in law enforcement, the fire service, corrections, and EMS. More information on the board is available here.

State Library Announces Launch of Brainfuse Vetnow

Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and the Missouri State Library, a division within his office, are proud to announce the launch of Brainfuse VetNow—offering support and guidance to local veterans and their families with services such as navigating Veteran Affairs, providing academic tutoring, even employment transition assistance.

VetNow is available to all Missourians from any computer or mobile device through their local public library. To access VetNow, please visit your library’s website or Brainfuse.com to find a link to your local public library.

“Veterans put others before themselves—we offer them a huge debt of gratitude,” said Ashcroft. “We’re happy to partner with a service that provides support and tools for Missouri veterans and their families to reach their life and career goals.”

VetNow includes the following features:

- Live Online Navigators: These veterans are trained to help their peers connect with valuable benefits and resources that can: Answer questions related to benefits eligibility; refer patrons to applicable community resources for housing, health-care, and education benefits; and assist patrons with locating accredited claims agents.
- Job Tools: Designed to help with all stages of the job-hunting process, the VetNow Job Tools feature career-coaching, expert resume assistance, live interview preparation, and more. With Job Tools, patrons can: Use the

career resources to discover their best career fit based on education, experience, and personality; search for a job using nationwide and local resources; download templates for the most common resume types; receive resume and cover letter assistance from trained experts; and brush up on interview techniques or get live online interview practice from trained job coaches.

- College Skills: Users build academic skills and prepare for college with VetNow’s array of options, including: interaction with live tutors in a wide range of college level subjects; live skills tutoring and an extensive library of lessons, video tutorials, and practice tests including SAT, ACT, TEAS, HESI, GRE, GMAT, and more.

“Libraries are instrumental in providing resources to veterans and their families,” said State Librarian Robin Westphal. “The Missouri State Library is always looking for ways to help libraries better serve their communities. VetNow, with live online navigators that are also veterans, is a way for all libraries in Missouri, to assist veterans.”

The project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

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MSHP participates in Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative

Colonel Eric T. Olson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, announces the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division will participate in a three-day initiative commencing on Human Trafficking Day, January 11, 2022. This initiative is a concentrated effort to educate commercial motor vehicle drivers, motor carriers, law enforcement officers, and the general public about human trafficking, what signs to look for, and what to do in these situations.

Human trafficking is illegal exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion. It can take the form of sex trafficking, forced labor, or domestic servitude. Human trafficking is not specific to age, race, or gender, and it occurs in rural, suburban, and urban areas across Missouri. The victims of human trafficking are from all socioeconomic backgrounds and levels of education.

“Human trafficking can happen almost anywhere, including Missouri’s roadways,” said Col. Olson. “Our commercial vehicle drivers, motor carriers, and law enforcement officers are often our first line of defense against human trafficking. Knowing

what to look for and how to respond to these situations is key to rescuing the vulnerable people being exploited.”

Signs of human trafficking are not always obvious, and may include:

- The presence of an older “boyfriend” or “girlfriend;”
- Travel with an older male/female who isn’t a guardian;
- Signs of psychological coercion, such as depression, anxiety, and/or an overly submissive attitude;
- Lack of control over his/her schedule, money, and/or items proving identification;
- Physical trauma (bruises, cuts, burns, scars);
- Poor health;
- Coached/rehearsed responses to questions;
- Substance abuse or addictions, selling drugs; or,
- Homelessness.

Suspected human trafficking can be reported by calling 1-888-373-7888.

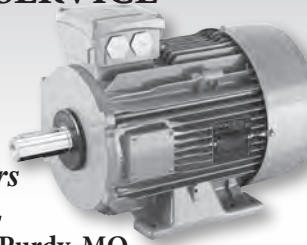
The Missouri State Highway Patrol is joining agencies across the United States and Canada for this Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance initiative.

For more news, follow the Missouri State Highway Patrol on Twitter @MSHPTrooperGHQ

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Ashcroft calls for action to fill vacant house seats

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft is calling for Governor Mike Parson to issue writs of election to fill four House of Representatives seats currently vacant, with two more vacancies expected.

In the letter to the governor, Ashcroft wrote, "Pursuant to Missouri Statute RSMo Chapter 21.110, I am calling on you to issue writs of election 'without delay' for these vacant seats. If the writs are issued by January 10, 2022, these elections could be held with the April 5th Municipal Election with minimal cost to the taxpayer, but substantial benefit to Missourians."

In January 2021 Governor Parson called for a special election to fill an open house seat in District 45, "Vacancies, of course are not new to the process—I thank you for your quick response to fill

that seat," Ashcroft wrote.

Ashcroft also stated in the letter that without a special election, these seats will remain vacant until January 2023. "Residents in the affected districts will be represented only by their state senator as lawmakers take crucial votes on spending, abortion and congressional redistricting."

"As a state, it is critical that we take the appropriate steps to ensure that all Missourians are fairly, justly and equitably represented at all levels of government," Ashcroft concluded. "By calling a special election, these vacant seats can be filled and the constituents of these districts can again have full representation in the Missouri General Assembly."

Dalton named to Dean's List

Kelsey Dalton, a Bradley student majoring in Early Childhood Education ESL Endorsement, from Monett, has been named to Bradley's Fall 2021 Dean's List. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Illinois, offering nearly 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students opportunities, choices, and resources to build their futures. Our comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate academic programs includes business, communications, education, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and technology.

BRONC EVANS from FRONT

Vegas, Bronc had to qualify in roping competitions across the United States during the 12 months preceding it.

"We're on the road to participate in rodeos about 35 weekends every year," Mandy Evans said. "It's a lifestyle that suits our family because it's something we can do together."

Jimmy Evans competes in rodeos as a team roper - many times with one of his two children. Mandy Evans, herself, as the daughter of Gizmo, The Rodeo Clown (Dale McCracken), grew up on the rodeo circuit.

"I was homeschooled when I was young so we could go to rodeos," Mandy said.

Evans says, in turn, she has homeschooled Bronc and Jaylen.

"When I was young," Evans said, "people thought it was bizarre when I told them I was homeschooled. Now, homeschooling is common, especially among kids who compete in rodeos. It's really the only way we can make everything work."

Over 850 rodeo contestants from around the world gathered in the Las Vegas Convention Center during the Junior World Finals competition for ten days in

December. The calf-roping competitors had been narrowed down to fields of 35 contestants in each category prior to arriving in Vegas.

Going into the competition, Bronc Evans was ranked Number One. After the first two rounds of competition, Bronc was sitting in second place in the averages and in the top six in the world.

"The time to beat going into the world championship round on December 11 was 2.65 seconds," Mandy Evans said. "Bronc roped his calf in 2.44 seconds for the world championship title."

As a first place winner, Evans took home the coveted Montana Silversmiths Championship Buckle, a cash prize and gear from several sponsors.

According to Mandy Evans, next year Bronc will move up into the 12 & Under age bracket, where he will compete in both the Breakaway and Tie-Down Roping competitions.

"It will be a big change for him," she said. "In the breakaway competitions, he doesn't have to get off his horse, but tie-down competitions involve dismounting and tying the calf down after roping it."

Evans said she and her husband have encouraged Bronc to involve himself in other types of sports, but he's not interested.

"All he wants to do is rope," she said.

or 15 months old or more, when parents or pediatricians become aware that a child is not meeting typical milestones," Norris said.

Five-year-old Lathem Briggs, of Monett, was diagnosed with Stickler Syndrome when he was four-years-old. The genetic disorder is marked by a collagen deficiency which typically causes joint, hearing and vision problems.

"It took over two years for them to find a diagnosis for Lathem's condition," said his mother, Kara Briggs, an X-ray technician for CoxHealth. "I first noticed a problem when Lathem took longer to walk and talk than other kids. Then, when he did walk, he was out-toeing his feet."

With a diagnosis made, Lathem is now working with therapists to improve his balance, strengthen his muscles and improve his eye-hand coordination.

Monett resident Heather Tucker's son, three-year-old Able, began speech therapy at Cox Rehab after his mother noticed he wasn't really speaking yet at age two and a half. As the mother of five, Tucker says she was vigilant with Able, because she has two older daughters who benefitted from speech therapy.

The range of services that can be provided by the pediatric therapy team is extensive and includes balance training, coloring and writing skills, feeding and swallowing abilities, hand use and fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, sitting/walking abilities, socialization and play skills, reasoning skills, torticollis, verbal and non-verbal communication, visual skills, motor skills, self-care and dressing and wheelchair skills. Specialized services and activities are also available.

Therapists agree that the expanded children's therapy area in Monett is beneficial for kids, therapists and even adult rehab patients, because, now, the children's area is separate from the adults'.

While a referral from a physician is required for therapy services, most insurances are accepted.

More information can be found at <https://www.cox-health.com/services/rehabilitation/pediatric-therapy/>, or by calling 417-236-2480.

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Heroes to Hives enrollment open

Enrollment is open for Heroes to Hives, a free program that helps military veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists and their families learn the art of beekeeping. University of Missouri Extension agronomist Travis Harper leads the Missouri program, the first state chapter of the national Heroes to Hives program. The course includes nine prerecorded modules available through Michigan State University. There are also live Zoom classes on topics specific to Missouri beekeeping, Harper said. Monthly hands-on training will be held April-Octo-

ber at the Heroes to Hives apiary in Warrensburg at the University of Central Missouri's Mitchell Street Farm. Topics include hive handling, hive inspections, pest and pathogen management and beekeeping ergonomics. Students who finish the course can download a certificate of completion from Michigan State University. Missouri is home to more than 440,000 veterans making the transition from military to civilian life, said Karen Funkenbusch, state director of the Missouri AgrAbility Project. Returning veterans face challenges, including anxiety, depression, service-

related health issues and disabilities and finding rewarding career opportunities. "These challenges are exacerbated by the loss of the camaraderie and support inherent in military units," Funkenbusch said. "Transitioning vets often feel a sense of isolation and loss. Heroes to Hives offers veterans a chance to reconnect with their brothers and sisters in arms with a common mission of protecting the most important managed pollinator on the planet." For more information and free registration, visit www.heroestohives.com.

THE HIVE from FRONT

only provide entertainment for the kids with computers, table access, card games, movie nights with a projector screen, but also the resources that teenagers need." Barry County and other thinly populated counties in the United States suffer the same shortcoming: the surrounding areas have few constructive or leisurely activities young people can enjoy safely. Rundall asserts that this lack of amenities contributes greatly to what can turn into a life-crippling addiction.

"There's a pretty significant drug issue here, and some youths that stay here, end up addicted to drugs. I really feel like if we give the kids every resource they need, we can help," Rundall continued. "There are a lot of youths in our area who live homeless or with a low income: kids who live on their own and don't have access to the basic needs that they should have. Also, we know there are kids who are becoming pregnant, so we want to make programs to donate the basic baby needs. Because that's a lot on the teenager, but also on their families." Additionally, Rundall explained, "Arvest reached out to us, interested in offering financial classes to teach the kids how to budget money. We're hoping to pair with Crowder, also, and visit with the youth about doing their FAFSA and applying for colleges. We want to give the kids every resource they

need to successfully transition to adulthood." Though Bridget and Kasey Rundall hope for The Hive to be open no later than March, the building will be used to host special events until then. The Hive will be hosting their first event, a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction, on Saturday, January 15, from 5 - 7 p.m. at 463 State Highway 76, Cassville. Adult tickets are \$10 each,

and children's tickets are \$5 each (for ages 12 and under). To donate a gift certificate or specific item from your business to put in the silent auction, people may contact The Hive at 417-342-2271. All future event updates and information will be available on The Hive Youth Outreach's Facebook Page.

Benefit Fund Raiser

IN SUPPORT OF

JACK WOGOMAN

He has been diagnosed with cancer, and will not be able to work for 4 months while he undergoes chemotherapy and surgery. Funds raised will go toward household expenses and treatment transportation costs.

Sunday, January 16, 2022


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Dinner @12:30 pm

Menu: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert, and drink.

Cost per plate: \$DONATION

Pulled pork provided by Prime Cut, Monett, Mo.



Auction @2:00 pm

Auctioneer: Chad Hughes

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CHS Speech and Debate Team nets wins

Cassville High School Speech and Debate team traveled to Webb City last weekend to compete in the Webb City Tournament. Nineteen other districts from across our region participated in the competition. The following CHS students made it to finals:

- Sam Sparkman and Jillian LeCompte, informative speaking.
- Kalia Miller, program of oral interpretation.
- Tierany Sloan and Josh Case, duo acting.
- Jillian LeCompte, humorous interpretation.

Debate Wins:

- Eli Pickett placed first in the Lincoln Douglas Debate.
- Treva Samuel and Audrey Gosvener placed third in Public Forum Debate.
- Kalia Miller and Taylor Mc Corkle placed second in Public Forum Debate.

Placing and receiving a trophy:

- Jillian LeCompte, humorous interpretation.
- Kalia Miller, program of oral interpretation.




Shown above, Jillian LeCompte (left) and Kalia Miller (right) received trophies at the Webb City Speech and Debate Tournament.

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Cassville Intermediate November “Students of The Month”

Demonstrating “Respect”



Third Grade students, left to right, are shown above in the back row: Tatum Wolfe, Jakob Henbest, Luke Brust and Logan Stoufer; front row: Riley Clifford, Isabella Cota, Arabella Boyle, Holley Cornell and Kenzleigh Speer. Will Holycross, Jackson Trent and Izzy Bean are absent from the photo.



Fourth Grade students are shown, left to right, in the back row: Carter Stringer, Alex Chase, Christian Seely, Mathew Savage Shorey, RJ Meredith and Alex Patrick; front row: Kai Hinson, Aubrey Cole, Priscilla Haddock and Dawthnem Par. Isabella Groom and Natalie Thompson are absent from the photo.

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A group of ten fifth-grade students are posed in two rows. The back row has five boys standing, and the front row has five girls kneeling. They are all holding certificates and smiling. The students are wearing casual clothes like t-shirts, hoodies, and jeans.

Fifth Grade students are shown above, left to right, in the back row: Mquade Farris, Tyler Bodge, Brayden Jack, Aiden Whittington and Kingston Nichols; front row: Trinity Granger, Madison Humphrey, Heaven Bilke, Raegan Doucet and Riley Harrison. Nevaeh Curran and Brody Moller are absent from the photo.

Jastal Named to Fall ‘21 Dean’s List

The office of Central Methodist University provost Rita Gulstad announced recently the students included on the Fall 2021 Dean's List. Nearly 1,000 students

across all campuses and on-line learning met the requirements for placement, including a grade point average of 3.50 or higher for the semester.

Abigail Faith Jastal, of Monett, was among those meeting the requirements for recognition.

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PHS to crown royalty Friday



Purdy High School will crown its 2022 Homecoming Queen and Mr. Tip-Off in a special coronation ceremony on Friday, January 14, between JV and Varsity basketball games versus Sparta.

The JV contest begins at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Purdy Olympics."

This year's candidates are pictured, left to right: Seniors, Katrina Lee and Jesus Aldava; Juniors, Taryn Orwig and Bosten Goetz; Sophomores, Ruby Knight and Jeremiah Williams; and Freshmen, Leanna Moore and Teagan Manwarren.

November Students of The Month at Southwest High School



November Students of The Month at Southwest High School are, left to right: Faith Outhouse, Abbie Saunders, Kameron Kelley, Otis Rainer, Signe Suchowski and Kaleigh Tull. Missing from the photo were: Caden Uthe and Hunter Barnes.

Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week

Meet Jakari, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Jakari is a beautiful and happy girl who came to the Haven as a stray. We really expected someone to claim her, but it never happened. It's now 6 months later, and she has waited long enough for a home! Jakari is about 1 1/2 years old, 50 pounds, great with other dogs, and is an all around good-natured pup. She will make a terrific addition to her new home and would especially love an active human family or dog friend as a playmate. Meet her at the Haven and make her dream of a real home a reality.

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Purdy Students Shine at Media Showcase

Missouri Southern State University hosted their annual Media Showcase virtually on December 9th. The Showcase includes competitions in various digital media categories such as photography, animation, web design, and more. Students from many schools submit hundreds of entries each year. Three Purdy competitors earned accolades in this year's event. They are pictured above, from left: Alli Hayes, 1st Place in News Photography; Libby Roden, 3rd Place in News Photography; and Ruby Knight, 1st Place in Photo Shop Battle.



Forever Yours cuts the Chamber ribbon



Owners CJ Tabor (second from left), daughter Ryleigh (to her right) and husband Charlie Tabor (in orange shirt) hosted a Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony at Forever Yours Embroidery after a First Friday Coffee get-together at their new business Friday morning.

"It's been an exciting couple of months since we've purchased the shop and our community has welcomed us with open arms," CJ Tabor said. "We're looking forward to what 2022 brings and can't wait to launch online shopping and expand our selection of locally created gift items!"

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LINDA KAY (TOWNSEND) JESTER

Linda Kay (Townsend) Jester, age 73, of Washburn, left this world for her heavenly home on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, surrounded by her family at her home. Linda, daughter of John and Velma (Hopper) Townsend, was born on March 5, 1948, in Rogers, Arkansas. On February 18, 1966, she was united in marriage to Laurence Jester and was married for forty-eight wonderful years until his passing on April 8, 2014.

Linda wore several hats throughout her life from being a homemaker, farmer, sister, wife, friend, a hard worker, but the most important was that of being the best mom anyone could ever ask for who loved her family fiercely and unconditionally. In 1968, she moved from Bella Vista, Arkansas, to the family farm in Washburn where she lived until her passing. Linda was a wonderful wife and partner who helped on the farm from gardening, canning, to helping

care for the animals. Even though she was busy helping the farm, Linda always poured her heart and soul into her family and made them a continual focus and priority for years.

Linda had a huge heart and was someone you could talk to while she simply listened but wasn't afraid to give you her opinion whether you wanted it or not. She was honest, candid, compassionate, welcoming, humble, forgiving, and kind. Linda enjoyed her coffee, conversations with her sisters, early morning sunrises, watching hummingbirds, and being outside. Some of her greatest joys involved spending time with her family, putting puzzles together, reading, going mushroom hunting, and betting on Brady with her son, Tim. Linda was an amazing cook who really enjoyed taking care of her family and would always say her greatest joy in life were her children. She was a God-fearing woman who always put her faith and trust in the Lord. Linda was a member of the First Baptist Church in Washburn.

Linda is survived by two sons, Tim Mattingly and Chuck Jester and his wife, Robbie, all of Washburn; three daughters, Robin Epling, of Rogersville, JoDee Anderson and her husband, Ronnie, and Nancy Jester, all of Washburn; four granddaughters, Keisha Jester, Felicia Epling, Harleigh Jo Jester, and Cecilia Epling; one

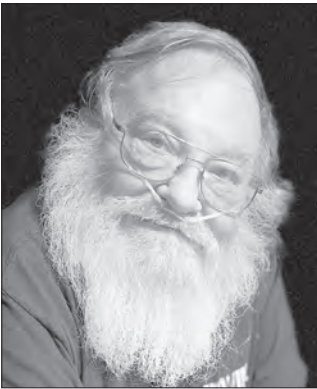
OBITUARIES

great-granddaughter, Tinlee Mitchell; two brothers, Howard Townsend, of Avoca, Arkansas, and Tom Townsend, of Washburn; four sisters, Loneta Blevins, of Rogers, Arkansas, Patsy Gyll, of Avoca, Arkansas, Connie Dorey and Mary Jane Sinclair, both of Washburn; five bonus grandchildren whom she loved as her own, Katie (Anderson) Cook, Gary Wallace, Brent Wallace, Jesse Wallace, and Payton Wallace; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Linda was preceded in death by two brothers, Johnny Townsend and Herbert Townsend, both of Washburn; and three sisters, Pauline Beaman, of Blythe, Georgia, Mabel Jo Walden, of Avoca, Arkansas, and Billie Main, of Washburn.

Memorial services to honor Linda's life were held Saturday, January 8, 2022, at the First Baptist Church in Washburn, with Pastor Glenn Erwin officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Haven of the Ozarks and entrusted to the White Funeral Home, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625. Service and cremation arrangements are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.



GARY ROBERT FLORES

Gary Robert Florer, age 67, of Butterfield, passed away Thursday, January 6, 2022, at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas.

He was born May 29, 1954, in Aurora, the son of Bobby Gene and Phyllis (Edwards) Florer. On June 20, 1998, in Aurora, he was united in marriage to Andra Campbell, who survives. Also surviving are four sons, Jeffrey Adam Florer and his wife, Christine, of Carthage, Bobby Lee Florer, of Carthage, Terry Joseph Warnke and his wife, Tami, of Camdenton, and Tony Ray Warnke and his wife, Amanda, of Strafford; one daughter, Charity An Card and her husband, Allan, of Wentworth; two sisters, Gail Florer, of Aurora, and Julia Rackley and her husband, Ray, of Lakeland, South Carolina; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren with one on the way.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one brother-in-law, Mike James; and one nephew, Scotty James.

Gary lived his whole life in this area and graduated from Aurora High School in Aurora. After graduating, he attended SMSU in Springfield where he received an Associate Degree in Busi-

ness. He then joined the United States Air Force and received a medical discharge. Returning to this area, he was employed by Dave's Custom Woodworking in Aurora where he worked for forty-five years as a Master Carpenter. He worked for Lowe's Home Improvement in Monett for three years from where he retired. Some of his favorite pastimes were woodworking, making beer and wine and cooking. He also enjoyed making stained glass and blacksmithing.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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

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GARY RAY MCCLAMROCK

Gary Ray McClamrock, age 73, of Cassville, passed away on Sunday, January 9, 2022, at Cox South Hospital in Springfield. Gary, son of Floyd and Delia (Goette) McClamrock, was born on February 7, 1948, in Marshalltown, Iowa. On May 23, 1969, he was united in marriage to Sheryl Ann Wolf in Vermillion, South Dakota. For most of his life, Gary worked as a plumber and a truck driver. Some of his favorite past times were fishing, watching football and playing cards with family and friends. He was a dear friend to many and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife, Sheryl McClamrock, of Cassville; his three children, Kim Jenkins and her husband, Mark, of Cassville,

Kari Creason, of Huntsville, Arkansas, and Matt Villalobos and his husband, Jorge, of Snellville, Georgia; seven grandchildren, Abby Munoz, Kelsey Munoz, Devon Jenkins, Jacob Creason and his fiancé, Jessica, Chase Creason, Dailey Creason and his fiancé, Keely, and Josilyne Creason; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by his in-laws, Don and Betty Wolf.

A visitation for family and friends will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022, at the White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Haven of the Ozarks and entrusted to the White Funeral Home, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625.

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

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SHARON KAYE FAGAN

Sharon Kaye Fagan, age 70, of Eagle Rock, passed away Saturday, January 8, 2022, at her home.

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

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

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JAN 20: Pot roast, carrots, cauliflower, hot roll, caramel apple cake

JAN 21: Alpine chicken, stuffing, tossed salad, garlic cheese biscuits, cherry cobbler

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- Morning Service 10:45 am
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- Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

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OBITUARIES



DONNIE LEE NEELY

Donnie Lee Neely, age 83, of Monett, passed away at his home on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Mr. Neely, son of Leonard and Lorine (Hagemier) Neely, was born on February 26, 1938, in Stotts City. Subsequent to graduating high school in Miller, Donnie enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served his country proudly from 1956 to 1960. On July 16, 1960, Donnie was united in marriage to Bonnie Einspahr, the love of his life, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Donnie was a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge #165 A.F. & A.M. in Collinsville, Oklahoma, and the Fairview Antique Car Club, and Zion United Church in Stotts City. He also worked for the Barry County Sheriff's Office, Monett Police Department and the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office.

After retirement from American Airlines, Donnie continued using his pilot license to fly for the Missouri conservation department, working as a firewatch pilot in the Mark Twain National Forrest and all of Barry County.

Donnie was an avid car enthusiast. He found a lot of joy in collecting old cars and working on them. He also enjoyed going to flea markets in his spare time and was a collector of firearms.

Survivors include his loving wife of sixty-one years, Bonnie Neely, of Monett; his children, Susan Neely-Eden and her husband, Larry, of

Monett, and Bill Neely and his wife, Karen, of Hawkins, Texas; four grandchildren, Melissa Cleaveland, of Neosho, Michael Seitz, of Monett, Jon Neely, of White Castle, Louisiana, and Levi Neely, of Monett; six great-grandchildren, Brinn, Tinley, Delaney, Hannah, Addison and Issac; one sister, Kay Reynolds, of Sarcoxie; one brother, Ray Neely, of La Russell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Donnie was preceded in death by one grandson, Daniel Neely; and two sisters, Marilyn Garrison and Linda Neely.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Zion United Church of Christ in Stotts City, with Pastor Bob Farres officiating; cremation arrangements to follow.

The family will receive friends at the church from 11:00 a.m. until service begins.

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

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RAY MANLEY

Fifty-seven years ago, a true love story began in Carthage when Ray Manley met and married Pat Greene. That love story is on hold as Ray has now met his heavenly Father and is finally pain free. Raymond Eugene Man-

ley, 75, of Shell Knob, died in Mercy Hospital on Jan 5, 2022, following complications of a surgical procedure. Ray was born in LaRussell on October 8, 1946. He leaves behind his wife and best friend, Patricia Manley, and two beloved daughters, Tina Jason and husband, Dave, of O'Fallon, and Brenna Cargile and husband, Gene, of Washburn. Ray is also survived by three grandsons, Nick Mizerny and wife, Amy, Tyler Cargile and Lane Cargile; three great-grandchildren, Lance, Ava and Gwen Mizerny; one brother, Dennis Manley, of Carthage; and sister-in-law, Cheryl Green, of Shell Knob. Ray will also be missed by his lifelong friends, Jess Poindexter, Kenny Jeffries and Darryl Irion. Ray grew up in Carthage and joined the Army National Guard upon graduating from high school. He attended Missouri Southern College before moving his family to Shell Knob. Ray owned and operated Bridgeview Plumbing there until his retirement in 2003. He was always community minded and served as a Shell Knob Road Commissioner, Director for the Barry Electric Coop, Member of the University of Missouri Extension Board and was currently a member of the Barry County Sheriffs Advisory Board. He was preceded in death by his parents, Zella (Pennington) and Clayton Manley. Ray always enjoyed the outdoors and loved riding his motorcycles. He also enjoyed deer hunting and bass fishing and was a music enthusiast, animal lover and had a wonderful sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The family received friends Tuesday, January

11, 2022, at White Funeral Home, Cassville.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home & Crematory.

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W. SUE PERIMAN HARRIS

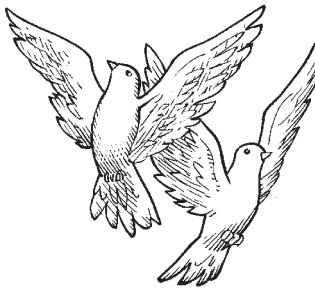
W. Sue Periman Harris, age 68, of Neosho, passed away Friday, January 7, 2022, at Freeman Hospital West in Joplin.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Mineral Springs Cemetery in Cassville under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Milford Baker will conduct the services.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mineral Springs Cemetery in memory of Sue.

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

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60th wedding anniversary



Ray Holland, of Garfield, Arkansas, and Diane Falkenstein, of Washburn, were united in marriage on January 8, 1962, at Barry County Courthouse, Cassville, by Judge Sater. 48 of their 60 years together were spent in Baptist Church ministry, Christian school administration and Pastoring in Oregon, Colorado, Mississippi and Texas. They have three children, Brenda, Carrie and Nathan; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A cruise is planned for late April including family and friends as their celebration. They are currently retired and live in Seligman.

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The Family of Master Sgt. Carl Cosper, Jr.

would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Sheriff Danny Boyd and the administrative staff at the Barry County Sheriff's Office for their help in collecting donations for the highway memorial signs that will go along Highway 37 in Carl's honor. We would like to thank everyone who donated money and we appreciate everything that has been done to make this possible. According to MoDot, these signs should go up within the next month. It's hard to believe that this coming April (2022) will mark the five year anniversary of Carl's passing. It is apparent that Carl touched the lives of many people. He was a big man with an even bigger heart. We miss him everyday.

Sincerely,
The Cosper Family

15pd

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

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keep watch over the door of my lips.

Psalm 141:3

15c

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Return all applications to Sheriff Danny Boyd.

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Highway Commission Selects Team
for Project to Rebuild/Improve 25
Bridges along I-44 Corridor

Southwest District – The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission today selected The ESS Team to improve 25 bridges within 15 miles of I-44 across the Southwest District, the Missouri Department of Transportation said.

There are 25 bridges in the bundle with seven (7) mainline I-44 bridges, five (5) I-44 overpass bridges and the remaining on adjacent routes over various features.

The project is in line with Gov. Parson's commitment to focus on taking care of Missouri's vital infrastructure.

There are approximately 10,400 bridges on the state's highway system. Nearly 840 of them are rated as "poor" by the Federal Highway Administration.

Four teams vied for the opportunity to design and build I-44 Corridor Bridge Bundle, as it's being called. 16 bridges will be replaced and 9 bridges will receive major rehabilitation work.

The ESS Team is a partnership of engineering and construction firms that will design and construct the project with oversight by MoDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

ESS Team members are:

Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. – Columbia

Parsons Transportation Group, Inc. – St. Louis

Construction of the \$38.5 million project is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer of 2022 with completion in the fall of 2024.

Anyone interested in the project, or who would like to receive regular e-updates during construction, can visit the project website – I-44 Corridor Bridge Bundle.

This will be the 21st design-build project for MoDOT since the contract for The New I-64 in St. Louis was awarded in the fall of 2006.

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Learn how to identify trees
when they don't have leaves

BRANSON, Mo. – Leaf shape isn't the only way to tell one species of tree from another. There are several ways to tell trees apart and those methods come in handy at this time of year.

People who would like to learn more about how to identify trees in winter should register for the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) virtual program "Winter Tree ID." This free online event will be 10-11 a.m. on Jan. 15 and is being put on by staff at MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center. People can register at:

https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/181333

Identifying trees in winter can be a valuable skill. If you're cutting firewood, clearing timber, or doing a landscaping project, it's good to know what trees you're removing and what you're leaving to grow on the landscape.

Winter tree ID is not as daunting of a task as some may think. At the Jan. 15 program, MDC Naturalist Leah Eden will discuss some of the traits that distinguish one tree from another. Topics she will cover include bark, branch arrangement, overall tree shape, and other features that distinguish one type of tree from another. She will discuss how examining twigs can also be a big help in identifying a tree. Though this program is free, registration is required to participate using the link above. Registrants must provide an e-mail, so a program link can be sent to them. The program will include a chat-based question-and-answer period where participants can interact with the presenters.

Program registrants should note that they now have the option to link their children's accounts to their own, which will streamline the program registration process. Once a group account is set up, parents will be able to register their children for an event without having to log-off or log-in for each person. This allows parents to register an entire family or select family members for an event at the same time.

To find out more about this event or other events at the Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center, call 417-334-4865, ext. 0. The Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center is part of MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery and is located at 483 Hatchery Road on the west end of Lake Taneycomo near Branson.

Staff at MDC facilities across the state are holding virtual programs. A listing of these programs can be found at mdc.mo.gov/events.

High School Basketball Scoreboard

Ezra DeVore

On January 6, both Varsity and Junior Varsity girls basketball teams of Purdy lost to Crane. Varsity held a final score of 13 - 64, and Junior Varsity scored 7 - 32.

On January 7, both Varsity

and Junior Varsity boys basketball teams of Purdy also lost their most recent games against Aurora, Varsity with the final scores landing at 44 - 57, and Junior Varsity with 41 - 46.

Wheaton's Varsity boys basketball team lost to Cassville on January 7, with a final score of 49 - 58.

Southwest's Varsity girls basketball team lost their game against Thomas Jefferson Independent on January 11, 41 - 46.

Cassville's Varsity girls basketball team lost their January 11 game to Seneca, with a final score of 30 - 55.

Extension offers free Hard Cider School

Fermented apple juice, known as hard cider, is growing more popular in Missouri.

“Several breweries and wineries in the state have ramped up production to satisfy the demand,” said Michele Warmund, University of Missouri Extension horticulturist. Missouri apple producers see this resurgence as an opportunity to bolster sales of conventional apple cultivars as well as high-tannin cider cultivars, she said.

In response, MU Extension is offering its first Hard Cider School in February via Zoom. The free online classes will be presented 6-7 p.m. on four consecutive Wednesdays.

Topics include growing apples for hard cider, controlling apple pests, the production process for hard cider, and fermentation and sanitation in the cidery.

Register for the free sessions at extension.missouri.edu/events/hard-cider-school.

For more information, contact Michele Warmund at warmundm@missouri.edu or 573-882-9632, or Misha Kwasniewski at mtk5407@psu.edu or 814-865-6842.

Most cider made in the U.S. is composed of a base juice using common dessert-type apples. Producers often supplement with juice from classic high-tannin cultivars or other additions to improve aroma, taste and mouth feel, Warmund said.

“Many hard cider apple cultivars grown in North America were imported from Europe and are not as well-adapted to conditions in Missouri,” she said.

Meanwhile, MU researchers are working to rediscover classic cider apple cultivars and select new ones suited for local growing conditions.

Cider was the most common beverage in Colonial America. Colonists preserved their apple harvests by fermenting the juice. They used apple vinegar for pickling to preserve vegetables through long, harsh winters. When hard cider was plentiful, colonists used it to barter for goods and to pay bills, taxes and wages in the absence of hard currency.

Many of the Founding Fathers were hard cider enthusiasts, Warmund said. Before George Washington's 1758 election to Virginia's House of Burgesses, he served 144 gallons of hard cider and other beverages to entice voters. John Adams was known to drink an invigorating tankard of hard cider each morning. Thomas Jefferson regularly drank cider made from apples harvested at Monticello. William Henry Harrison generously dispensed hard cider at campaign rallies during his 1840 presidential run.

Cider consumption began to decline by the late 1800s as many rural Americans abandoned their farms and orchards and moved to cities, where beer usurped cider. However, the most devastating blow to the hard cider industry was the enactment of Prohibition in 1919.

Hard cider has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years. From 2001 to 2016, production in the U.S. increased annually by 27.3 percent. Hard cider is now estimated to be a \$1.5 billion industry, with 910 cider producers in the U.S. as of 2020.

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Youth in Agriculture Scholarship applications accepted

The Missouri State Fair and the Youth in Agriculture Committee are accepting applications for the Youth in Agriculture scholarships for Missouri high school seniors graduating in 2022.

These scholarships are possible thanks to the gracious contributions of many individuals and companies supporting Youth in Agriculture. A total of 46 scholarships amounting to \$77,500, the largest amount ever, will be awarded. They are funded through the generosity of Youth in Agriculture sponsors, hometown supporters and buyers of the livestock sold during the annual Sale of Champions.

Applicants must be high school seniors, active members of Missouri 4-H or FFA, and have participated at least once as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor at the Missouri State Fair. Applications should be submitted to the Missouri State Fair and must be postmarked by February 1, 2022.

For applications and guidelines, as well as more information on the Missouri State Fair and the Youth in Agriculture scholarships, visit mostatefair.com.

Application deadline approaching for MSHP for 115th Recruit Class

The Missouri State Highway Patrol, a premier law enforcement agency, is testing for new troopers. The Patrol is encouraging qualified individuals of all backgrounds to apply and is offering testing at nine different locations in Missouri. Those who successfully complete testing will be eligible to continue in the selection process for the 115th Recruit Class, scheduled to begin training on July 5, 2022. The application deadline is February 2, 2022.

To be eligible, candidates must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent and be 21 years of age upon graduating from the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy. Upon graduating from the Patrol's Academy, troopers are eligible to earn 46 credit

hours through Mineral Area College in Park Hills, MO, or 30 credit hours through the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO, toward a degree.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's uniform guidelines allow troopers to have tattoos or brands as long as they meet two requirements: 1) The tattoos or brands cannot depict or support criminal behavior, drug usage, nudity, profanity, promiscuity, subversive groups, bigotry, etc. 2) Tattoos/brands cannot be located on the head, neck, hands, wrists, or any part of the body which would be visible during movements in the performance of their duties while wearing an official uniform or civilian attire. Troopers with tattoos on the arms that would be visible in the class B uniform (short

sleeves) will wear the class A uniform (long sleeves).

The selection process is a multi-phase testing procedure including: written examination, a physical fitness for duty assessment, polygraph examination, background investigation, and oral interview board. Written and physical examinations

take place in each troop area across the state. After a conditional offer of employment, the applicant must successfully complete a medical examination (to include vision and hearing), psychological examination, a psychological interview, drug screening, and final applicant review.

Interested persons can

find out more about the qualifications and benefits by contacting a Patrol recruiter at telephone number 1-800-796-7000, or may apply online at <https://statepatrol.dps.mo.gov/pages/becomeatrooper>.

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Notice of Offices for Which Candidates are to be Nominated at the August 2, 2022 Primary Election

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to persons wishing to file a declaration of candidacy to appear as a candidate for nomination at the primary election that filing will open on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and will continue until Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Filing for the following offices will take place in the office of the Honorable John R. Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State, in the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center at 600 West Main Street in Jefferson City, Missouri: U.S. Senator, State Auditor, Representatives in Congress for each Congressional District, Members of the House of Representatives in each Legislative District, Circuit Judge Circuit No. 39

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that filing for the following offices will take place in the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, in Cassville, Missouri, at the Barry County Courthouse, 700 Main Street Suite 2, Cassville, Missouri. Random drawing (first day only): For the first day only, a random number will be selected to determine placement on the primary ballot, per 115.395.2, RSMo Supp. 1997. After the first day, order of filing determines placement on the primary ballot, per 115.395.2, RSMo Supp. 1997. On the first day of filing, candidates will draw a number after they have provided the documents required for filing. The number drawn will appear on the declaration of candidacy. Associate Circuit Judge Div. 1, Associate Circuit Judge Div. 2, Presiding Commissioner, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Recorder of Deeds, County Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Revenue, Prosecuting Attorney, Collector, Recorder and Treasurer must provide a copy of affidavit of bond ability. Declarations of candidacy may be filed for the following political officers who are to be elected at the Primary Election: Township Committeeman Township Committeewoman Ash, Butterfield, Capps Creek, Crane Creek, Exeter, Flat Creek City, Flat Creek Rural, Jenkins, Kings Prairie, Liberty, McDonald, McDowell, Mineral, Monett #1, Monett #2, Monett #4, Ozark, Purdy, Pleasant Ridge, Roaring River, Shell Knob, Sugar Creek, Washburn, Wheaton, White River #1, White River #2.

In addition, such offices as become vacant by expiration of term, by death or resignation of incumbent, or vacant for any cause, and which under the law, should be filled at the General Election to be held November 8, 2022.


CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS
Notice of Voter Registration Accessibility

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that at least one-half of the sites provided for voter registration shall be accessible to handicapped persons (115.140, RSMo). In addition, a disabled or elderly citizen may register to vote by alternative means including registration by mail, and curbside registration.

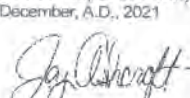
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND VOTING: Persons may contact their local election authority by telephone at 417-847-2561 opt 3 or by mail at 700 Main St, Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625.

The Missouri Secretary of State's office provides a toll free number for persons with hearing impairments who have access to a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). TDD users may call 800-669-8683 to obtain information on voter registration, polling place location and accessibility, absentee balloting, and other election-related services available in their local jurisdictions and from the State of Missouri.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS





Given under my hand and official seal at the Capitol in the City of Jefferson, State of Missouri, this 20th day of December, A.D., 2021



John R. Ashcroft
Secretary of State

I, Joyce Ennis County Clerk within and for the county of Barry do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct list as certified to me by JOHN R. ASHCROFT, Secretary of State, State of Missouri, of the offices for which candidates are to be nominated or elected at the PRIMARY ELECTION to be held August 2, 2022.




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DOOR PRIZE: BOX OF 20 EACH - 30-30 WIN, 243 WIN, 270 WIN, 6.5 CREEDMORE AND 300 WIN MAG DRAWING HELD AFTER GUNS ARE SOLD

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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY 30 CAL MI GARAND (VERY NICE) SERIAL# 2946XX – MARLIN MODEL 1895SS 45-70 – WINCHESTER MODEL 9422 22 L.R. – RUGER MODEL NINETY SIX 22 L.R. – WINCHESTER MODEL 70 223 REM – MARLIN MODEL 925M 22 WIN MAG – MARLIN MODEL 410 410 GA – MARLIN MODEL 1894 45 COLT – REMINGTON MODEL 770 270 WIN – REMINGTON MODEL 710 270 WIN – WINCHESTER MODEL 94AE 45 LONG COLT SADDLE RING CARBINE TRAPPERS MODEL – RUGER MINI 14 223 REM – N.I.B. WINCHESTER MODEL 9417 17 HMR GREY LAMINATED – BSA HUSTON-MO 12 GA O/U – MARLIN MODEL 336 30-30 – WINCHESTER MODEL 100 308 WIN – N.I.B. BROWNING BLR MODEL 81 LIGHTWEIGHT 223 REM – N.I.B. HOWA MODEL 1500 204 RUGER – MARLIN MODEL 1894 44 REM MAG-44 SPL – IZ-MACH RUSSIAN SAIGA 410 410 GA – NORINCO SKS 7.62 X39 WITH BAYONET – RUSSIAN SKS 7.62 X 39 WITH BAYONET – RUGER MODEL 10/22 CARBINE 22 L.R. – REMINGTON MODEL 581-S 22 CAL – MARLIN MODEL 60 SB 22 L.R. – MILITARY TRAINING RIFLE 22 CAL – MOSSBERG MODEL 835 12 GA – MOSSBERG MODEL 40 22 L.R. – WINCHESTER MODEL 275 22 WIN MAG – REMINGTON SPORTSMAN 74 AUTO 30-06 – ITHACA MODEL 49 22 CAL – N.E.F. PARDNER 20 GA – SAVAGE SPORTER 22 L.R. – KNIGHT 52 CAL BLACK POWDER STAINLESS AND CAMO WITH SCOPE AND TRIPOD – THOMPSON CENTER SCOUT 50 CAL BLACK POWDER

HANDGUNS

HIGH STANDARD SUPERMATIC CITATION 22 L.R. – ROCK ISLAND ARMORY MODEL 1911 A1 FS 22 TCM CAL – KIMBER MICRO 9 9MM BLACK – SMITH AND WESSON M+P 9 SHIELD 9MM – RUGER BEARCAT 22 CAL – ROCK ISLAND ARMORY MODEL 1911 A1 CS 45 ACP – KIMBER MIRCO 380 ACP STAINLESS – REMINGTON MODEL 1911 R-1 45 AUTO – TAURUS THE JUDGE 410 GA 45 COLT – SPRINGFIELD ARMORY MODEL 1911 NITRIDE 9MM – COLT SINGLE ACTION FRONTIER SCOUT 22 L.R. (1958 DUO-TONE) – RUGER REDHAWK 357 MAG 5 ½ INCH BARREL – SMITH AND WESSON M+P 9 9MM – RUGER SR9-C 9MM – CZ MODEL 75 BD 9MM – 2-RUGER LCP 380 AUTO – ROCK ISLAND ARMORY MODEL 1911 A1 FS 9MM – RUGER SR9 9MM – RUGER MODEL SR22 22 L.R. – HI-STANDARD DOUBLE NINE 22 L.R. – TAURUS 38 SPL D.A. REVOLVER – TAURUS MILLENIUM G2 PT140 40 S&W – F.E.G. MODEL SMC-380 380 AUTO – SMITH AND WESSON 32 LONG CTG D.A. REVOLVER – H&R MODEL 622 22 CAL

AMMO – SCOPES – KNIVES

20 BOXES 30-30 WIN – 19 BOXES 270 WIN – 8 BOXES 30-06 – 10 BOXES 243 – 10 BOXES 300 WIN MAG – 2 BOXES 308 – BOX 7MM REM MAG – BOX 45-70 GOVT – 10 BOXES 6.5 CREEDMORE – 35 BOXES 223 REM – 2 BOXES 204 RUGER – BOX 350 LEGEND – 8 BOXES 357 MAG – 3 BOXES 44 MAG – BOX 243 WSSM – BOX 32 S&W LONG – 4 BOXES 45 AUTO – 8 BOXES 22 MAG – 6 BOXES 17 HMR – OVER 10,000 ROUNDS 22 L.R. – 15 BOXES 12 GA – 10 BOXES 410 GA – SLUGS – BOXES RE-LOADING SUPPLIES – OSPREY GLOBAL 3X9X40 SCOPE – DIAMONDBACK VORTEX 3X9X40 SCOPE – MONSTRUM TACTICAL 3X9X40 SCOPE – BOX MISC KNIVES

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For More Info, Call Auctioneer: DAVID MAST • 417-366-0198

Discovery Quilters Celebrate at The Barn at Bear Ridge



The Barn at Bear Ridge provided a gorgeous backdrop of quilts for the Discovery Quilters' Christmas party.

Submitted Content

Discovery Quilters of Shell Knob celebrated the Christmas season with a luncheon at the Barn at Bear Ridge on Dec 13. The Barn was a perfect venue for members to display holiday quilts draped over the railing on the mezzanine level. Trish

and Brett Rapien, the owners, added their own family quilts draped over tables and benches and hanging on walls. They prepared a delicious lunch and shared the history of their quilts, two of which were brought from Russia to the U.S. when their grandparents immigrated in

the 1800s. Quilts were everywhere, turning the barn into a beautiful quilt gallery for the party.

Discovery Quilters Guild has much to celebrate.

"We are once again holding in-person meetings and enjoying the fellowship we value so much," said member EJ Adams. "Our 2021 quilt show was a great success and we have resumed educational activities, so that we will have new skills to exhibit at the next show in 2023."

"Our missions continued throughout Covid, presenting Quilts of Valor to veterans at Shakin' in the Shell and distributing comfort quilts to friends and family who experienced illness or loss of loved ones," she said. "We all contribute time to making baby quilts for new mothers with limited resources, giving a total of 149 quilts to Barry and Stone County health departments, Pregnancy Lifeline in Branson West and the Purple Flower Domestic Shelter in Berryville in 2021. With an extraordinary donation of fabric from the Quilted Cow in Branson West, we are also making burp cloths, bibs, and receiving blankets for the new moms."

The guild meets on the 4th Monday of each month and

welcomes guests.

Adams says the guild has members who are beginning quilters, as well as some who are very-accomplished. Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. and are held at the Central Community United Methodist Church on Hwy. YY in Shell Knob.

For more information, please call 417-271-1094.



★

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

★

Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 • 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Cassville, MO. From Cassville, go south on Hwy. 76 (112) 2 miles, then go east on Hwy. 76 & 86, 3 miles to auction. (19644 State Hwy. 76, Cassville, MO)

REAL ESTATE – NICE HOME – LARGE SHOP/AIRPLANE HANGER – OUTBUILDINGS – PRIVATE AIR STRIP – 16 ACRES

Real Estate: Built in 2008, nice 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1744 sq ft. Enter this home under a covered front porch with white porch railing into a nice size living room with ceiling fan, remote start corner gas fireplace, a door leading out to the covered back deck overlooking a nice pine grove back yard where you can watch deer and turkey. The living room also has lots of windows and is open to the dining area. The dining area is open to the kitchen. The kitchen features almost new SS side by side LG Refrigerator/Freezer, built in SS Whirlpool dishwasher, SS Maytag gas range & matching built in SS microwave. Oak cabinets, double SS sink, recessed lights, Corian countertops and a bay window breakfast nook area. From the kitchen is the utility room with oak storage cabinets, furnace and hot water closet & a door leading outside leading to the detached garage. 2 bedrooms with ceiling fans, closets, windows, and a Jack & Jill bathroom. The master bedroom features tray ceiling, bay windows, ceiling fan, walk in closet, and a full bathroom with jacuzzi tub. This home has central heat & air, septic, and rural water. **Outside Amenities:** Sidewalks, covered front porch, covered back deck, gutters, new lifetime siding, propane tank, a large 60'x60' shop/airplane hangar, concrete floor, bathroom & office area. A 30'x32' detached garage that was built in 2014. A 34'x70' shed and a 30'x78' shed. Plus, a private airstrip. All this on 16 acres. **Note:** Don't miss your chance to bid on this fantastic property. There has been an airstrip on this property for many many years so if you have your own plane and would like to have your own private airstrip, here you go or this property would make a great RV park or a great housing subdivision, with a 50' entrance off of Hwy 76. Just a short drive to Table Rock Lake, Shell Knob, Big M or Eagle Rock. You won't be disappointed here. Call 417-847-2507 to preview this property before auction day and learn how to get qualified to bid on this fantastic property. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers, or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals, or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material. **No debit or credit cards.**

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