

# Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library comes to Cassville, Exeter



Shown above, left to right, Kiley Stringer (with daughter, Adley), Teresa Phillips (with granddaughter, Regan) and Tori Phillips (with daughter, Kennedy) are instrumental in bringing Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to children ages 5 and younger who live in Cassville and Exeter.

## Many residents unaware of earned income tax credit

Ezra DeVore

“Few people who are eligible for it know about it,” said Karla Deaver, in reference to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Deaver is the County Engagement Specialist for Extension: a community focused program designed to equip Barry County citizens with research-based information affiliated with the University of Missouri.

Currently, Extension is unfolding a statewide project to assist low-income families by offering insight into the system of how one’s taxes are processed, specifically pertaining to one key point: the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). According to Deaver, only 20 percent of all eligible applicants, nationwide, actually apply for the tax credit, even though these are funds that American taxpayers are entitled to, and eligible for.

This shortage of applicants has led to a total of \$300 million “just sitting there - unused,” said Deaver.

However, she says, this is far from the average tax-payer’s fault.

“If they’re doing their own taxes, they might not know,” she said.

“There are few tax credits here that one doesn’t have to pay in, in order to get money back,” continued Deaver. “This is based on income.”

Deaver gave an example of how the tax credit works for an average family: a married couple with three children and a household income of \$37,500, she says, could be eligible for a refundable tax credit of approximately \$3,000. The family’s owed taxes would be \$1,238, and their tax refund would be \$1,762.

“Not only would [the tax credit] help those individual families, but it can help local communities. That money’s then going to be turned over to the community for groceries, and everything a family has to do to live day to day. That money is spent in the local economy.”

Another contributing element to the tax credit not being applied for is the existence of a language barrier, according to Deaver. “Also,” she said, “there are a large number of families with foster children. It can be difficult to claim some of these

Sheila Harris

Thanks to the efforts of Teresa Phillips, of Exeter, and Community Faith Chapel in Cassville, there’s soon to be a new library in town for children ages birth through age five.

“I read about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library on Facebook,” Phillips said, “but when I went online to see if my granddaughters were eligible for the free, monthly book program, I discovered that nobody in Barry County was eligible.”

In fact, according to Phillips, very few children in southwest Missouri are eligible, except for some in Greene, Stone and Taney Counties, where the Imagination Library is championed by public libraries, schools, and United Way.

“A 501c3 umbrella is necessary for the library to operate,” said Phillips, “because donor support is required in order to provide the books to children at no cost to their families.”

The Imagination Library is designed to inspire a love for reading in kids, and was created 20 years ago by Dolly Parton in honor of her father, who, in spite of being intelligent and a hard worker, had never learned to read nor write.

Parton first initiated the program in her home county of Sevier in Tennessee, but it has since expanded around the world and serves over one million children.

Dolly Parton believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything and be anything. Through the Imagination Library, her hope is to ensure that all children have books in their homes, regardless of the environment in which they live.

The Imagination Library partners with local communities to provide a free, high-quality book each month to registered children from birth to age five. The books are hand-selected by a committee of early childhood experts to be age-appropriate and align with the child’s developmental needs.

Phillips likes the fact that books are addressed and mailed to each child.

“It gives them something

See **LIBRARY 3A**

## First Day Hikes scheduled at Roaring River, Big Sugar Creek

Sheila Harris

First Day Hikes are scheduled for January 1 at Roaring River State Park and Big Sugar Creek State Park.

The three-mile hike at Big Sugar Creek will begin at 9 a.m. at the Ozark Chinquapin trailhead and continue through noon on the Ozark Chinquapin Trail. Waterproof boots are recommended.

The hike at Roaring River State Park is scheduled for 1 - 4 p.m. on the Eagle’s Nest Trail. Hikers can expect to see a small cave, a spring and excellent views of Roaring River. Expect steep and muddy sections of trail; waterproof boots are recommended. The trailhead is located in Campground 2 behind Campsite 94.

This hikes are free and open to the public. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

According to Roaring River State Park’s Facebook page, registration is required. Hikers may register through the following link: <https://icampmo1.usedirect.com/MSPWeb/Activities/Search.aspx>.

For more information, call the Ozark Chinquapin Nature Center at 417-847-3742.

## New Fire Chief Named in Exeter

Ezra DeVore & Sheila Harris

The Exeter Fire Protection District announced that Donnie Chadd, of Exeter, will fill the position of Exeter Fire Chief after the passing of long-time chief, Jimmie Matthew, on December 4.

Matthew had served the district since 1967, with over 15 years spent as chief.

Chadd expresses the desire to “help where I can.”

Chad has been with Exeter Fire Protection District for 35 years, and has served as Assistant Fire Chief for the last 17.

As Fire Chief, Chadd is ready to “focus on more training, to keep guys fit and ready to go.”



Donnie Chadd

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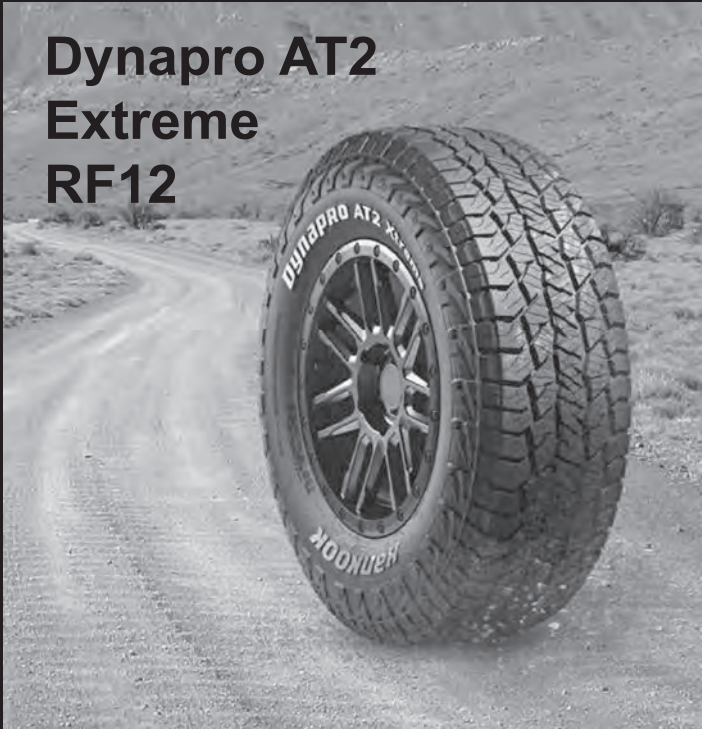
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Cox Monett welcomes new surgeon



Dr. Ali Amro

Cox Monett Hospital is pleased to welcome board-certified general surgeon Dr. Ali Amro to its medical team. Dr. Amro will serve patients at Cox Monett through a wide variety of general sur-

gical procedures. "I decided to join Cox-Health because I will be able to work broadly and use my skills to their utmost potential," says Dr. Amro. "I thought it would be an enjoyable and challenging work environment working at both facilities." Originally from Lebanon, Dr. Amro attended medical school in his home country, then came to the United States to complete his general surgery residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He went on to complete a surgical critical care fellowship at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago, Ill., where he was further able to enhance his skills in taking

care of critically ill patients. "I became a physician because I find it very rewarding to help people," he says. "I wanted to do something that utilized both technical skills and knowledge to provide the best outcome for the patient." Dr. Amro, who recently moved to Monett, is seeing patients at CoxHealth Surgery Monett, located inside the CoxHealth Monett Clinic, 1000 E. Hwy. 60 in Monett. He said he finds the people here to be very friendly and the design of the new Cox Monett hospital to be phenomenal. He credits the design team for making the layout of the facility very conducive to getting from

the clinic to the Surgery Department very quickly. "I want to make a difference in the lives of my patients, and I feel that I have an opportunity to do that here," he said. "I plan to serve the people of this community to the best of my abilities." In addition to his duties at Cox Monett, Dr. Amro serves as a trauma physician at Cox South when needed. In his spare time, Dr. Amro is a big science-fiction fan who loves to read books and watch movies in that genre. He also enjoys hiking and being outdoors. To learn more, click here or call 417-236-2440.

Motorcycle driver escapes injury in crash



A motorcyclist's passenger suffered serious injuries in a Christmas day accident. Submitted photo.

According to a Missouri Highway Patrol report, William D. Burch (50), of Purdy, escaped injury after his 2020 Indian Challenger motorcycle left the right side of Farm Road 1095, one mile south of Purdy, and overturned. The accident happened December 25 at 11:30 a.m. A 52-year-old female passenger, Joni Moore, also of Purdy, suffered serious inju-

ries in the accident and was taken by ambulance to Cox South Hospital in Springfield. Neither the driver nor the passenger was wearing a safety device. The motorcycle suffered minor damage and driven from the seat. The accident was investigated by Trooper T. M. Royster.

LIBRARY from FRONT

to look forward to and get excited about every month," she said. The Dollywood Foundation covers program overheads by providing the custom-built Book Order System and coordinating the book selection, procurement and fulfillment processes. In addition, the Dollywood Foundation purchases high-quality, customized books at scale, significantly reducing cost. Funders and local partners are then asked to cover the at-cost book and mailing expenses for children registered in their area. This approach and model helped the Imagination Library receive a "Best Practice Award" from the U.S. Library of Congress for addressing social barriers to literacy.

Phillips said, due to the efforts required to solicit local funding and due to the limited amount of time she has, she initially thought to institute the program only for children within the zip code of her hometown of Exeter. However, because the program requires a 501c3 umbrella, which was kindly provided by Pastor Rick Cooper and her home congregation of Faith Community Chapel in Cassville, she and fellow organizers are opting to also offer the program to children within Cassville's zip code. The program is scheduled to launch in Cassville and Exeter on January 4, with online registration available at that time at imaginationlibrary.com.

Phillips said. "They'll represent books that children will receive across the birth to age five spectrum." Phillips says a monthly book will be received by a child about six to eight weeks after registration. Phillips will be looking for sponsors for The Imagination Library in the Cassville and Exeter areas and beyond. According to her research, there are currently 714 children age five and under within the Cassville zip code and 119 within the Exeter mailing area. The Dollywood Foundation estimates that about 60 percent of the children in areas where the library is available will become registered, and the es-

timated cost of the program is \$25 per year, per child who is registered. Individuals or businesses may donate through the Imagination Library's website at imaginationlibrary.com and selecting the affiliate's code: MO-MOEXETERCASSVILLE. More information can be found on Facebook at Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - Cassville/Exeter, MO, or by emailing ECDPIL@yahoo.com. Phillips says she's also open to assistance from any volunteers in the community who would like to help get this program off the ground for area children.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly stated in the photo caption of the Cassville Chamber's ribbon-cutting hosted by Xtreme GraphiX that Stephanie Parsons is the stepmother of Remington Taylor. She is, in fact, his mother-in-law. Remington and Macey Taylor own Xtreme GraphiX and Window Tinting. In ad-

dition to printing a wide variety of products, they tint commercial and vehicle windows. Parsons owns Quick Draw Custom Graphics and does all the graphic design and printing. The business is located at 701 Mill Street in Cassville.

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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:

**Barry County Court House and Judicial Center** will be closed Friday, December 31, 2021, for New Year's.

**Important message from the Barry County Collector's office:** **Barry County Courthouse** will be closed Friday, December 31, 2021. The Barry County Collector office will remain open for TAX PAYMENTS ONLY. The Collector's Office is unable to make any changes or corrections, therefore, please plan to contact the Assessor's office in order to request any changes or corrections prior to December 31. Penalties will begin January 1, 2022. Payments can also be made by mail and online at barrycountrycollector.com. Please call Collector's office at (417) 847-2113 if you have any questions.

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

**The Missouri State Highway Patrol** would like to remind the public that driver examination stations throughout the state will be closed Friday, December 31, 2021, in observance of New Year's Day.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**OATS Transit** is open for regular transportation service. To schedule a ride or find out about service, call the OATS Transit office at (417) 887-9272 or (800) 770-6287.

**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.

**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).

**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.

## Dec 31

**The Stella Senior Center** will host a New Years Dance with music by The Moccasin Bend Band. Guests are asked to bring finger food to share. For more information, call (417) 628-3314 or (617) 640-6742.

## Jan 2nd

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

## 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".

## School Menus: Jan 3 - Jan 7

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

**Cassville R-IV High School:** Mon: No School. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, tropical fruit or cereal, banana muffin, peaches. L: pizza or cheeseburger, potato wedge, corn, peaches or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, rice Krispy Treat, apple. L: chicken & noodles or country steak, potatoes, gravy, green beans, hot roll, applesauce or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, hashbrown, pears or cereal, granola bars, orange. L: chicken sandwich or burrito, nachos, pinto beans, fruit cocktail or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: spaghetti or alfredo, cheese stick, carrots, bread stick, juice or salad meal.

**Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle:** Mon: No School. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, strawberries or cereal, Teddy Grahams, applesauce. L: pizza or crispito, corn, pinto beans, fruit cocktail. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, toast, peaches or cereal, graham crackers, fruit cocktail. L: hamburger or hot dog, tater tots, green beans, peaches. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, orange or cereal, rice krispy treat, apple. L: chicken sandwich or ham sandwich, Sun Chips, carrots, applesauce. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, Go-Gurt, pears. L: beef burrito or quesadilla, nachos, refried beans, pears.

**Purdy R-II Schools:** Mon: B: egg & cheese biscuit, fruit. L: chicken noodle soup, 3-cheese grilled chesse, vegetables, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: Frito pie, corn, fruit, chocolate chip cookie. Wed: B: pancake & sausage on a stick, fruit. L: chicken tenders, waffles, hash brown patty, vegetables, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast tornado, fruit. L: cheese quesadilla, refried beans, fruit. Fri: B: cinnamon crunch parfait, blueberry muffin, fruit. L: hamburger on ww bun, lettuce, tomato, Sun Chips, vegetables, fruit.

**Southwest Schools:** Mon: B: breakfast sausage pizza, pears, juice. L: corn dog, macaroni & cheese, peas & carrots, rosy applesauce. Tues: B: cereal bar, mozzarella cheese stick, peaches, juice. L: burrito, salsa, nacho cheese and chips, fiesta corn, tropical fruit. Wed: B: french toast sticks, pineapple, juice. L: chichen nuggets, green beans, breadstick, peaches. Thurs: B: breakfast crispitos, salsa, pears, juice. L: spaghetti, breadstick, tossed salad, ranch dressing, pears. Fri: B: ham & hashbrown sandwich, tropical fruit, juice. L: hot dog, baked beans, carrots, ranch dressing, pineapple.



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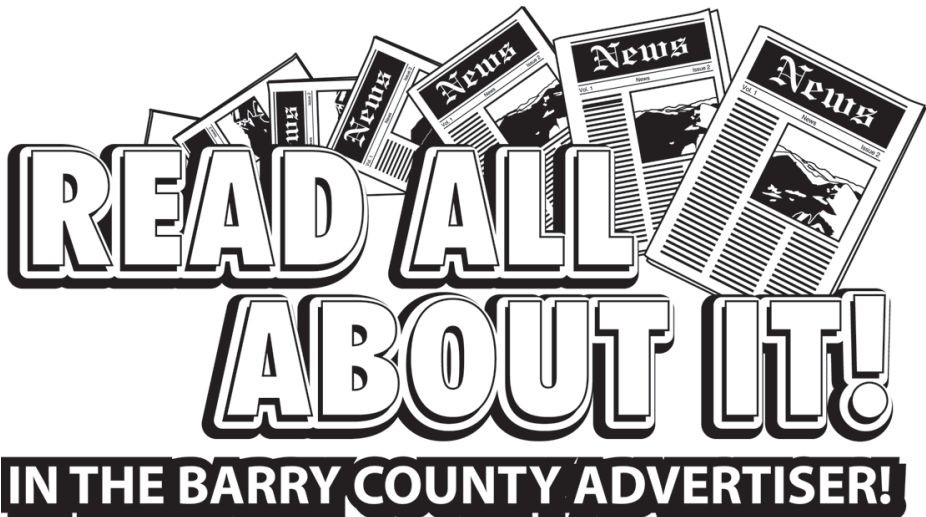
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## IN THE BARRY COUNTY ADVERTISER!





## Fitzpatrick instrumental in housing tax credit reforms

Missouri State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick today announced that because of reforms he championed with other members of the Missouri Housing Development Commission, the efficiency of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC) improved significantly when compared to last year. Because of these reforms, the value of the credits continues to increase which is resulting in more low-income housing being built with no increase in state spending.

The average price per tax credit with standard pricing improved to \$0.634 this year versus \$0.58 last year, an increase of more than \$0.05. For the first time in the history of the LIHTC program all projects which received an award included pricing of state tax credits of at least \$0.60. Additionally, under the accelerated redemption program some credits were priced over \$0.70 for the first time ever.

“Over the past three years I have worked alongside the other members of the commission to improve the efficiency and transparency of the LIHTC program and it is great to see the impact of this work,” Treasurer Fitzpatrick said. “Increasing competition for credits, like any marketplace, drives the efficiency of the program up. The accelerated redemption model I championed has no doubt led to increased com-

petition for these tax credits and I am gratified to see the first significant price increase in years. I remain committed to protecting Missouri tax dollars and maximizing their impact.” At yesterday’s MHDC meeting, the Commission voted to approve the Rental Production Recommendations for Funding.

In September, the Commission unanimously expanded the availability of accelerated redemption for LIHTC to up to 50 percent of state LIHTC, an increase from 20 percent of total projects in the 2020 pilot program. This expansion followed the recommendation of a study committee, chaired by Treasurer Fitzpatrick, which evaluated the impact of accelerated redemption on pricing for LIHTC. The committee found accelerated redemption increased the value of state LIHTC over \$0.10 per tax credit dollar from the 2017 standard pricing, representing an increase of 18 percent.

MHDC was created by the General Assembly in 1969 and administers and provides financing for the construction of affordable housing in the state.

## Winner drawn for final week of “Tis The Season To Be Giving” contest



Above, Jennifer Jackson, assistant manager of Arvest Bank, Cassville, drew the winner of the final week of the “Tis the Season to be Giving” contest.

Chris Moore (right), of Purdy, was the lucky recipient of a stocking-themed basket full of goodies, just in time for Christmas.

Thank you to our gift basket sponsors: First State Bank of Purdy, Security Bank of Southwest Missouri, CS Bank, and Arvest Bank, as well as our participants for their entries in our final contest of the year.

See you next year!



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# Medical marijuana sales reach \$200 million in Missouri

Fourteen months after the first sale to a qualified patient occurred in a Missouri medical marijuana dispensary, the total sales as part of the state-regulated medical marijuana program reached the \$200 million mark.

Facilities began receiving licensing and certification from the Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation within the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) two years ago this week, and they began receiving their approval to operate following the commencement inspection process in June 2020.

More than 300 facilities are now operating in Missouri as cultivators, manufacturers, dispensaries, testing laboratories, transporters and seed to sale providers.

“Nearly every facility who was part of the initial round of licensing is now up and running and providing beneficial products and service to the patients of Missouri,” said Lyndall Fraker, Director of the Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation. “We are proud of the tenacity shown by both our regulatory team and all of the facility operators who were able

to clear so many hurdles that COVID-19 presented during a critical time.”

DHSS is charged with providing safe and secure access to medical marijuana for qualifying Missouri patients. 158,169 qualified patients and 3,283 caregivers are currently active in Missouri’s program.

Including Missouri, 21 states have implemented medical marijuana laws since 2005. The national average for implementation is 29 months, and Missouri was able to implement its medical program in just over 23 months. Only five states implemented medical programs faster than Missouri (Pennsylvania, New York, Utah, Minnesota and Oklahoma).

More information about Missouri’s medical marijuana regulatory program can be found at [medicalmarijuana.mo.gov](http://medicalmarijuana.mo.gov).

# MSHP Reports Eight Traffic Fatalities Over Christmas Holiday Weekend

Colonel Eric T. Olson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, provides the following preliminary statistics related to the Christmas holiday weekend:

Eight people died in traffic crashes during the 78-hour counting period, which began at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 23, 2021, and ended at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 26, 2021.

**2021 Christmas Holiday Traffic Statistics**

Troopers investigated the following:

- Traffic Crashes: 310
- Traffic Crash Injuries: 92
- Traffic Crash Fatalities: 4
- DWI: 67

[Note: Last year during the 78-hour Christmas counting period, there were 746 traffic crashes statewide. In those crashes, 10 people were killed and another 10 were injured. During the 2020 Christmas holiday, troopers investigated 307 traffic crashes which included all 10 fatalities and 86 injuries. Troopers arrested 62 people for driving while impaired in 2020.]

There were no boating crashes or drownings over the 2021 Christmas holiday counting period.

Of the four fatality traffic crashes investigated by troopers, two occurred in the Troop C, Weldon Spring area, and two occurred in the Troop F, Jefferson City area. The remaining four fatalities were investigated by Kansas City Police Department, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Overland Police Department and Wentzville Police Department.

There were no traffic fatalities on Thursday, December 23, during the holiday counting period.

There were five traffic fatalities on Friday, December 24.

- Zachary M. Sutton, 32, of De Soto, died when the vehicle he was operating crossed the center line and struck a pickup truck head-on. Sutton was wearing his seat belt at the time of the crash. The crash occurred on Missouri Highway 28, one mile west of Missouri Route A in Osage County. Osage County Coroner A.J. Probst pronounced Sutton deceased at the scene. The driver of the pickup truck sustained moderate injuries in the crash. He was wearing a seat belt.
- Kenneth H. Mustain, 57, of Camdenton, died when the ATV he was operating traveled off the right side of the roadway and overturned. Mustain was ejected from the ATV. The crash occurred on

Greenview Drive near Hermit Holler in Camden County. Dr. Barnes pronounced Mustain deceased at University of Missouri Hospital. Camden County Sheriff’s Department assisted at the scene.

- Cesar Estrada-Lopez, 18, of Bridgeton, died when the motorcycle he was operating struck the rear of a vehicle and he was ejected onto the highway. A third vehicle swerved to avoid striking the motorcycle and struck Estrada-Lopez. Estrada-Lopez was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. The crash occurred on Interstate 70 west of North Lindbergh Boulevard in St. Louis County. Dr. Schwartz pronounced Estrada-Lopez deceased at SSM Health DePaul Hospital. Neither of the other two drivers involved in the crash were injured. They were both wearing a seat belt.
- Zachary M. Ward, 28, of Kansas City, died when he lost control of the vehicle he was driving while taking an exit. The vehicle struck a guardrail, went off the roadway, traveled down an embankment, and overturned multiple times. Ward was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected. The crash occurred at the exit for Shoal Creek Parkway on U.S. Highway 169 in Clay County. Officers with the Kansas City Police Department handled the investigation.
- A pedestrian was struck and killed in the vicinity of West Florissant and Thrush Avenue in St. Louis. Officers with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department are investigating. No further details are available.

There were two traffic fatalities on Christmas Day, December 25.

- A pedestrian was struck and killed at Midland Boulevard and Woodson Road in St. Louis County. Officers with the Overland Police Department are investigating. No further details are available.
- A fatal crash involving a motorcycle occurred on David Hoekel Parkway over Interstate 70 in St. Charles County. Officers from the Wentzville Police Department are investigating. No further details are available.

There was one traffic fatality on Sunday, December 26.

- Amy L. Veit, 37, of Lonedell, died when her vehicle traveled partially off the right side of the roadway and she over-corrected. Her vehicle began skidding, traveled across the center of the roadway and rotated counterclockwise, striking the front of another vehicle. Veit was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash. The crash occurred on Missouri Route H east of Dry Creek Road in Jefferson County. Valle Ambulance District personnel pronounced Veit deceased at the scene. The driver and a passenger in the other vehicle sustained minor injuries. They were wearing their seat belts.

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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 6:00 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. 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.





County Clerk

13c

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UNRESTRICTED LOT NEAR THE LAKE Just under an acre m/l within walking distance to the lake. #60205141 **\$34,500**

CAMPING OR BUILDING LOT Walk to Table Rock or a short drive to Roaring River. #60205227 **\$24,500**

COZY 2 BEDROOM IN EXETER Refinished hardwood floors, covered front porch, oversized 1 car garage and a big back yard. Should qualify for 100% financing. #60199935 **PENDING \$99,900**

VISIBLE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Right on Main Street. Former auto garage with 3 bays and office on over ¾ of an acres m/l. #60172378 **\$240,000**

LARGE COUNTRY HOME ON SMALL ACREAGE This 4 BR, 2 BA w/ basement sits on over 4 acres m/l. 2 stall horse barn. Newer roof, lower level 3 car garage. Neat as a pin! #60204247 **SOLD \$399,900**

WOODED OZARKS HUNTING GROUND 80 acres m/l borders National Forest on 2 sides. Wet weather creek. Very secluded! #60202600 **PENDING \$160,000**

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BARRY COUNTY FARM 3 BR all brick home sitting on 80 acres m/l open pasture. 40x48 workshop and a large pond. #60194954 **\$689,900**

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COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LAND 15 acres m/l of commercial ground w/ Hwy 37 frontage. #60175371 **\$581,900**

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL Almost 11 acres m/l in the heart of Cassville. City water and sewer available. Zoned residential. #60175057 **\$119,900**

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SECLUDED ACREAGE Almost 15 acres m/l close to town. Large pond and creek. Shared well. #60170778 **\$82,500**

EXCELLENT HWY FRONTAGE Great visibility for your business on this 2.3 ac. m/l. City utilities. #60133297 **\$57,900**



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Omicron variant rising quickly throughout Missouri

According to a press release from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, more than half of community sewer-shed samples tested from the week of Dec. 20 showed presence of the Omicron variant. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) continues to partner with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the University of Missouri – Columbia, wastewater operators, and others to monitor COVID-19 trends by testing wastewater in communities throughout the state. For nearly a year, this team has been testing wastewater samples to look for the presence of variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Sequencing tests identified the first presence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) from two sets of sewer-shed samples collected on Dec. 7-8 in Jackson County and Buchanan County. In both wastewater systems, COVID-19 viral strands were identified as having mutations associated with Omicron which indicated that the Omicron variant virus is likely present among the population in these sewer-shed areas.

As a result of expanded testing the week of Dec. 20, 32 of 57 samples had muta-

tions associated with Omicron variant. Those locations included: three Kansas City facilities (Blue River, Westside, and Birmingham), seven St. Louis facilities (Lemay, Grand Glaize, Coldwater Creek, Bissell Point, Fenton, Lower Meramec, and Missouri River), five St. Charles County facilities (St. Peters Spencer Creek, Duckett Creek Sewer District WWTF #1, Duckett Creek Sewer District WWTF #2, O'Fallon, and Wentzville), Branson (Cooper Creek and Compton Drive), Springfield Northwest, Interim Saline Creek Regional, Troy Southeast, Farmington East, Perryville Southeast, Columbia, St. Joseph, Atherton, Cape Girardeau, Nixa, West Plains, Washington, Oak Grove, Festus - Crystal City and Joplin Turkey Creek.

“Our robust program for monitoring COVID-19 through sewer-shed sampling provides us with reliable information regarding the presence of the virus and its variants,” said Donald Kauerauf, DHSS Director. “The existence of the Omicron variant is becoming much more prevalent each week, making the actions of COVID-19 individual testing, vaccination and other mitigation measures more important as we already face the threat of the

Delta variant and an increase in flu cases.”

DHSS continues to recommend that residents follow prevention strategies such as wearing a mask in public indoor settings, frequent handwashing and maintaining physical distance from others.

“Gatherings are continuing during this holiday season, and I highly encourage testing before and after these events and any travels to help limit any unintended spread of the virus,” said Kauerauf. “If you’re not feeling well, stay home and don’t risk getting your loved ones sick. It is important for individuals to plan ahead when identifying a location and advance timing needed to get tested, as there is a growing demand for these services.”

Public health experts worldwide are working

quickly to learn more about the Omicron variant and how it may impact the health and safety of citizens. The disease severity caused by Omicron is still unknown. Scientists are also studying the degree to which existing vaccines and therapies protect against Omicron.

The sequencing testing results are updated weekly and displayed in the COVID-19 sewer-shed surveillance StoryMap. The online storymap will be updated on Dec. 28 with the most recent variant data.

DHSS will continue to work with public health partners to monitor for an increase in the Omicron variant, as well as trends in other variants. To learn more about Missouri’s variant monitoring efforts, visit Health.Mo.Gov.

Everyone five years and

older is highly encouraged to protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated (and boosted if age 16 and older). Missourians should also take the opportunity to get their annual influenza vaccination as part of their risk reduction activities to protect themselves and others from seasonal respiratory illness.

Travelers to the U.S. should continue to follow CDC recommendations for safe traveling. Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines in Missouri at MOStopsCovid.com.

**How Missourians can get a free COVID-19 vaccine:**

- Check for vaccine appointments at Vaccines.gov, where you can search for availability by vaccine type (e.g., Pfizer).
- Call the CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine hotline at 1-800-232-0233 (or TTY 1-888-720-

7489). Help is available in multiple languages.

- Locate local vaccination events in Missouri at MOStopsCovid.com.

Seniors and homebound adults can make arrangements using information at MOStopsCovid.com/seniors

**Missouri DHSS COVID-19 Public Hotline**

- 1-877-435-8411, Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**How Missourians can get a free COVID-19 test:**

- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a test at one of the state’s free community testing sites: COVID-19 Community Testing Sites.
- Order a test through the state’s free at-home COVID-19 testing program.
- Find a free testing option near you through the federal pharmacy locations.



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Board of Education  
Cassville R-IV School District  
Cassville, Missouri

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the basic financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Cassville R-IV School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

**Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Cassville R-IV School District as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended, in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

**Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

**Disclaimer of Opinion on Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The data contained under "Other Financial Information," which is the responsibility of management, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**Other Financial Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The data contained under "Other Financial Information," which is the responsibility of management, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards:**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 28, 2021, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

You can find these documents on the Cassville School website under the "District" tab for you inspection and examination.

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60189951 - PLENTY OF WILDLIFE AND TIMBER on 157 acres m/l National Forest joining property.  
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CMS Seventh Graders Take Second in Big 8



The Cassville Middle School seventh grade girls basketball team finished in second place in the Big 8 Conference after a loss to McDonald County, 33-23.

"We played our hearts out and left everything on the floor. We could not be more proud of them for how much they improved over the year. Our record on the year was 12-3," stated Coach Lindsey Halterman.

Shown above, left to right, in the front row are Kami Stough, Tomi Blankenship, Brynn Whittenburg, Gracie Maher; back row: Coach Lindsey Halterman, Alexis Lopez, Audrey Kennedy, Taylor Kennedy, Katie Tucker, Keely Bailey, and Avery Stokes.

October Students of The Month  
at Cassville Intermediate School

exemplifying "Integrity"



Third Grade students, left to right, in the front row are: Camilla Farjat Canales, Treasury Vang, Harper Kloss, Gabby Connor and Madisyn Phillips; back row: Henry Moss, Bill Davis, Isabell Huffman, Coraline Hickman, Liset Ibarra and John Godsey; Kannin McCormack is absent from the photo.



Fourth Grade students, left to right, in the front row are: Ivan Ortega, Dawt Par, Kinley Humphrey, Veronica Buttrum, Calypso Holyt and Nathan Lyons; back row: William Ray, Garron Tanner, Hudson Jack, Jaxon Anderson and Elijah Beall; Gavin Craft is absent from the photo.



Fifth Grade students, left to right, in the front row are: Anahi Hernandez, Khloe Westpheling, Makiah Colf, and Lexie Meltabarger; back row: Sostenes Flores, Kayden Campbell, Jonah Cupps, Waylon Austin and Jewels Oakley; Mathew Miller, Mat Sanders and Jack Chappell are absent from the photo.

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**ROBERT V. "BOB" SCOTT**  
Robert V. "Bob" Scott, age 91, of Seligman, passed away Monday, December 20, 2021, at Aurora Nursing Center in Aurora.  
He was born on March 14, 1930, in Mantee, Mississippi, the son of Lonnie D. and Zona (Dura) Scott. On March 15, 1953, in Oak Grove, he was united in marriage to Betty Dewitt, who preceded him in death on July 13, 2017. Also preceding him in death were his parents and nine siblings.  
Surviving are three daughters, Dr. Shari Thompson, of Marshall, Regina Scott, of Columbia, and Johnna Beitler, of Springfield; one brother, Harold Scott and his wife, Charlotte, of Meridian, Mississippi; one grandchild, Tiffany Quashie; and two great-grandchildren, Julius and Ashanti.  
Bob graduated from Cumberland High School in Webster County, Mississippi. After high school, he attended Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi,

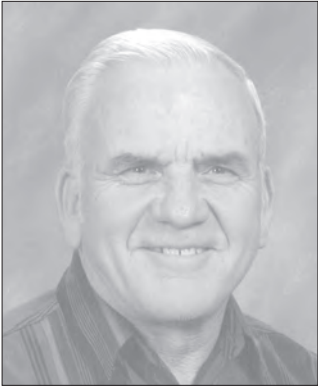
and was awarded a degree. Bob was in the ministry for 61 years, the majority of which was spent ministering in Southern Barry County. After his retirement as pastor of Seligman First Baptist Church, he attended Victory Baptist Church in Cassville. He enjoyed being with people, spending time outdoors and taking care of his horses and cattle. Traveling with his wife, spending time with his friends and family is what he loved to do.  
Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, December 31, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Randy Comer will conduct the services. Burial will be at King Cemetery in Seligman.  
The family will receive friends from 10:00 A.M. until service time at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.  
Contributions may be made to King Cemetery in memory of Bob.  
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**MICHAEL TODD PACE**  
Michael Todd Pace, age 50, of Carthage, departed from this life to be with his Lord and Savior December 17, 2021. He passed at Freeman Hospital due to complications from liver failure.  
Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at Saint Paul's

**OBITUARIES**  
United Methodist Church in Joplin under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Britton Fields will conduct the services.  
The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 P.M. Tuesday at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Joplin.  
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**DOROTHY LOUISE DAVIS**  
Dorothy Louise Davis, age 95, of Springfield, passed away on December 5, 2021, at Springfield Rehabilitation and Healthcare. Dorothy was born in Fairfax, Okla., to Edward Fincher and Dorothy Ellen (Prall) Fincher on November 27, 1926.  
Dorothy graduated from Fairfax High School. She went on to become a social worker for the Missouri Division of Family Services in Barry County as the director of volunteer services. She was instrumental in establishing and managing Share Your Christmas. Dorothy was voted Woman of the Year by Beta Sigma Phi service sorority for contributions to the Cassville community. She was active in her service to the United Methodist Church. She was an avid golfer and loved to play bridge.  
Dorothy married William Dale Davis in 1945. Dorothy is survived by their

three children, son Terry Davis and wife, Sue, of Sand Springs, Okla., daughter Nancy Burgess and husband, Paul, of Springfield, and son Mark Davis and wife, Jan, of Emerald Beach. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Sarah, Bekah, Laura, Stephen, and Katie. She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Mila, Hannah, Reilly, Hadley, Eli, Steven, and Kristen.  
Dorothy "Dottie" will be missed by all who knew and loved her. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Ozarks Food Harvest, 2810 N. Cedarbrook Ave., Springfield, MO 65803.  
A memorial service will be held at a later date. We wish to give special thanks to Springfield Rehabilitation and Healthcare and Seasons Hospice for the loving care provided to our mom.



**GERALD "JERRY" BLAKLEY**  
Gerald "Jerry" Blakley, age 75, of Purdy, passed away at his home on Monday, December 27, 2021. Mr. Blakley, son of Howard and Mildred (Yarnall) Blakley, was born on August 4, 1946, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Subsequent to graduating high school, Jerry enlisted in the United States Navy, serving his country proudly for two years. On July 2, 2003, he was united in marriage to Sue Woodruff in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Jerry owned and operated C & L Custom Cabinets in Purdy,

making cabinets and several lasting friendships. He never met a stranger and enjoyed talking to anyone who would listen. Jerry was very proud of his children and grandchildren and was always very interested in their accomplishments and what was going on in their lives. Some of his favorite pastimes include woodworking, watching the Game Show Network, especially Wheel of Fortune, and spending time with his dog, Sprinkles. Jerry was a member of the Purdy Lions Club.  
Survivors include his loving wife, Sue Blakley, of Purdy; his children, Steve Blakley and his wife, Staci, of Rolla, Donna Root and her husband, Jamie, of Bolivar, Melissa Brattin and her husband, Jeff, and Heather VanNote and her husband, J.R., all of Purdy, and Jeremy Rupp and his wife, Jessie, of Monett; fifteen grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one sister, Barbara Maddox, of Dayton, Nevada.  
Jerry was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at the White Funeral Home and Crematory.  
A private burial will be held at a later date at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.  
Service and cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

W

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and Crematory  
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**JEROMY ALLAN PENNY**  
Jeromy Allan Penny, age 34, of Cassville, passed away Saturday, December 25,

2021, at his home.  
He was born February 16, 1987, in Rogers, Arkansas, the son of Shane and Teresa (Oxford) Penny.  
Surviving are his father, Shane Penny, of Pea Ridge, Arkansas; his mother, Teresa Fly and her husband, Jack, of Washburn; two sons, Zaine Penny, of Booneville, Arkansas, and Ascher Penny, of Booneville, Arkansas; two daughters, Frankie Penny, of Booneville, Arkansas, and Alia Penny, of Booneville, Arkansas; four brothers, Jacob Penny and his fiancée, Kayla, and his niece, Brynnleigh, of Cassville, Zachary Wubker and his fiancée, Jessica, of Exeter, Dustin Wubker, of Aurora, and Bradley Daniels, of Seligman; four sisters, Lindsey Hare and her husband, Andrew, of Cassville, Alisha Aldridge and her husband, Jason, of Cassville, Kaylee Mitchell and her husband, Ryan, of Seligman, and Kinzie Mathews and her husband, Eric, of Neosho; and the mother of his children, Tabitha Gregory, of Waldron, Arkansas.

Jeromy attended Southwest High School in Washburn. After school, he worked several jobs before starting his family. His favorite pastime was working on his Mustang. He loved hanging out with his brother, Jake, and sissy, Lindsey. He was of the Baptist faith.  
Graveside services will be held at 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at Hickman Cemetery in Washburn under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Kevin Miller will conduct the services.  
*Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.*  
**FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141**  
**JO ANN JONES THOMAS**  
Jo Ann Jones Thomas, age 87, of Monett, passed away December 24, 2021. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

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Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm  
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JAN 6: Smothered pork chops, buttered noodles, Italian veggies, hot roll, apple cobbler  
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• Evening Service 6:00 pm  
• Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm  
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417-847-4165





**FRANCES MARIE TAYLOR**

Frances Marie Taylor, age 70, of Cassville, passed away Saturday, December 25, 2021, at her home.

She was born December 20, 1951, in Rogers, Arkansas, the daughter of Willis H. and Nancy I. (Evans) Edmonson. On January 27, 1989, in Butterfield, she was united in marriage to Gerald “Dusty” Taylor, who preceded her in death on July 12, 2003. Also preceding her in death were her parents; one grandson, Dillon Mayes; and one sister, Bernice Burnett.

Surviving are three daughters, Angela Block and her husband, Nathan, of Cassville, April Mayes, of Cassville, and Amanda Allen, of Cassville; one brother, Willie Edmonson and his wife, Dana, of Anderson; one sister, Irene Dalton and her husband, Edward, of Washburn; nine grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Frances graduated from Cassville High School in 1968. In 1973, she attended Draughon Business College in Springfield where she attained an Associate Degree.

She held several different jobs before owning and operating The Possum House. She enjoyed going fishing and loved all things western, especially John Wayne and horses, but her family and grandchildren were what she loved the most.

Services will be held at 3:00 P.M. Friday, December 31, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the services. Burial will be at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 P.M. until service time Friday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in memory of Frances.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
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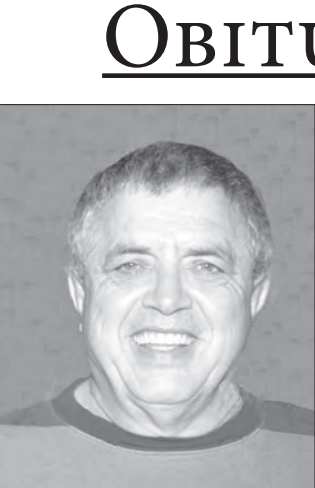
**BONNIE HIGHBARGER**

Bonnie Highbarger, age 83, of Exeter, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 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.*

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
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**JOE ROBERT CANTRELL**

Joe Robert Cantrell, age 84, of Springfield, passed away Monday, December 27, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was born on September 5, 1937, in Exeter, the son of Delmar “Doc” and Verna (Jones) Cantrell. On May 16, 1969, in Cassville, he was united in marriage to Judy Bullard, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Chad Cantrell and his wife, Jennifer, of Denmark; one daughter, Linda Daugherty and her husband, Jeff, of Nixa; one sister, Marlee Callaway, of Exeter; five grandchildren, Samuel Cantrell, Sarah Cantrell, Jessica Sterling and her husband, Jason, Kayla Daugherty, and Luke Daugherty; and four great-grandchildren: Garrett Sterling, Colton Sterling, Ryder Sterling and River Leigh Honeycutt.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one son, Jeff Cantrell; and one sister, Mary Catherine Thomas.

Joe grew up and received his education in Exeter, graduating from Exeter High School. He was employed by Zenith Electronics Corporation in Springfield and later at Missouri State University as a vending machine mechanic from where he retired in 1997. He was a great neighbor who never knew a stranger. He enjoyed helping people and could repair any kind of machine that required an expert mechanic. He loved southwest Missouri, but most of all he loved his family and extended family. He was a beloved son, husband, brother, uncle, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend whose presence will be missed greatly. He was a member of Dayspring Church in Springfield.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, December 30, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Steve Wilson will conduct the services. The burial will be at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

Contributions may be made to Dayspring Church in memory of Joe Cantrell.

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

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

**BARBARA J. ALLEN**

Barbara J. Allen, Age 74, of Cassville, passed away Monday, December, 27,

2021. No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home & Crematory, Cassville.

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*and Crematory*  
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**ADDIE LUETTA LESHNER**

Addie Luetta Leshner, age 85, of Stella, passed away Monday, December 20, 2021, at Medicalodges Neosho in Neosho.

Graveside services will be at 1:00 P.M. Monday, January 3, 2022, at Dice Cemetery in Fairview under direction of McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Reverend Billy Joe Gentry will conduct the services.

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

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**MARILYN JEAN LONG**

Marilyn Jean Long, 79, of Monett, passed away December 27, 2021.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021, at the Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 30, 2021, at the funeral home.

**JUANITA AGUSTA MAHURIN**

Juanita Augusta Mahurin, 93, of Aurora, passed away Saturday, December 25, 2021, at her daughter’s home in Cassville.

She was born to Elmer and Letta James Mitchell on May 25, 1928, in Goodman. She was a retired garment factory worker.

Survivors include one son, Gary Mahurin, of Verona; six daughters, Connie Keeler and Deborah Henson, both of Cassville, Ruth Maggard, of Aurora, Tammy Youngblood, of Exeter, Carol Rosencrans, of Aurora, and Carla Stewart, of Exeter; 27 grandchildren; several great and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill; daughter, Sue Stockton; and brother, Roy Mitchell.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 30, 2021, in the Peterson Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in Purdy Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

MDC changes some fishing regulations

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave final approval during its Dec. 10 open meeting in Jefferson City to several proposed regulation changes to the Wildlife Code of Missouri by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for paddlefish, related fishing methods, and commercial fishing. The regulation changes will become effective Feb. 28, 2022.

MDC asked for initial public comments on the proposed regulation changes this past spring. The Commission gave initial approval to the proposed regulation changes at its Aug. 27 open meeting in Jefferson City. MDC then had a public comment period during October.

One regulation change establishes a formal definition of “snagging,” which was undefined in the Wildlife Code of Missouri. Snagging is a popular method for taking fish, such as paddlefish, that do not go after baited hooks because they “filter feed”.

The MDC definition of snagging is: Hooking or attempting to hook a fish in a part of the body other than the mouth or jaw by means of a pole, line, and hook. Snagging is characterized by a repeated drawing or jerking motion of the pole, line, and hook or by trolling with an unbaited hook rather than enticement by bait or lure.

A regulation change establishes a statewide mini-

mum length limit of 32 inches -- measured from eye to fork of tail -- for sport/recreational taking of paddlefish, up from the current minimum length of 24 inches for most areas of the state. The existing minimum length limit of 34 inches -- measured from eye to fork of tail -- will remain in effect for Lake of the Ozarks, Table Rock Lake, Truman Lake, and their tributaries. All paddlefish under the legal minimum length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.

Another regulation amendment adds 15 days to the fall/winter snagging, snaring, or grabbing season for taking fish -- except paddlefish -- by extending the season end from Jan. 31 to Feb. 15. It also prohibits snagging for all species of fish on Table Rock Lake after

taking the daily limit of two paddlefish.

The paddlefish snagging season for the state’s major paddlefish snagging waters -- Lake of the Ozarks, Truman Lake, and Table Rock Lake -- and most other waters in the state remains March 15 through April 30. The paddlefish season for the Mississippi River remains March 15 through May 15 with a fall season of Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.

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A final regulation amendment establishes a commercial paddlefish fishing season of Nov. 1 through April 15 on the Mississippi River to limit the commercial harvest of paddlefish only during cooler water temperatures. It also sets a minimum length limit of 32 inches for taking paddlefish on the Mississippi River.

According to MDC, the primary justification for the season is to prevent mortality

of paddlefish. Paddlefish captured in nets during warm-water temperatures (late April through October) are more likely to perish, causing waste of fish that would have otherwise been harvested and the unnecessary death of paddlefish under legal

length. The establishment of the paddlefish commercial season will also better align Missouri regulations with those of other states along the Mississippi River.

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Wednesday Night Bible Study/Youth ..... 7:00 p.m.

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## Survey finds Missouri 2021 land values increased

Landowners who purchased Missouri property in 2021 paid more for land than buyers who purchased land in 2020, according to the latest Missouri Farmland Values Opinion Survey report from University of Missouri Extension.

Agricultural economist Ray Massey, who led the survey, projects the upswing in land values will continue. He says higher land values will result in higher cash rental rates. Higher land values may also lead to an increase in the tax base, allowing communities to collect more revenue.

Conducted in September 2021, the land values survey collected responses from 88 Missouri lenders, farmers,

rural appraisers and others familiar with Missouri land values. Values for cropland, pasture, timberland and hunting/recreational land all increased from 2020 to 2021.

**Cropland and pasture values**

The value of good non-irrigated Missouri cropland averaged \$6,326 per acre in 2021 — an increase of 14 percent relative to 2020. Between 2017 and 2020, values for this cropland category annually increased 4.3 percent on average. Values per acre averaged \$4,877 in 2017, and good non-irrigated cropland values increased by \$1,449 per acre since then.

The state’s irrigated cropland averaged \$7,132 per acre in 2021, an 11 percent increase from 2020. The survey first included irrigated cropland in 2018. At the time, values per acre averaged \$5,514. Since then, irrigated cropland values have increased by \$1,618 per acre.

Pastureland values were reported as a state average of \$3,781 per acre. Compared with 2020, values grew by 12 percent in 2021. Between 2017 and 2021, the average value for pastureland increased by \$865 per acre.

Massey says several factors have driven cropland and pasture value changes, including high commodity prices, low interest rates and proximity to urban areas. In recent years, strong farm revenue contributed to increasing cropland values.

“If people have money in their pocket, they are willing

to buy land, and they will pay more for it,” Massey says.

**Timberland and hunting/recreational land values**

Land used for timber or hunting and recreation also increased in value in 2021. Missouri tracts used for hunting or recreation averaged \$3,162 per acre in 2021 — an 18 percent year-over-year change. Values per acre averaged \$2,048 in 2017, and they increased by \$1,114 per acre in the past five years.

In 2021, Missouri timberland values averaged \$3,070 per acre, which was 17 percent higher than 2020 values. Values per acre in 2017 averaged \$2,012. Since then, timberland values have grown by \$1,058 per acre.

According to Massey, the value of timberland or hunting land rose as commodity prices and investment earnings increased in 2020. For example, out-of-town investors who earn positive returns on their investments are able to purchase land for recreational purposes.

For more 2021 land values survey results, including regional breakdowns for Missouri land values, go to [muest.us/LandValues](https://muest.us/LandValues) to access the full report.

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## Online Master Gardener training scheduled

David Trinklein, MU Extension

Gardening is an activity with many rewards, said David Trinklein, state horticulture specialist for University of Missouri Extension.

“One of them is the satisfaction of sharing your plant knowledge with others. The Master Gardener program was initiated to do just that,” Trinklein said. Its motto, “helping others learn to grow,” emphasizes service to others as the program’s main objective, he said.

A new session of online Missouri Master Gardener core training begins Jan. 19, 2022.

Trinklein and MU Extension horticulture specialist Sarah Denkler teach the 14 online sessions. “These classes represent a viable option for people who can’t take the weekly classes in person,” Trinklein said.

Classes are delivered through the Canvas learning management system as a series of scripted and narrated presentations. Students work at their own pace. A composite score of 70% on chapter quizzes is needed to pass the course.

Topics include basic botany, soils and plant nutrition, vegetable gardening, fruit production, landscape design, woody ornamental plants, herbaceous ornamental plants, turf management, insect and disease management, and pesticide safety.

Core training is the first step toward certification as an MU Extension Master Gardener. Trainees must also complete at least 30 hours of volunteer service, Trinklein said. Local Master Gardener coordinators can help online trainees find volunteer opportunities to meet the service hour requirements.

Registration for the spring online session closes Jan.14, 2022. To register, go to [muest.us/4](https://muest.us/4).

Learn more about the Missouri Master Gardener program at [mg.missouri.edu](https://mg.missouri.edu).

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## MDC proposes expansion of furbearer hunting, trapping seasons

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave initial approval to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its Dec. 10 open meeting on proposed regulation changes that would extend current furbearer hunting and trapping seasons for abundant furbearer species.

Furbearers are mammal species that have traditionally been trapped or hunted for their fur, such as coyotes, raccoons, and skunks. Many furbearers are also considered small game species, for which there are small game hunting seasons.

According to MDC, many furbearer populations have experienced long-term population increases, allowing for additional harvest opportunity. The Department has received input from a variety of stakeholders to provide additional opportunity through extension and adjustments of season dates for multiple furbearer species.

Furbearers play important ecological roles and trapping and hunting are critical wildlife management tools.

MDC strives to provide the opportunity to harvest these species, while considering pelt-primeness during the fur-harvest season, desire for opportunity outside of the traditional fur-harvest season, the potential for conflict with other hunting seasons for other species, and land-owner opportunity.

MDC's Furbearer Program staff reviewed furbearer harvest seasons and worked to develop a regulatory framework that provides additional opportunity for harvest in response to stakeholder requests. Based on this review and stakeholder input, the following recommendations were developed for consideration:

Extending the hunting season and trapping season for bobcat, coyote, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk Nov. 15 to the last day of February.

Extending the trapping season for mink, muskrat, and river otter to Nov. 15 to the last day of February.

Establishing an early hunting and trapping season for raccoon and opossum to run

Aug. 1 – Oct. 15.

Extending the trapping season on private land for coyote, raccoon, opossum, and skunk to March 1 – April 14.

The next step in the rule-making process is for MDC to have a public comment period. MDC invites online review of the full regulation proposal and public comments Jan. 19 – Feb. 17, 2022 at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/Z49>.

Comments received during this period will be considered and final proposals will go to the Commission for further action at its March 25 meeting. If enacted, the changes will become effective June 30, 2022.

## Applications available for Agri. Academy

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is offering 30 high school students representing 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, as well as farm families, throughout Missouri the opportunity to explore careers in agriculture through the 2022 Missouri Agribusiness Academy (MAbA). MAbA is a competitive program for sophomores interested in pursuing agriculture-related degrees and careers.

“For years, the Missouri Agribusiness Academy has brought some of the best and brightest students together to learn about careers in agriculture,” said Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn. “This program helps build leaders who will be in the forefront of Missouri agriculture for years to come. Through the

MAbA program, students are introduced to segments of agriculture that perhaps were very unfamiliar before the week began.”

The students selected will have a yearlong opportunity to learn about the unique opportunities for careers in the Kansas City area, volunteer at the Missouri State Fair and learn more about the agriculture industry in Jefferson City. The 2022 schedule will be finalized in the spring and will include visits with industry and agribusiness leaders, as well as tours of their facilities.

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Agribusiness Academy has graduated more than 1,020 students through a competitive application and interview process. The first leg of the 2022 MAbA will be held June 6-10, and marks the program's 35th year. Students interested in participating must submit an application by Feb. 1, 2022.

For applications and guidelines, as well as more information on the Missouri Department of Agriculture and its programs, visit the Department online at [Agriculture.Mo.Gov](http://Agriculture.Mo.Gov).

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## Barry County Treatment Court announces graduates

Above, left to right, Honorable Judge Johnnie Cox is pictured with November 4, 2021, Program graduates Chris Anderson, Sally Shepard, and Joe Robinson.

Pictured to the right, left to right, December 2, 2021, graduate James Denney poses with Honorable Judge Johnnie Cox.

## Sleep plays key role in health

Dr. Graham A. Colditz

We may not think about sleeping as a healthy behavior like we would exercising or eating a healthy diet, but we probably should.

Sleep can play a key role in health and wellness, and studies show that many of us just aren't getting enough of it.

"Short sleep and poor-quality sleep are linked to increased risk of depression, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and some cancers," said Yikyung Park, associate professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "A lack of sleep also weakens immune function, making you vulnerable to common infections such as the common cold."

How can sleep problems have such a wide-ranging effect on health?

For one, they can disrupt the circadian rhythm, our natural "body clock" that controls all biological functions in a 24-hour period, Park said. That disruption can lead

to many different reactions in the body that can increase the risk of certain diseases and conditions.

Less directly, sleep problems can also simply make it harder for us to make choices that are good for our health. Lack of sleep can impact decision-making, energy levels and a number of other factors that can make us more likely to stay on the couch rather than get outside for a walk, or choose a fast food meal over making something healthier at home.

About a third of U.S. adults are short sleepers, getting fewer than seven hours of sleep a night. But it's an issue more common in some groups than others. "There is a significant disparity in sleep duration by race and ethnicity, and income," Park said. "Short sleep is a particularly important problem for African Americans, multiracial non-Hispanics, American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders – as well as those with lower incomes." A range of issues can contribute to these differences, including stress, discrimination, job schedules and neighborhood conditions that can make it harder to get good quality sleep.

It's recommended that most adults get about seven to eight hours of sleep each day. But what counts as healthy amounts of sleep can vary.

"For some people, six hours of sleep a day is enough, but others may need nine hours. And although it's important to get enough sleep, sleep quality is also crucial," Park said.

While some of the factors that impact the quality and length of sleep are out of our direct control, there are simple approaches we can take to improve the chances of getting good sleep regularly. As a first step, Park recommends we:

- Put away electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets and TVs at least 30 minutes before bed
- Have a routine sleep schedule – that is, go to bed and wake up at the same time – every day
- Avoid large meals within a couple hours of bedtime
- Avoid caffeinated beverages and alcoholic drinks before bed
- Get regular physical activity, though not close to bed time

In our busy, round-the-clock world, these changes can be an adjustment. But you don't need to tackle them all at once. Pick just one to start, and then go from there. Small changes build on each other. And like other healthy behaviors, improving the quality of sleep is something well worth the effort and can provide a real boost to health and well-being.

And that may just help you rest a bit easier.

It's your health. Take control.

Dr. Graham A. Colditz, associate director of prevention and control at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is an internationally recognized leader in cancer prevention and the creator of the free prevention tool YourDiseaseRisk.com.

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## Attract birds to your yard: learn how with MDC program

Bird-feeding is a popular hobby that can be enjoyed by all ages, but the first key to bird feeding enjoyment is to be able to attract birds to your backyard.

People can get tips on attracting birds to feeders in winter at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) virtual program “Attracting Winter Birds.” This online program will be Jan. 5 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and is being put on by the staff of MDC’s Shoal Creek Conservation in Joplin.

At the Jan. 5 program, MDC Naturalist Jessie Ballard will provide tips on how you can increase bird view-

ing pleasure by providing the types of feeders and food that can attract a variety of species to a backyard. This program is designed for ages 10 and up. People can register for this program at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/181836>.

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. This 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.

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

“Cheers to a new year, and another chance for us to get it right.”

- Oprah Winfrey

### TAXES from FRONT

formation to school counselors, superintendents, and those who are much more familiar with the situations of their people,” said Deaver.

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