

Area schools back in class



Above left, Purdy Schools Maintenance Director Glenn Terry (back) pauses to smile with new students Rhyleigh White (left) and Neveah Ellrick (right) on his 26th first day of school at Purdy Tuesday. Above right, Purdy Second Grader Loretta Hufft sports a sunshine smile as she enjoys a delicious first day lunch in the Purdy Schools cafeteria. Submitted photos.



Above left, Viand Marvropoulous gives her mom, Ashley Stevens, a final hug before starting her day as a Fifth Grader at Cassville Intermediate School. Above right, Oden Case pauses with his mom, Chelsey Case, for a first day photo before starting preschool in Cassville Tuesday. Submitted photos.



Southwest R-V welcomes new teachers, plans new projects



Students in the Southwest R-V district will see 11 new teachers this year. Shown above, left to right, are, front row: Jared Ives, Middle School PE, MS basketball and baseball coach, HS assistant; Abby Rose, Middle School Math; Emily Snyder, Middle School Social Studies; Jamie Cole, Second Grade; Jennifer Carpenter, Second Grade; Kim Edmondson, Paraprofessional; back row: Katlyn Branson, Agriculture, FFA Supervisor; William Hurst, HS Business, FBLA Supervisor; Jordi Miller, HS Counselor, A+ Coordinator, Dual Credit Coordinator; Mindy Townsend, Paraprofessional; and Ivy Flippo, Paraprofessional.

Sheila Harris

Taxpayers in the Southwest R-V School District will see a \$1.8 or \$1.9 million bond issue on the April ballot in 2022. Superintendent Dr. Tosha Tilford says, with voter approval, the money will be used for resolution of the district’s drainage problems, as well as new ballfields, pressbox, concession stand and restrooms, a new bus barn, upgrades to the HVAC and geothermal systems, parking lot repairs and the addition of trap fields.

said, “will take place over a four-year period.” “The school’s bonding capacity is currently at \$2 million,” she continued. “I’ll be asking voters for less than that. That way we’ll have a little buffer just in case the market takes a dip in the future.” According to Tilford, tax revenue generated by the assessed valuation of new construction in both McDonald and Barry Counties was up for 2020, resulting in a proposed increase in revenue of \$18,134 for the 2021 - 2022

school year. The board approved the required \$2.75 per \$100 Fund I operating levy for the district and the debt service, Fund III, levy of \$.85. Tilford says after planning, designing and engineering, Phase 1 construction on the proposed construction projects will begin with stormwater system repairs, which will include regrading and the installation of piping and 7Aa rock ditch to direct water away from existing areas

See SOUTHWEST 7A

Ground broken for long-awaited Monett Library

Sheila Harris

A large crowd of excited residents were on hand in Monett for the official ground-breaking ceremony for the new Monett branch of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library District Tuesday morning. The ceremony marked a long-awaited moment on more than a decade-long journey fraught with many obstacles. Called “The Flagship Location,” by library director, Gina Milburn, the new Monett facility, to be located on the northeast corner of East Park and Airport Road, will more than triple the existing library’s footprint and feature 20,000 square feet of amenities, including separate reading/study areas for children, teens and adults, conference rooms (one with



Barry-Lawrence Regional Library director, Gina Milburn, shared her excitement about the planned, new 20,000 square-foot Monett Library at a ground-breaking ceremony Tuesday. Photo by Sheila Harris.

a kitchen), an indoor lounge with a coffee bar, an outdoor patio and a drive-through window, plus plenty of TVs

and computers. In her address to those in attendance, former library

See LIBRARY 6A

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Help Barry Countians beat hunger

Ezra DeVore

September is National Hunger Action Month, and Cassville’s Food Pantry is determined to “beat up hunger in Barry County.”

With one in four children struggling with hunger and poverty affecting more and more homes, the Pantry aims to raise \$30,000 between September 7 and September 24.

When they reach the \$10,000 mark, a matching donation of \$10,000 has already been offered.

“A donation of just \$10 can feed a family for five days,” Cassville Food Pantry Director Janet Mills said.

“We want to invite the community to get involved,” she added. “There are so many ways people can. It is a community-wide endeavor.”

Mills explained that even hard-workers sometimes cannot compete with rising grocery costs. A minimum-wage worker could pay nearly half their paycheck on housing alone, leaving little left over for life’s other costs, with many having to choose between food and utilities, she said.

According to a recent food pantry press release, the im-

pact of coronavirus has been significant, and has turned back improvements made over the past decade in fighting food insecurity.

“We are very serious about providing this avenue of support,” Mills continued. “We are the place where the hungry will not be forgotten. Beyond giving them food, we want people to feel hope and dignity. We love them, and our love comes from God’s love.”

Initiated in 2001 at Cassville United Methodist Church, the Pantry remains a Christ-based organization 20 years later.

In addition to a one-time donation, there are others ways people can support the fight against hunger. Monthly sponsorships of the food pantry are welcomed and will help kids and families in need.

Volunteer time and talents are welcome, too, and can be coordinated to fit within a person’s schedule.

Donations can be made in person at 800 W. 10th St., or online at cassvillepantry.com.

For more information, contact Janet Mills at 417-846-7871.

Monett resident graduates from UCM

Jeffery J. Caynar, of Monett, graduated with a Master of Science from The University of Central Missouri. He was among nearly 2,000 individuals who met graduate requirements and were eligi-

ble to participate in the University of Central Missouri’s 2021 spring commencement exercises May 7-9 in the Multipurpose Building. Students who completed their degree requirements by the end of the spring or summer 2021 semester were eligible to participate in ceremonies that marked the 150th year since the founding of UCM. Below is a list of local students who met degree requirements at UCM.

Wheaton BBQ returns for 63rd year

Ezra DeVore

The 63rd annual Wheaton BBQ will happen this Saturday at 11 a.m., and will feature food, music, rides, and more.

This year’s BBQ will begin with the Wheaton Street Machines Show and Shine Car Event, the Spud McCracken Memorial Horseshoe Tournament, and shortly after, at 11:30 a.m., food will be served. Attendants can avail themselves of the event’s signature barbecue, baked beans, baked potato, bread, and a beverage, for the price tag of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Ice cream and homemade pie will also be available.

Additionally at the BBQ, you’ll find arts and crafts vendors, a 40-plus-item silent auction, the Wheaton FFA Petting Zoo, Monster Truck Rides (offered by Wheels of

Freedom, provided by Jason and Melissa Bonnow) and free children’s carnival rides from 1 - 8 p.m. At 1 p.m., the Sugar Mountain Band will take the stage, followed by Chigger Creek Band at 2:15 p.m., and The 211 Band at 4 p.m. Lucas Gates will then close the show at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., the duck race will take place, offering \$1,000 in total prizes. Two Dog Karaoke will finish the musical evening at 8:30 p.m.

The annual BBQ is hosted by the Wheaton Volunteer Fire Department, with proceeds directly funding the maintenance of fire department equipment.

For information about booth rental space, call 417-847-7568. For the car show, call 417-847-7907. For the horseshoe tournament, call 417-835-3003.

SK VFW to honor veterans, emergency personnel

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, and in honor of veterans, firefighters, law-enforcement and first responders in our area, Shell Knob VFW Post 2203 will honor those brave men and women who carry on that selfless tradition. Anyone who is serving or who has served in any of those capacities is cordially invited to come to the Shell

Knob VFW Post 2203 on Saturday, September 11, 2021, to partake in a fine breakfast, prepared in your and your family member’s honor. The VFW Post is located in Shell Knob, Highway 39 North, on the east side, just north of the Shell Knob School. Just look for the cannon: a 105 mm Howitzer. Breakfast will be served 8 - 10 a.m.

Salute to First Responders: CoxHealth to give free lunch to-go

In appreciation for their service, area first responders are invited to a free barbecue lunch during CoxHealth’s annual Salute to First Responders.

The event will be held at Cox Monett Hospital, 1000 E. Highway 60, on Friday, Sept. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The salute is held in honor of local first responders, and in thanks for the work they

do to keep the region safe. It is open to all first responders, and no RSVP is required.

Now in its sixth year, the event will look somewhat different than it has historically. Instead of dine-in, all lunches will be served to-go due to COVID-19. Each boxed lunch includes a hamburger and chicken sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookie, and a drink.

Correction

Sheila Harris

In the August 18 edition of The Barry County Advertiser, it was incorrectly reported that Ronald L. Bertalotto (spelled incorrectly on the MSHP report as “Bergalotto”) was a passenger in the 2005 Toyota Corolla in which driver Julie Nistas, of Selig-

man, lost her life.

Bertalotto, instead, was a passenger in the 2017 GMC driven by Benjamin T. Layton, of Pierce City, as was Marjorie K. Layton.

According to Mrs. Layton, both passengers in the GMC were wearing safety devices.

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Fri: Crispy chicken wrap, pasta salad, cinnamon roll cake


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Community Calendar

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

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46-49c



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Notice:

The Missouri Sate Highway Patrol would like to remind the public that driver examination stations throught the state will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day. Normal operations will reume on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Update: Garden Sass Farmers Market will be held every Tuesday evening from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the Stumpff Family Event Center (old Legion building on Hwy. 112, Cassville) as well as every Saturday, rain or shine, 8 A.M. to noon on the south side of the square in Cassville.

Southwest High School will be purging permanent cumulative files for the class of 2014. If you are a graduate of the class of 2014 and would like your cumulative file, please contact the high school at (417) 826-5413 or come by Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. All files will be destroyed on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

The Stella Senior Center hosts a Dinner and Dance every Friday night. The doors open at 6 P.M., with dinner served until 7 P.M. The dance starts at 7 P.M. with a live band each week. Cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are available all evening. Younger people are welcome. No alcohol allowed. Please call (417) 628-3314 or (617) 640-6742 for more information.

Bluegrass Music at Roaring River State Park is a family friendly free event every Friday and Saturday night 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. starting May 28 through September 24. Performances will be held at the River Shelter.

The Old Church Gallery Farmers' Market runs every Thursday from 8 A.M. to 11 A.M. Visitors are encouraged to wear face coverings and practice six-foot physical distancing while shopping. Old Church Gallery is located on Farm Road 1240 in Shell Knob and can be reached at (417) 858-2510.

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.

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.

Aug 27

All You Can Eat Benefit Supper will be held from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. at the Borntreger residence, 528 College St., Rocky Comfort. All proceeds go the Amish schools.

Aug 28

Indoor Craft Show and Outdoor VW Car Show will be held at the Eagle Rock Community Center. For information, call (417) 271-3186


63rd Annual Wheaton BBQ will be held in the Wheaton City Park. See ad on page 9A for more information.




THURSDAY NIGHTS

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Sept 5

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.

Sept 9

The Annual Picnic of the Barry County Extension Council will be held at Rocky Edmondson Park, Cassville. The meal will begin at 6 P.M. The Extension Council will provide meat, drinks, plates and utensils. The public is invited to attend. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a side dish and lawn chairs. For more information, or to register for the picnic, call the Extension office at (417) 847-3161 or email barryco@missouri.edu.

Sept 11

Cassville Cruisers Cruise In will be at the Barry County Museum, south of Cassville on Hwy. 112/76/86, from 5 P.M. until dusk. The theme of the night is Summer is Almost Over.

Watson Family Reunion will be held from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Barry County Museum. There will be a potluck lunch.

Medicare Specialists will be onsite at the Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob, to answer questions about new Medicare benefits. Please call ahead at (417) 858-6952 if you would like to attend.

Sept 12

Cole-Still Family Reunion will be held at Brattin Park - Thomas Hollow. Please bring covered dish. Table service and drinks will be furnished. Also, please bring your lawn chairs.

School Menus: August 30 - Sept 3

All meals served with milk and subject to change.

Cassville R-IV High School: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, Pop-Tart, grapes. L: beef burrito or hot dog, nachos, refried beans, carrots, apple or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, yogurt cup, peaches. L: chicken strips or chicken nuggets, potatoes, gravy, broccoli & cheese, bread stick, juice or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, hashbrown, pears or cereal, granola bar, orange. L: corndog or fish sticks, mac & cheese, glazed carrots, mandarin oranges or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage, tropical fruit or cereal, banana muffin, peaches. L: crispito or chicken sandwich, pinto beans, mixed vegetables, sugar cookie, peaches or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, granola bar, apple. L: pork patty, bun or pizza, Sun Chips, green beans, juice or salad meal.

Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle: Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or pancakes, sausage patty, orange or cereal, cinnamon toast, peaches. L: turkey & cheese or BBQ rib sandwich, baked lays, carrots, juice. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy, cherry frudel, sausage, applesauce or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: grilled cheese or hamburger, Sun Chips, vegetable mix, fruit cocktail. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, Rice Krispy Treat, mandarin oranges or cereal, graham crackers, apple slices. L: chicken nuggets or pork chopette, tater tots, gravy, baked beans, peaches. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or oatmeal, sausage, toast, apple or cereal, cinnamon toast, peaches. L: pizza or alfredo, salad, carrots, applesauce. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, toast, peaches. L: tangerine chicken or popcorn chicken, rice, green beans, egg roll, fortune cookie, mandarin oranges.

Purdy R-II Schools: Mon: B: egg and cheese biscuit, fruit. L: goulash, romaine, tomato, ranch, ww breadstick, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: wg pepperoni pizza, broccoli, banana pudding, fruit. Wed: B: mini waffles, syrup, fruit. L: chicken strips, potato wedges, fruit salad. Thurs: B: chocolate banana oatmeal round, Gogurt, fruit. L: nachos, refried beans, Mexican rice, fruit. Fri: B: banana muffin, Gogurt, fruit. L: hot ham & cheese sandwich, chips, fruit.

CoxHealth begins universal employee COVID-19 vaccinations

After seeing vaccine safety, efficacy and full FDA approval, CoxHealth will move to universal COVID-19 vaccinations for its employees.

The decision was led by the health system's physician leaders, who are advocates for the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. CoxHealth's COVID-19 Incident Command team – comprised of medical directors of many specialties across the system, including Infectious Diseases, Pulmonology, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and nursing and physician leaders – supports universal vaccination. Cox Medical Group leaders, who have been elected as representatives by hundreds of physicians across the system, have given it unanimous endorsement. These voices are also supported by the health system's Board of Directors and administration.

"This decision is ultimately led by science, which has shown us that vaccinations are the way we can end this pandemic," says Steve Edwards, president and CEO of

CoxHealth.

Under the change, all CoxHealth employees must have their first dose of vaccine by October 15. This decision applies to all physicians, vendors, students and employees who are on CoxHealth's campuses.

"Ultimately, this decision has been made in support of our most urgent priority of protecting our employees, patients and community. We have seen great tragedy over the past 18 months: Hundreds of lives lost due to COVID-19, even more left with long-term impacts, and untold moments of pain for our employees and community members due to this dreadful virus," says Edwards. "We take this opportunity to unify and move forward together as we work to protect our community, as we have been called to do in health care."

To date, nearly 70 percent of CoxHealth employees are already vaccinated against COVID-19, as well as more than 90 percent of physicians.

FDA approves Pfizer vaccine

Sheila Harris

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved its first COVID-19 vaccine, known as the Pfizer-BioNTech, Monday. The vaccine will now be marketed as Comirnaty (koe-mir'-na-tee), according to the press release issued by the FDA. The vaccine is for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. It continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. Those individuals may fall into one of the following categories, although not limited to these:

- Immunocompromised due to solid organ transplant and

- taking immune suppressing medications
- Immunocompromised due to active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Immune compromised due to Receipt of CAR-T cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (eg, DiGeorge, Wiskott-Aldrich Syndromes)
- Immunocompromised due to Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Immunocompromised due to "Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress immune response: high dose corticosteroids (ie., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents,

- antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blocker or other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory"

The FDA's full release pertaining to approval of the Pfizer vaccine can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>.

Barry County Health Department Administrator Roger Brock hopes the approval by FDA will give more people the confidence to take

the vaccine.

"We have the Pfizer vaccine available on a walk-in basis, now, at our office in Cassville," he said.

As of August 19, Barry County had a total of 4,008 confirmed cases of COVID, up 65 from the week prior. The deaths of two more residents from complications of COVID-19 were also reported at that time, bringing the county's total to 66.

Every neighboring county to Barry also recorded additional deaths.

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Cassville School Board Met August 19

Ezra DeVore

• Inspection:

All Cassville R-IV buses passed inspection by the Missouri Highway Patrol, as has been customary for the Cassville School District.

• Employment:

The Board approved the employment of Melissa Vollenweider for an elementary teaching position.

The Board also approved the employment of Peggy Collins and Teri Dudley as food service employees.

• Projects:

The playground project update was discussed. With an approved contract and the

bid process complete, R.E. Smith, a Joplin-based construction company, will be presenting pricing and value engineering options within the next week for the District to consider and accept. An official update on the playground start date will be shared as soon as it is known.

A contract with Paragon, a Missouri architecture company, has been approved; meaning, a new Performing Arts Center will begin the early phases of construction, and should be completed within the next few years.

Dr. Johnson, Superintendent of the Cassville School

District, had this to say:

“I have enjoyed getting to know many of you over the past few weeks as we have been able to learn together during our professional development days. I would like to thank you all for your dedication to building new relationships, growing in a collaborative culture, and demonstrating grace as we develop plans to safely welcome our students back to school next Tuesday. Cassville is a wonderful community with an exceptional school district. I am so excited to see kids fill our hallways and classrooms. There will be challenges this school year... and I believe if we work together and stay positive we can achieve success for all of our children. Thank you for your continued patience and perseverance as we prepare for this school year.”

Crowder College and Ozark Christian College sign agreement

Officials from Crowder College in Neosho and Ozark Christian College, in Joplin, are pleased to announce the signing of an exploratory agreement between the two institutions.

Through a common goal of promoting Servant Leadership, Crowder College and Ozark Christian College agree to ongoing discussions to further explore the coordination of transferable credit and earned certificates for Ozark Christian College students through Crowder College.

“Crowder College strives to expand partnerships and opportunities for students across our nine-county service area in southwest Missouri,” said Keith Zoromski, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Crowder College. “This articulation agreement serves as evidence

that Crowder College values coordinating with each of its university partners to mutually support its students.”

“For over 79 years, Ozark Christian College has had one mission: we train men and women for Christian service,” says Academic Dean Chad Ragsdale. “This partnership will open even more doors to learning and serving for our students.”

Crowder College is a two-year community college located in southwest Missouri. Established in 1963, the college serves a nine-county region in the state’s community college organization. With over 80 degree and certificate programs Crowder offers educational opportunities for those planning to transfer to a university or enter the workforce. The main campus is located in Neosho with instructional centers in

Cassville, McDonald County, Nevada, Webb City and an Advanced Training and Technology Center in Joplin.

Founded in 1942, today Ozark Christian College’s 15,000 alumni serve in all 50 states and in over 100 countries around the world. Ozark is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Ozark’s biblical training, Christian community, and global service opportunities equip students for all kinds of ministry: missions, music, preaching, pastoral counseling, organizational leadership, and more. The college offers residential and online undergraduate degrees and will launch a master’s program in the fall of 2022.

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board president, Ann Hall, called the planned library “one more jewel in Monett, the crown of southwest Missouri.”

Lawrence County presiding commissioner Bob Senninger thanked Director Milburn and the library board for the hard work they put in to make the project happen.

“Never forget,” he said, “putting your hands on a good book and being able to turn the pages is one of the greatest privileges there is.”

Former State Librarian Sarah Parker shared memories of her childhood, when, after World War II, her family moved to Monett.

“We moved into a little house on the corner of Third and Scott Streets,” Parker said, “and during my growing up years, I could walk to the public library.”

Also on hand to address the audience were former library director, Jean Berg; Monett City Commissioner, Ken Gaspar; and Missouri Senator, Mike Moon.

Library director Gina Milburn told the gathered crowd she had been assured by contractor R.E. Smith that, “by this time next year,” the new facility will be complete.

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60198697 - **HOBBY FARM.** Five acres m/l, 2 bedrooms, 2 bath home with full basement ready to be finished by more living space. Located just out of city limits. **\$205,000**

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where it pools.
The replacement of the bus barn will follow with a 5,600 square-foot steel structure with a three-bay heated shop area to be located to the northwest of the current barn.

“Two of the bays will be drive-through,” Tilford said. “We’re trying to make it feasible to do our own maintenance work on site, instead of contracting it out.”

Phase 2 of the proposed project will include new ball fields, a concession/pressbox, restrooms and a trap field with shot curtains behind it.

“The curtains will not only stop the shot,” Tilford said, “but it will allow us to collect spent shot to reuse.”

Initially, according to Tilford, only one trap field will be created, but if funds allow, there will be room for a second one.

With new ball and trap fields, Tilford sees the possibility of hosting district meets in the school’s future.

Phase 3, the replacement of upgrading of the HVAC and geothermal heating and cooling systems and parking lot repairs will be the last items on the agenda.

Tilford says the school district enrolled 60 new students for the upcoming school year.

For assisting with communications between parents and the district, Trojan Times Facebook Page has been established by Amber Paulsen and Kelly Corwin.

“Sometimes parents don’t feel comfortable contacting us directly,” Tilford said, “but it’s important for them to know what is happening at school. We hope this page will help.”

Changes, too, have been made to the school board candidacy filing dates for the April 5, 2022, election. Filing dates will be from 8 a.m., December 7, 2021, through 5 p.m., December 28, 2021.

Wheaton students receive back-to-school cuts



Above, left to right, hairstylists Ari Reed, Tanya Hutson and Zana Moore gave free haircuts to Wheaton students Friday evening at the Wheaton Community Center as part of an annual back-to-school tradition. Photo by Ezra DeVore.

A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. Kites rise against, not with, the wind.
-John Neal, author and critic (25 Aug 1793-1876), from A.Word.A.Day

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If Wii Bowling isn't your cup of tea, we have BINGO on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 12:30. It's free, and we have nice prizes when you win. What could be better?

Come early and join us for a delicious lunch. While we don't have our salad bar out right now, we offer a good

choice of salads and fixings from the kitchen.

If you are interested in either of these activities but would like more information, please call the Central Crossing Senior Center Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., at 417-858-6952.

Check out our website 24/7 at: www.shellknobseniorsinc.org/monthly-activities/.



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Large Freshman Class Leads Southwest Volleyball



Shown above, seniors Cloe Brattin, Amy Reeves, Olivia Ayer, and Shelby Pendergraft lead the Southwest High School volleyball team. Submitted photo.

A total of 29 girls, including 14 9th-graders, are out for the Southwest volleyball team that opens the season Saturday at the Verona Tournament. The Lady Trojans play Billings, Marionville, Everton, and Milller in pool play in the 15-team event that will be played on three courts at two venues.

“We typically have good numbers but the incoming freshman class stands out,” said Coach Steve Voyak, who is starting his 19th year at Southwest. “The freshmen are athletic, competitive, and hardworking and make us taller, stronger, and faster overall. We have great competition at all varsity spots so that has made for some great early-season practices.”

Leading those freshmen will be four seniors: Olivia Ayer, Cloe Brattin, Shelby Pendergraft and Amy Reeves. Ayer, a middle, has been on the varsity for four years and had 93 kills, 97 digs, 6 blocks, and served at 90% with 28 aces as a junior. Reeves played some varsity as a defensive specialist as a junior. Pendergraft, who served at a 92% clip last season, will share the setting duties with Junior Anna Church. Brattin, an outside hitter, is returning to volleyball after sitting out a season.

Joining Church from the junior class are right side Jordan Bayley, outside hitter Signe Suichowski, and defensive specialists Cammie Uthe, Olivia Erwin, and Alli Fosse. “These girls are critical because they will make up most of our serve reception combinations,” said Voyak. “Our success will be directly

related to their ability to get the ball to the setter.”

Southwest will also be counting on sophomores Lyric Bernard, Brooklyn Slye, and Juliauna Sierra. “We have to be able to kill the ball and these three have been working on improving their jumping and timing,” Voyak said. “They are a year older and it has shown.”

Finally, freshmen Kaleigh Tull, Kelsee Merritt, Riley Flippo, and Laura Henry round out the varsity roster. Tull, Merritt, and Flippo are all front-row players, while Henry is a setter. “Kaleigh (5-foot-9), Riley (5-6), and Kelsee (5-6) all give us some height that we sorely lack and Laura Jean was the primary setter for the middle school team last season so she brings us some experience to a key position.”

Southwest plans to field varsity, junior varsity, and

freshman teams. The first home game is Monday, Aug. 30, vs. Diamond.

Southwest Volleyball Schedule:

- Aug. 28 - @Verona Tournament
- Aug. 30 - Diamond
- Sept. 2 - Marionville
- Sept. 7 - @Verona
- Sept. 9 - Pierce City
- Sept. 14 - Spokane*
- Sept. 17 - Sparta*
- Sept. 20 - @Blue Eye*
- Sept. 23 - @Thomas Jefferson
- Sept. 25 - @Galena Tournament
- Sept. 27 - @Billings*
- Sept. 30 - Wheaton
- Oct. 2 - 38th SW Volleyfest
- Oct. 4 - @Crane*
- Oct. 7 - Purdy (Pink Out)*
- Oct. 11 - Hurley (Senior Night)
- Oct. 12 - @Gentry, Ark.
- Oct. 14 - @Galena*
- Oct. 19 - @Exeter

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and give him lots of love. Emmett will be an affectionate and devoted companion for his new family! Call 417-835-3647 to meet Emmett at the Haven.

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Cassville to host Mt. Vernon in season opener



Cassville Wildcat running back, Ethan Fuchs (#22), plows through Willard Tigers’ defenses, with Wildcat offensive lineman, Michael Morgan (#53) on guard, during Friday’s fall jamboree in Springfield. Photo by Priscilla Craig.

Lee Stubblefield

Summer practice, check. Camp, check. Jamboree, check. Game on.

A year after a senior-laden lineup propelled the Cassville Wildcats to the Class 3 semifinals, Coach Lance Parnell and his staff face a monumental rebuilding task.

Cassville’s annual motto of “reload, not rebuild” will be sorely tested in the 2021 season. Hernan Hernandez, a junior safety, is the only returning full time starter from last season.

Keaton Schellenburger, another junior, recorded 35 tackles while starting four

varsity games last year.

Quarterback? Senior Cutter Hicks was smooth and poised while replacing Hayden Sink for two starts last season. He is the heir to the Cassville quarterback mantle, a mantle held by a different Wildcat for the fourth straight season.

Correction: Monett R-1 Masking Policy

Sheila Harris

Last week’s edition of The Barry County Advertiser incorrectly stated that the Monett R-1 School District would begin the school-year with a mask-optional policy. Due to a last minute decision by board members, that policy has since changed.

According to the following information drawn from the school’s website, the following mask policy will be in effect:

“Based on recommendations from the CDC, Barry, and Lawrence County Health Departments, masks will be strongly recommended for the Monett R-1 staff and students for the 2021-2022 school year. However, due to the high positivity index in Barry & Lawrence County as of August 24th through

September 3rd, the first two weeks of the 2021-2022 school year will be mandatory masks. If the number of positive covid cases combined with the number of quarantine cases meets or exceeds 8% in each individual building, masks will be required. If those combined numbers fall below 8 percent masks will be strongly recommended, but not required.

Each campuses’ data is reviewed independently, meaning masks could be required in one campus but not all campuses.

If the Community positivity rate averaged in Barry and Lawrence counties reach or exceed 10 percent, the entire district will mask until that number falls below 10 percent.

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JAMES DAYTON RIEHN
James Dayton Riehn, 80, of Cassville, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021, at Cassville Health Care and Rehab. Jim, son of Dayton and Viola (Niswonger) Riehn, was born on March 18, 1941, in Cape Girardeau. Jim graduated from College High School and attended Southeast Missouri College. On June 25, 1960, he was united in marriage to Laura Harmon in Cape Girardeau. Jim has several careers throughout his life, including working for the highway patrol, patrolman for the Cape Girardeau Police Department, and spent forty-

seven years selling insurance for Liberty Insurance Company, making several lasting friendships along the way. He enjoyed the outdoors and loved to hunt and fish and traveling around the country. Jim was a member of the Cape Girardeau St. Mark's Masonic Lodge No. 93 AF & AM, past Worshipful Master, member of the Scottish Rite, Cape Girardeau Moolah Temple, Springfield Abou Ben Adhem Temple, and past Worthy Patron of St. Mark's Eastern Star in Cape Girardeau. Survivors include his loving wife, Laura Riehn, of Cassville; one son, James "Mike" Riehn and his wife, Shelly, of Cassville; two daughters, Susie Broddle and her husband, Daryl, of Bentonville, Arkansas, and Elizabeth Hetland and her husband, Derek, of Des Moines, Iowa; seven grandchildren, Nathaniel Riehn and Laney Riehn, both of Kansas City, Katy Southerland, of Youngs-ville, North Carolina, and Zakary Broddle of Raleigh, North Carolina, and Madi-

OBITUARIES

son Ferguson, Macy Ferguson and Myla Hetland, all of Des Moines, Iowa; one great-grandson, Cooper; one brother, Danny Riehn and his wife, Claudine, of Monroe, Louisiana; three sisters, Carolyn Cauble and her husband, Jim, of Scott City, Marty Stevenson and her husband, Dennis, of Old Appleton, and Debbie Brown, of Indiana; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by one brother, Raymond "Pete" Riehn.

A visitation for family and friends will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau, with Pastor Donny Ford officiating. Burial will follow at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, August

27, 2021, at the Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital or St. Jude Children's Hospital and entrusted to the White Funeral Home and Crematory, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, Missouri 65625.

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

White Funeral Home and Crematory
www.whitefuneralhome.org
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BILLY RAY "WILLIE" STEDNITZ
Billy Ray "Willie" Stednitz, age 82, of Cassville,

passed away Wednesday, August 18, 2021, in Mercy Hospital in Springfield. He was born August 11, 1939, in Falls City, Nebraska, the son of Charles F. Stednitz and Pearl Kathrine (Thomas) Black. On April 7, 2013, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, he was united in marriage to Jeanie Stringer, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Michael Stednitz and his wife, Deborah, of Glenwood, Iowa; one daughter, Michelle Barber and her husband, Mark, of Bellevue, Nebraska; thirteen grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his first wife, Marilyn; and two sons, John and Dale.

Billy grew up and received his education in Falls City, Nebraska, where he graduated from high school. On August 14, 1959, he joined the United States Navy and served until August 6, 1963, and then moved to Bellevue, Nebraska, where he was a police officer until his retirement. In 2003, he moved to Cassville to make his home. He was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cassville. Some of his favorite pastimes were hunting, fishing, raising chickens and gardening. He was an avid Nebraska Cornhuskers Football fan.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, August

26, 2021, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cassville under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Kevin Hilton will conduct the services. Burial with military honors will be at 2:00 P.M. Thursday at Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield.

Contributions may be made to Mt. Olive Baptist Church in memory of Billy. Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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SANDRA JO WATKINS
Sandra Jo Watkins, age 67, of Noel, passed away Friday, August 20, 2021, at Re-gency Hospital in Springdale, Arkansas.

Services were held Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jason Ponder conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Carthage.

Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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Mount Olive Baptist Church
2 1/2 miles East of Cassville FR 2180
Pastor Kevin Hilton
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm
Sunday Morning Radio Program KKBL 95.9 FM 7:45 am
MtOliveBaptistCassville.com

CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER
WEEKLY MENU
AUGUST 30: Chicken strips, mac & cheese, roasted squash, biscuit, chocolate cake
AUGUST 31: Ham, sweet potatoes, country veggies, hot roll, cherry cobbler
SEPT. 1: Alpine chicken with stuffing, Italian veggies, garlic bread, lemon cake
SEPT. 2: Pork chops with apples, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, hot roll, éclair dessert
SEPT. 3: Labor Day Lunch! BBQ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, peach pie
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Serving Hours: 11 am - 12:30 pm
\$3⁵⁰ Contribution age 60 & over • \$6 Cost age 59 & under

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Sunday School - 10:00 am
Church - 11:00 am
Evening - 6:30 pm
Wednesday - 6:30 pm
Pastor Russell Bishop
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We want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and care that was given to us before and after the loss of Jerry. A special thank you to the employees of Security Bank and to Wheaton Southern Baptist Church for the way you provided and took care of us the last few years! We are truly blessed to have you all in our lives and we cannot thank you enough!
Wanda, Katie and the girls

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2 Corinthians 5:17
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• Morning Service 10:45 am
• Evening Service 6:00 pm
• Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm
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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.



NORMA JEAN JAY
Norma Jean Jay (Howe) made her final journey at age 79 from her home in Cassville on Friday, August 20, 2021, following a long illness.

Norma was born in Joplin on November 17, 1941, to Clarence and Mable Howe (Wyant). She attended Joplin Schools, Eagle Picher grade school, North Junior High and Joplin High. She graduated from high school in Downey, California.

She was married to Reverend Charles Jay for 58 years. She assisted him in his ministry, establishing four Home Missionary churches across the west and midwest. The first ministry was the United Pentecostal Church (New Life Temple) and the last pastorate she assisted was the Anchor Worship Center in Chanute, Kansas.

She was the mother of five children: Sharon Lloyd, Diana Jay, Carla Rider, Teresa Carroll, Charles Jay, and stepdaughter Kathy Tucker. Survivors include three sons-in-law, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death is her husband, her parents, one sister and two brothers. Four sisters survive her: Darlene Hartje, Barbara Lewis, Delores Winnett and Joan Corder.

While traveling with her husband and children to various ministering locations, Norma was able to complete her education as a Registered Nurse; she received an AA at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., and a BSN at MSSC in Joplin. She worked in the nursing field for 30 years, starting as a nurse aide at Freeman and St. John's Hospital, an LPN at Centralia and Chehalis, Washington. As a RN, she worked for St. John's Hospital and at Greenwood County Hospital in Eureka, Kan. She spent 15 years of nursing as a Certified Case Manager in Texas and Washington, D.C.

Norma had a love of nursing and believed in continuing education. She loved to read and write poetry, and self-published a book of poems, Poems of Praise and Inspiration. Her favorite book was the Bible. Her favorite hobby was traveling and planning trips to new places, always looking for a new place to go.

Her greatest love besides her Lord Jesus and the ministry was her family.

Funeral services provided by Fohn Funeral Home. Visitation is at Fohn Funeral Home Friday, August 27, 2021, from 6-7 p.m. with

dinner to follow at New Life Temple in Cassville. Home-going service at New Life Temple on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 10 a.m. with final resting place at Clio Cemetery in Jenkins. Dinner will follow at New Life Temple on Saturday.

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

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



JOAN MABEL SCHOELZEL
Joan Mabel Schoelzel, age 86, of Cassville, passed away Friday, August 20, 2021, at her home.

She was born September 17, 1934, in Maywood, Illinois, the daughter of Harry and Eleanor (Oetting) Christiansen. On February 14, 1953, at Cross Lutheran Church in Burlington, Wisconsin, she was united in marriage to Jerold Elroy "Jerry" Schoelzel, who preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death were her parents and one son, Justin "Dusty" Schoelzel.

Surviving are four sons, Jeffery Allen Schoelzel and Debbie Evans, of Granby, Jay Michael Schoelzel and Stacey Cochran, of Cassville, Jon Matthew Schoelzel and his wife, Denise, of Cassville, and James Patrick Schoelzel, of Cassville; four daughters, Janet Lee DeShazer and her husband, Mark, of Wheaton, Jean Neal, of Baxter Springs,

Kansas, Judy Lynn Rodriguez and her husband, Jos , of Rocky Comfort, and Jericay Dyer and her husband, David, of Butterfield; twenty-two grandchildren; thirty-three great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Joan grew up and received her education in Illinois and graduated from Rochester Agricultural High School in 1952. After their marriage, she and Jerry made their home in Illinois until 1977 when they moved to Cassville. Joan worked at Sew It Seams and was a "master seamstress" who could sew anything and everything for family and friends. Later, she worked at Wal-Mart as the manager in the fabric department, retiring from there in 2010. Some of her favorite pastimes were sewing, cooking, family and bluegrass music. She was meant to be a grandma as there always seemed to be a baby in her arms. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cassville and over twenty years was a 4-H leader in Illinois.

Graveside services will be at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the family farm in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Gary Lester will conduct the services.

Contributions may be made to Monett Area Sheltered Workshop in memory of Joan.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME
CASSVILLE, MO.
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TERESA ADELE ADDISON
Teresa Adele Addison, age 53, of Cassville, passed away Thursday, August 19, 2021, at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas.

She was born October 22, 1967, in Cassville, the daughter of Dayton and Barbara (Neeley) Swearingen. On September 8, 1989, in Cassville, she was united in marriage to Russell Addison, who survives. Also surviving are her daughter, Chelsea Hinds and her husband, Ryan, of Cassville; two brothers, Gary Swearingen and his wife, Sara, of Cassville,

and Terry Swearingen and his wife, Debbie, of Marionville; and two grandchildren, Remington and Addison.

Preceding her in death were her parents and two brothers, Randy and Rick Swearingen.

Teresa was a 1986 graduate of Cassville High School and received her Associate's Degree from Crowder College. For a few years, she worked for Able II and then worked at Justin Boot, remaining there twenty-five years. After that, she was employed full time at Wal-Mart as manager over the on-line grocery. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville. Some of her favorite pastimes were working in her flower garden, watching birds, going fishing, traveling and being outdoors. She loved her grandchildren and being with her family.

Services were held Sunday, August 22, 2021, at Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME
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DEE ANN DARITY
Dee Ann Darity, age 57, of Wheaton, passed away Monday, August 23, 2021, at Northwest Medical Center in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Visitation will be held from 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Thursday, August 26, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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

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Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
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Revelation 21:4

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MICHAEL JOSEPH SCANNELL
Michael Joseph Scannell, age 69, of Seligman, passed away at his home on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Mr. Scannell, son of Joseph and Lily (Wilmeth) Scannell, was born on December 14,

1951, in Macon. He was a 1969 Washburn High School graduate. On October 31, 1970, he was united in marriage to Mary Whitcomb in Bentonville, Arkansas. Mike was employed with Scott Paper Company in Rogers, Arkansas, as a shipping and receiving clerk since September 12, 1974, and retired after their closing in 2007. He had volunteered numerous hours for the Seligman Fire Department and was a member of the Seligman Lions Club. Some of his favorite pastimes were deer hunting, fishing, hanging out at the coffee shop and the pawn shop telling big stories with his

friends, and spending time with his family. Mike had a huge heart, was a dear friend to many, and will be greatly missed.
Survivors include his loving wife, Mary Scannell, of Seligman; one daughter, Lynda Freeman and her husband, Eric, of Seligman; three sons, Michael Scannell and his wife, Leslie, of Seligman, Joseph Scannell and his wife, Beth, of Seligman, and Howard Watkins and his wife, Jennifer, of San Antonio, Texas; nine grandchildren, William Freeman,

OBITUARIES

John Scannell, Jonathan Scannell, Savannah Vinson, Benjamin Vinson, Nathan Watkins, Christina Watkins, Allison Palmer, and Johnathan Freeman; seven great-grandchildren; one brother, John Ayres, of Rogers, Arkansas; one sister, Katherine Payne, of Seligman; and several nieces and nephews.
In addition to his parents, Michael was preceded in death by one brother, Kelly Ayers.
A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at the

Seligman City Hall in Seligman.
A private family burial will be held at Bayless Cemetery in Garfield, Arkansas.
Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

White Funeral Home
and Crematory
www.whitefuneralhome.org
417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400



DORIS ANN LYONS
Doris Ann Lyons, age 63, of Cassville, passed away Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Cassville.
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 CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141



TERESA KAY KOOKAN
Teresa Kay Kookan, age 60, of Cassville, passed away Thursday, August 19, 2021, at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin.
A gathering of family and friends for a Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 pm in Room 8, 404 State Hwy. 248, Cassville, on Saturday, August 28, 2021.

Instead of flowers, donations to cover medical and living expenses will be appreciated. Donations will be accepted at the Celebration of Life or online through Venmo@Marcine-Carey.
Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141

CINDY SMITH
Cindy Smith, age 60, of Cassville, passed away Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Monday, August 30, 2021, at Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville.
The family will receive friends from 1:00 until 2:00 P.M. Monday at Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
FOHN FUNERAL HOME CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141



ALEX JAMES SMITH
Alex James Smith, age 21, of Springfield, passed away Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at his home.
Memorial services will be held at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, September 4, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Marshal Ford will conduct the services.
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“New to Medicare Seminar” at Central Crossings Senior Center

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nior Center in Shell Knob. Learn how to apply for benefits and how our specially trained specialists can help you choose the best plan for your needs. The prescription

plans are often confusing, so our specialists’ help is invaluable.

To prepare for the num-

bers attending, please call 417-858-6952, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and tell us you are coming.

Central Crossing Senior Center is located at 20801 YY15, Shell Knob, Missouri.

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CoxHealth increases starting wage

CoxHealth's minimum wage will soon rise to \$15.25 per hour.

In addition to greater compensation, this change carries a call to arms for the region. More people are needed at CoxHealth to help meet the dramatic increase in demand for care, both spurred on by the COVID-19 pandemic and in light of anticipated future growth throughout the region.

“We recognize health care can often mean long hours and difficult work, and that it is not for everyone,” says Steve Edwards, president and CEO of CoxHealth. “But it is also a place where one can fulfill a higher calling, and have a sense of purpose and mission in service to humanity.”

This change represents the health system's largest starting wage adjustment in its history, impacting 6,500 employees. Of this figure, 5,000 are entry level workers, and 1,500 are colleagues up the career ladder. In total, it represents a \$25.5 million investment.

All CoxHealth employees who earn less than \$15.25 per hour will automatically increase to the new rate. To help recognize skill and dedication to the organization, many others in similar ranges who are already making more than \$15.25 will also receive raises.

“Our people are our most important asset, and we want to recognize them for the great, life-changing work they do every day, which has been especially pronounced over the past year and a half,” says Andy Hedgpeth, vice president of Human Resources at CoxHealth. “We hope that this increase, and the many people and departments it affects, shows our employees how much we value them.”

The increase will be effective in October 2021. Employees who are impacted by this adjustment will be notified in the coming days.

“CoxHealth has recently received national recognition as a ‘Best Employer’ in publications such as Forbes and Modern Healthcare, and we remain absolutely committed to attracting and retaining the very best talent,” says Edwards. “I believe we are so very fortunate to have a local, caring Board of Directors that believes the best investments we can make are in the

people of this organization.”

To see current job openings at CoxHealth, go to <https://www.coxhealth.com/careers/>.

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36 Parcels Lake Area Real Estate Auction
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10:00 AM * Saturday, Sept. 11th * 10:00 AM
Foster Auction Service will sell at live public auction 36 parcels of lake area lots & land that belong to the estate of:
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Glenda Metcalf Stone County Public Administrator.
*This is NOT a Tax/Trustee Sale associated with the Commission or Collector in any way!
*All parcels will sell with a guaranteed free & clear title with no liens or encumbrances.
*All property sells subject to Probate Court approval. **Onsite and Absentee bids are welcome, all absentee bidders must register at least 24 hours before the auction & provide a debit or credit card, there will be a three percent fee added to all payments being made with a debit or credit card.
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Pretty House on Busy State Hwy in Elsey. This property has a history: began as a convenience store, then a church, and now a 2-bedroom bungalow. Full basement, partially finished. Many possibilities! \$79,999. *IDX 60198413*

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The **Purdy R-II School District** is offering free meals to all [enrolled students/children ages 18 and under] under COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85 Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022. Households are still encouraged to complete and submit an application for free and reduced price meals to the district for processing. Free and reduced data is used to help maintain meal count system requirements, report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for funding formulas, and establish eligibility for other benefits, particularly Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) and Emergency Broadband Benefit. The Purdy R-II School District announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children offered meals in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$16,744	\$1,396	\$322	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$459
2	22,646	1,888	436	32,227	2,686	620
3	28,548	2,379	549	40,626	3,386	782
4	34,450	2,871	663	49,025	4,086	943
5	40,352	3,363	776	57,424	4,786	1,105
6	46,254	3,855	890	65,823	5,486	1,266
7	52,156	4,347	1,003	74,222	6,186	1,428
8	58,058	4,839	1,117	82,621	6,886	1,589
Each add'l member	+ 5902	+ 492	+ 114	+ 8,399	+ 700	+ 162

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Households will be notified of their children's eligibility status for free or reduced price meals. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice for families receiving SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to those children.

If any child(ren) was not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the LEA or school to have free meal benefits extended to that child(ren).

Under the provisions of the policy, the districts Food Service Director will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the superintendent, Dr. Travis Graham.

Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
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New Beginnings is now meeting at Mitchell's Plaza, Monday, Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. For more info, call (417)271-1088.

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IF YOU are homebound or unable to get out to meetings but need help for the effects of living with alcoholism, become an Al-Anon or Alateen Lone Member. Contact Al-Anon Family Groups, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 or e-mail wso@al-anon.org.

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50th wedding anniversary




Tom and Sharon VanDerhoef, of Pioneer, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on Aug. 26, 1971, in Commerce, Okla. They have two children: Valerie, who is married to Brett Friederich and they have one daughter, Ella, of Andover, Kan., and a son, Dan VanDerhoef, who is married to Leilani and they have two daughters, Lorelei and Lyndsie, who live in Cassville. They photo above left was taken on their honeymoon in Hawaii.

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Huge Kids' Fishing Day turnout kept Roaring River Park officials busy



Above, three-year-old Lane Marlow, of Pea Ridge, Ark., gets a little fishing instruction from his father, Michael Marlow at Kids' Fishing Day at Roaring River State Park Saturday.

Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above, Darrell Eubanks, of Joplin, helps his four-year-old grandson, Colton Eubanks, reel in his catch on Kids' Fishing Day at Roaring River Saturday. The elder Eubanks said he's been fishing at Roaring River since he was Colton's age.

Photo by Sheila Harris.



Avid young anglers lined the banks of Roaring River Saturday, August 21, for Kids' Fishing Day. The ever-popular event saw a turnout of some 470 kids, with family members.

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Above, Jaxs Dover (right), and his sister, Joscelyn Dover (left), show off their catches on Kids' Fishing Day at Roaring River Saturday.

Jaxs and Joscelyn are the children of Curtis and Amanda Dover. Submitted photos.



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