

# Roaring River Spring deepest in nation, no bottom in sight



Above, Mike Young, owner and head diver of KISS Rebreathers, answers questions after his nationally record-breaking dive into Roaring River Spring Saturday. Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above, a cave-adapted creature, tentatively identified as a grotto salamander, was captured on video Saturday within the depths of Roaring River Cave. Photo by Randall Purdy Photography, used with copyright permission by TL-Bass Telepictures.

**Sheila Harris**  
During their last dive of the year into Roaring River Spring, the KISS Rebreathers team, headed up by diver Mike Young, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, slipped “easily” (according to Young) to a depth of 472 feet into the spring on Saturday, surpassing their state record of 451 feet, set on October 24.  
With Saturday’s dive, they went deeper than divers at Phantom Springs Cave in West Texas, who reached a depth of 462 feet in 2013. At the time, it was ranked by Caving News as the “deepest underwater cave system known in the United States.”  
“Roaring River Spring would now be ranked the deepest natural spring in the United States to date,” Curt Bowen said Monday by email. Bowen is the CEO and

founder of Advanced Diver Magazine, the world’s largest publication for advanced and technical diving, owner and CEO of Rebreatherworld.com, and vice president for the ADM Exploration Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to underwater exploration, discovery and education.  
“There was about a 90 percent chance we would have to abort Saturday’s dive without reaching our goal of 470 feet,” Young said. “Randall (Purdy) and I were both using some new and replacement pieces of equipment, so we were prepared to cut the dive short and come back to the surface if we had any problems. Luckily, we didn’t have to. Everything just fell into place perfectly.”

See ROARING RIVER 6A



Above, KISS Rebreathers diver and chief underwater photographer, Randall Purdy, of Kearney, Nebraska, displays the new camera and housing he invested in for the Roaring River dive. The new camera, he says, is capable of recording at a depth of 600 feet sub-surface. Photo by Sheila Harris.

## Cassville Third Graders honor veterans



Members of the third grade class at the Cassville R-IV Intermediate School presented a special Veterans’ Day assembly on Thursday.  
Shown left to right in the back row are Randell Phillips, Jordan Trent, Alexa Fierro and Brandon Gemmecke. In the front row are Joel De Leon Reyes and Jackson Trent.  
Submitted photo. See more Veterans’ Day photos on pages 8-9A.

## Ashcroft visits two BLR Libraries



Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft visited the Mt. Vernon and Monett branches of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library (BLRL) on Veteran’s Day to meet with staff, present grant checks and tour facilities.  
Ashcroft formally presented a \$25,066 grant check at the Mount Vernon Branch, used to implement a hot-spot lending program.  
In Monett, Ashcroft formally presented a grant check for \$58,474. The grant was awarded for early literacy stations and computers for the public and staff. According to library director Gina Milburn, the actual funds were received last fall and the items purchased are currently in use.  
Shown above, left to right, are: Missouri Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft; BLRL Board President, Gina McIlrath; BLRL Board Member, Charles Peiter; BLRL Executive Director, Gina Milburn; BLRL Board Member, Katie Brittenham; BLRL Monett Branch Supervisor, Cindy Frazier.  
Photo by Sheila Harris.

## Multi-hatted native retires from Cassville USDA Ag Service Center



Above, Russ Neill teaches his youngest granddaughter, Amelia Meusborn, how to feed a cow.

**Ezra DeVore**  
Purdy native Russ Neill will retire from the USDA Ag Service Center in Cassville after following a convoluted path that first took him away from the small town where he grew up, but brought him back again through providential circumstances. His story is told here through an interview with his wife, Renae Neill.

“Like lots of young men, Russ was ‘done’ with farm



Above, Russ Neill sits at his office desk at the USDA service center in Cassville.

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## Crowder Quill accepting entries for annual contest

The Crowder Quill art and literary magazine of Crowder College is now accepting entries for its annual contest in literature, photography, and art.

"We are encouraging entries of any theme or subject matter," said Latonia Bailey, Quill Adviser. "Last year, we focused on a special theme of pandemic-related issues as part of a collaboration with the theatre department at Crowder, but that was a one-time theme."

The free contest accepts entries in eight different categories: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, B&W photography, color photography, digital art, 2D art, and 3D art.

Individuals may submit up to four entries in each category. Specific guidelines for each category and more information can be obtained from the website: <https://www.CrowderQuill.com>.

The categories of 2D traditional media (paintings, drawings and hand-made prints) and 3D art (pottery, ceramic, sculptures) may be

sent by mail or hand delivery by Feb. 1, 2022. All other entries should be sent as digital files and uploaded online at [www.CrowderQuill.com](http://www.CrowderQuill.com).

Crowder students as well as area high school students and community members compete for awards and publication. High school students may also win a \$500 scholarship for top placement in each category.

Email [Quill@Crowder.edu](mailto:Quill@Crowder.edu) to make arrangements for hand-delivered art entries or if internet access is an issue. Winning entrants will be notified by mid-March. The magazine will be published in May and unveiled at a public ceremony.

The Quill has been published since 1980 and is distributed free on campus and in the community. The purpose of the Crowder Quill is to showcase and encourage artistic and literary works.

For more information about the contest, contact Latonia Bailey: [LatoniaBailey@crowder.edu](mailto:LatoniaBailey@crowder.edu).

## Coover applications open for senior centers

The Louis L. and Julia Dorothy Coover Charitable Foundation is dedicating \$250,000 to the needs of senior centers across central and southern Missouri through its 2022 regional grantmaking program.

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is accepting applications for the

Coover Regional Senior Center Support Grant Program for building improvements, maintenance, equipment and other expenses that ensure senior centers are operating in their best conditions.

This grant opportunity is available to senior centers outside of Springfield-Greene County operating with IRS-recognized non-

### Early ad deadline for Thanksgiving

The Barry County Advertiser offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day. We will have an early deadline of 4 p.m., Friday, November 19, for ad copy and content.

## Seligman man dies in Highway F crash

Ezra DeVore

According to a Missouri State Highway patrol report, on November 12, Bradley Hufford (41), of Seligman, was eastbound in a 2008 Dodge Caliber when he travelled off the right side of Route F, and struck a rock bluff causing the vehicle to overturn and be totaled.

Hufford was pronounced deceased by Dr. Lewis at Mercy Hospital at 11:13 a.m. The exact time of the crash is unknown.

Hufford was wearing a safety device.

His body was taken to Fohn Funeral Home.

This is Troop D's 122nd fatality of 2021.

## COVID-19 cases increase

Sheila Harris

One additional COVID-19-related death was reported on the November 12 situational update issued by the Barry County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management on November 11. The victim was a female, aged 61 or older, who had significant underlying health conditions.

Forty-eight new cases were reported on November 11, an increase of 19 new cas-

es from the previous report issued on November 2. Sixty-eight patients were reported as in isolation, an increase of 26 from the November 2 report, and over 75 people were in quarantine after exposure to a person with active COVID-19.

According to the health department's report, the weekly positivity test rate was also up slightly, from 6.78 percent to 7.83 percent.

a total of \$250,000.

Many senior centers were closed for significant periods of time throughout the pandemic or shifted their

See COOVER 12A

## Enter to win a weekly Christmas basket!

If you didn't win our Halloween basket, your chances to win one of our Christmas baskets have just increased fourfold. In the next four issues of The Barry County Advertiser, we will hide 12 Christmas ornaments, a different one each week, beginning with the November 24 issue, which will contain the holly ornament shown below.

The contest is sponsored by First State Bank of Purdy, Security Bank, CS Bank and Arvest Bank. Each week a different bank will provide a gift basket to that week's lucky winner.

The first basket, with a \$50 - \$75 value, will be presented to the lucky winner by First State Bank after the first drawing on December 1.

Stay tuned each week for updates.

Please submit your holiday-ornament finds by email to [editor@com](mailto:editor@com), by mail to P.O. Box 488, Cassville, MO, 65625, or in person at The Barry County Advertiser's offices at 201 9th Street, Cassville. Merry hunting!



## OATS Transit closed December 24, 31

OATS Transit is open for regular transportation service. OATS Transit follows Federal Transit Administration requirements, which means face masks must be worn on public transit due to COVID-19 through January 18, 2022. Please call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about service in your area. You can also visit our website at [www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org) and click on your county under the tab "Bus Schedules" to view your

local schedule. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. We also contract with a number of agencies to serve their clients. Please note: OATS Transit offices will be closed and regular routes will not be running on December 24 and December 31, due to observance of the holidays. Please keep this in mind as you schedule trips near the holidays.

Barry County Advertiser

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# Community Calendar

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

## Notice:

**The Barry County Courthouse and Judicial Center** will be closed Thursday, November 25, 2021, and Friday, November 26, 2021, for Thanksgiving.

**The Missouri State Highway Patrol** would like to remind the public that driver examination stations throughout the state will be closed on the following dates: Thursday, November 25, 2021, and Friday, November 26, 2021, in observance of Thanksgiving. Normal operations will resume on Monday, November 29, 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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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.

**Medicare Counseling** is being offered by Central Crossing Senior Center, Shell Knob. Medicare Open Enrollment starts on October 15 and runs through December 7, 2021. Medicare counselors are available by appointment. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the Senior Center, (417) 858-6952 Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.

**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 fo 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.

## Nov 18

**A Thanksgiving Meal** will be hosted at the Cassville Senior Center from 11 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The menu includes turkey or ham, mashed or sweet potatoes, stuffing, green beans, and assorted pies. The suggested contribution for those 60+ is \$3.50 and the cost for those under 60 is \$6.

**Purdy Elementary 4th and 6th grade general music students and Eagle Echoes audition choir** will present "A Kid's Life - a How-To Musical Guide to the Most Daring, Dangerous, Exciting Time...Like...Ever!" at 7 P.M. in the Purdy Performing Arts Center. Admission to the performance is free.

## Nov 19

**The Stella Sr. Center will host a Dinner and Dance.** The doors open at 6 P.M. The Center will be serving a breakfast meal. The dance starts at 7 P.M. with The Moccasin Bend Band playing. The cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are available all evening. Please call 417-628-3314 or 617-640-6742 for information.

## Nov 20

**Barry County Genalogical & Historical Society Annual Potluck Dinner** will be held at the Bayless House (9th & Townsend, behind the Cassville Post Office). All are welcome to bring a dish and join in.

## Nov 21

**A Fall Harvest Dinner** will be hosted by the Eagle Rock Community Association (ERCA) from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Everyone is invited to this donation only event. For more information, please call (417) 271-3186.

## Nov 23

**The Monett Branch Library** will be hosting Eden Stewart, a county engagement specialist in nutrition and health education, who will be giving a talk on making jerky. Topics covered will include different kinds of dehydrating methods to make jerky at home, and safety tips and tricks to make the best jerky in town. The event is scheduled for 1:30 P.M. and is open to the public.

## Dec 2

**Purdy Elementary 3rd and 5th grade general music students and Eagle Echoes audition choir** will present "The Great Big Holiday Bake Off - A Confectionary Christmas Musical" at 7 P.M. in the Purdy Performing Arts Center. Admission to the performance is free.

## Dec 4

**The Cassville Christmas Parade** will begin at 6 P.M. on Main Street. The parade will assemble at Cassville High School at 4 P.M. with the procession beginning at 5:45 P.M. and reaching Main Street by 6 P.M. The parade will conclude on Clover Street.

**Washburn Parade** will he held at 10 A.M. Entry forms can be picked up at Washburn City Hall or call (417) 826-5242. No entry fee and prizes will be awarded to winners. Santa will be there.

**The Annual Exeter Christmas Parade** will begin at 1:30 P.M. Anyone who would like to enter may call City Hall at (417) 835-2823. There is no fee to participate. Santa Claus will be handing out bags of goodies after the parade.

**A Festive Community Tree Lighting** will be held in Exeter after the Christmas parade. Everyone is encouraged to join in the festivities which will include live musical performances, hot beverages and concessions.

## School Menus: Nov 22 - Nov 26

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

**Cassville R-IV High School:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or cherry frudel, yogurt cups, tropical fruit or cereal, Go-Gurt, pears. L: chicken crispito or burrito, corn, refried beans, juice or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, graham crackers, fruit cocktail or cereal, PB&J, apple slices. L: chicken sandwich or cheese burger, baked Lays, vegetable mix, fruit cocktail or salad meal. Happy Thanksgiving

**Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, graham crackers, mandarin oranges or cereal, blueberry muffin, applesauce. L: hamburger or grilled cheese, Sun Chips, carrot sticks, fruit cocktail. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, applesauce or cereal, Pop-Tart, apple. L: pizza or chicken alfredo, salad, corn, pineapple. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Purdy R-II Schools:** Mon: B: apple frudel, fruit. L: chicken noodle soup, crackers, fresh broccoli, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: shrimp poppers, mac & cheese, vegetables, fruit. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Southwest Schools:** No school this week. Happy Thanksgiving.

We want to thank our kids for our 50th anniversary "Surprise." We loved it. Thank you to our friends and church family who made it so special. We appreciate the wonderful cards and gifts so much.

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Lay joins CoxHealth Cassville



Mackenzie Lay

Mackenzie Lay is a familiar face to many families in the area. As a labor and de-

livery nurse at Cox Monett, where she has spent the last six years, Lay has been a part of helping hundreds of moms bring the amazing miracle of new life into the world.

After recently receiving her certification as a nurse practitioner, Lay now has a new way of serving local families as a primary care provider at CoxHealth Center Cassville.

“Rural health care has a special place in my heart because it allows me to build long-lasting relationships with my patients,” says Lay. “Potentially, these are the same families that I already

have a meaningful connection with from my years of working in a hospital setting, which makes it even better.”

Lay, who is a graduate of Monett High School, earned a master’s degree in Nursing from Cox College in May.

“It was my goal after graduation to stay with CoxHealth because of the way they take care of their employees and give back to their community,” she says. “I enjoy being part of the CoxHealth mission.”

In her spare time, Lay loves spending time with her family, being outdoors, attending

country music concerts, and is always on the lookout for the next big adventure. She is the mom to a sweet 3-year-old little boy named Maddix.

“It was an honor to be a part of a major life event for so many families over the years,” she says. “I’m passionate about caring for others, and I’m looking forward to continuing to be a part of my patients’ stories for years to come.”

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Lay, please visit cox-health.com or call 417-847-3500.

We want your Christmas stories

As space allows, The Barry County Advertiser would like to publish your true stories about Christmas in our upcoming December issues.

If you have a Christmas story, memory or thought you’d like to share, send it to editor@4bca.com. Stories should be 300 words, or fewer, in length.

We reserve the right to edit stories for length and grammar.

Feel free to also email pho-

tos in a jpg format, along with the names of the people in the photos.

We do not guarantee publication; however, we will publish some stories and/or photos as we have space for them.

We look forward to your submissions!

“What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”  
- Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

NEILL from FRONT

life after he graduated high school,” said Renae Neill of her husband.

Growing up on a family dairy farm just north of Purdy, Russ Neill graduated from Purdy High School in 1982 with an involved history in the Purdy FFA chapter. Neill ran a hay crew in his high school years, then enrolled at MSU with aspirations for a Computer Science degree, where he quickly learned computer sciences were not his path.

“So, almost by default,” Renae continued, “he began looking at the Agricultural programs because he had a strong background in that area.”

Neill soon discovered what fit his interests and talents best, and felt comfortable pursuing a degree in the business side of agriculture.

“In the spring of his junior year,” Renae said, “he interviewed with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for a Student Trainee position and was hired at Cassville, at what was then the Farmers Home Administration.

“Russ spent the summer between his junior and senior years learning the basics from Marvin Phipps, the County Supervisor at that time.”

After earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Agriculture in 1986 from Missouri State University, Neill began work as County Assistant in Marshfield. He spent a decade at the agency, residing near Kansas City, until finally returning to southwest Missouri to work as the County Supervisor in the Bolivar office.

“In 1997,” Renae Neill

said, “his career path became more complicated.”

According to his wife, while attending the First Freewill Baptist Church in Purdy, Neill felt called to serve in the ministry and began a new role as a local associate pastor. Neill started doing fill-in work for area churches until early 1998, when he accepted the position of pastor at the First Freewill Baptist Church.

Residing in Ozark at the time, Neill planned to further his career with the USDA in Bolivar. A move to Republic, he thought, would reduce his commute to Bolivar during the week, as well as his drive-time to Purdy for pastoral responsibilities.

Neill received a particular stroke of luck with a telephone call from a representative with the USDA Office in Columbia, asking Neill if he would like to transfer into the Cassville office in anticipation of Martin Phipps’s

retirement. Neill accepted gladly.

“Within a few weeks,” Renae said, “[Russ] found himself right back where his journey with the agency began when he was just 20 years old.”

Neill continued to work for the USDA Farm Service Agency for more than three decades. He will retire Thursday, November 18, with 37 years under his belt.

“Russ enjoyed the variety of roles that came along with the job,” Renae Neill said. “Every farm operation is dif-

ferent and, of course, every farm family is unique. The people he worked with in the FSA office became his closest friends and, quite simply, he was happy. God provided a career that allowed him to help others, use his gifts and strengths, and work with people he cared about. Why would he ever leave?

“By obtaining an Ag-Business degree and enjoying a long and fulfilling career with the USDA,” Renae continued, “I think Russ is a great example for young people today who are trying to figure

out how to remain connected

to their agricultural roots as they plan their futures.”  
Now, Neill runs a small cow-calf farm five miles from where he grew up in Purdy and looks forward to continuing his work as a local pastor, farmer, and grandfather to his three grandchildren, Lincoln, Georgia, and Amelia, alongside his wife of 34 years, Renae Neill.



Renae and Russ Neill

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Southwest School Board Filing Dates Set

Filing dates for candidacy for the Southwest R-V Board of Education election have been set for December 7, 2021 through December 28, 2021, during regular office hours {8 am – 4 pm/ Monday through Friday}. Filing will begin December 7, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. and end on December 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The office will be closed for the holidays on the following dates: December 17 {12:30 pm}, December 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27 and 28 until 12:00 p.m., also if district is closed due to inclement weather. The office will be open on the last day of filing, December 28 from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Qualified applicants for the Board may file for candidacy with Board Secretary Judy Brooks in the office of the Superintendent. In accordance with Policy BBB, placement of candidate names on ballot will be in the order of filing.

Two vacancies for 3-year terms will be filled at the April 5, 2022, election.

Done by Order of:  
Southwest R-V Board of Education  
Judy Brooks, Secretary

7-8c

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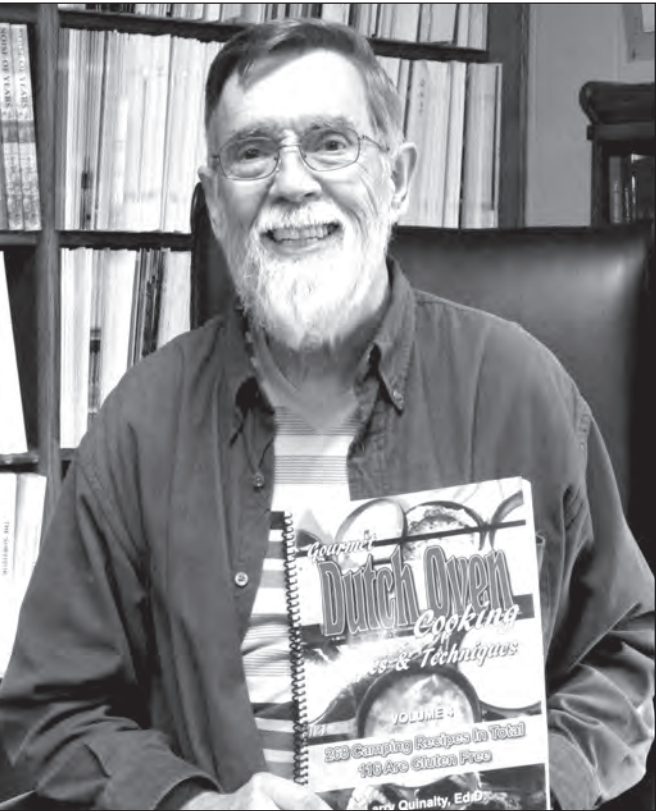
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5-8c



# Crowder English Professor Publishes Fourth Dutch Oven Cookbook



At left, Dr. Larry Quinalty displays a copy of his fourth, hot-off-the-press Dutch Oven cookbook.

Sheila Harris

Dr. Larry Quinalty, English professor at Crowder College and Drury University, recently completed his fourth cookbook containing recipes specifically designed to be cooked in a Dutch oven. Of the 268 recipes in the book, 116 of them are gluten-free.

“The recipes cover meals for an entire day,” Quinalty said, “including breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

In addition to his cookbooks, Quinalty has authored three travel books, five novels and a family genealogy.

Quinalty’s books can be found in various locations, including the Roaring River Store, the Emory Melton Lodge, Whitley Pharmacy and the Barry County Museum.

ROARING RIVER from FRONT

Although there is still nothing that could be called a “bottom” of the spring in sight, according to Young, the sides have narrowed into a tunnel which angles downward.

“I’m definitely seeing the effects of water flow,” he said.

In addition to the discovery of the narrowing passageway, chief underwater photographer, Randall Purdy, captured (on video) some footage of a cave-adapted creature which looked somewhat like a white salamander with no legs, one which swam quickly away from the light.

“I’ve never seen anything like it before,” Mike Young said, “not in any of my cave explorations anywhere in the world.”

Diver/cartographer Jon Lillestolen submitted a photo and video of the creature to Dr. Michael Sutton, who manages the biology database within the greater Missouri cave database, works with the Cave Research Foundation (CRF), and has

spent 30 years researching Missouri cave life. Sutton responded that the creature is likely the grotto salamander, a blind, cave-adapted salamander which, Sutton says, is common in caves in southwest Missouri. He plans to add a tentative identification to the Missouri cave biology database.

Young said he and Purdy achieved the record depth of 472 feet in Roaring River Cave and were back up to the restriction which exists at a depth of 225 feet below the surface, within 29 minutes. The preponderance of the almost three-hour dive was then spent in decompression (or “deco,” as it’s called by the divers) at various depths for different intervals of time.

While Young and Purdy dove deep, other members of the team remained above the restriction to continue mapping and exploration efforts. Gayle Orner, of Madison, Wisconsin - the only female member of the team - attempted to find a possible passage connecting the

known air bell (the Colossal Dome) in the upper cavern, with the newly-discovered surface air bells in the second cavern.

“If such a passage exists,” she said, “I didn’t find it.”

According to Mike Young, after the weekend dive, further expeditions will be on hiatus until their application for a 2022 permit is reviewed and prospectively approved by the Missouri Department of National Resources (DNR).

“We’re not scheduling a dive for December,” Young said, “and with the typically large amount of rain we get in the spring, we don’t anticipate being able to deep-dive again until June of 2022, and that’s only, of course, if our permit is approved.”

Young says there is plenty of mapping to do in the caverns without having to dive deep.

“We’d like to find out just how large that bottom cavern is,” he said.

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## Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week

Meet Butch Taylor, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Butch was one of three puppies found sitting on a dirt road in a remote area. They were in poor shape, mal-

nourished, and almost hairless from flea dermatitis. Now they’re healthy, fixed, micro-chipped, up-to-date on all vaccinations and will be a great addition to any active family! In addition to Butch, we have

his brindle brother who also needs a home. Their approximate DOB is 06/12/2021.

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Butch Taylor

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**City of Purdy**  
**Candidate Filing for April 5, 2022, Election**

Pursuant to Section 115.127 of the Revised Missouri Statutes, notice is hereby given that the following offices are to be filled at the Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022:

ALDERPERSON - WEST WARD (TWO YEAR TERM)  
ALDERPERSON - EAST WARD (TWO YEAR TERM)  
ALDERPERSON - WEST WARD (ONE YEAR TERM)

**Opening Date for Filing: Tuesday, December 7, 2021**  
**Closing Date for Filing: Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

Declaration of Candidacy may be file with the City Clerk, 101 Front Street, Purdy, Missouri between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hours will be extended to 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing.

**Please note that City Hall will be closed Dec. 20 through Dec. 26, 2021.**

No person shall be certified as a candidate for a municipal office, nor shall such person’s name appear on the ballot as a candidate for such office, who shall be in arrears for any unpaid city taxes or municipal user fees on the last day to file a declaration of candidacy for the office (Section 115.346 RSMo.)

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
Debbie Redshaw - City Clerk - Purdy, Missouri

**Coats for Kids**  
**Local Distribution**  
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**Keisha Drost**  
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**Hilari Stockton**  
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60204172 - **TWO BEDROOM, 1 BATH HOME.** Great rental house. **\$70,000**

60190173 - **NICE WOODED 12 ACRES M/L** on a State Hwy. Lot #3, will have easement from lot #2 for entry from Hwy W. **\$79,900**

60197814 - **CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN,** hospital, and restaurants, this home has been a rental for several years. **\$150,000**

60193722 - **NICE LAKEFRONT 5 ACRES M/L.** Bluff view, level building lot. There are some restrictions. **\$160,000**

60132905 - **LOCATED ENROUTE TO BOTH ROARING RIVER AND TABLE ROCK LAKE,** this restaurant seats 150+ people, and the bar area seats 50+ people. Priced below appraised value! **\$234,500**

60204185 - **THREE BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME** boasts large bedrooms. Separate family room with a fireplace provides plenty of living space. Home wits on a double lot with lots of room for expansion. **\$149,000**

60152935 - **BUILD YOUR TABLE ROCK LAKE HOME** on this walk-down lot. TWO boat slips are included with this lot. Well and septic already in place. **\$175,000**

60205006 - **HOME HAS BEEN UPDATED** with newer siding, newer front door, newer interior **PENDING!**ore. Covered front porch and rear deck. Detached oversized garage. 16 acres m/l. 42x58 concrete building with concrete floor. **\$349,000**

60189951 - **157 ACRES M/L** with National Forest joining property. On paved road. Plenty of wildlife & timber. **\$392,500**

60203449 - **ENJOY COUNTRY LIVING** with home sitting on 4.4 acres m/l. Home has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a large kitchen, dining area and large living room. **\$210,000**

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Barry County Extension hosts open house



Above, MU Extension’s County Engagement Specialist (CET), Karla Deaver (left); Vice Chairperson, Georgia Whitlock (center); and Secretary, Becky Wogoman (right) discuss extension programs they’d like to see represented in Barry County. Photo by Ezra DeVore.

Ezra DeVore

The University of Missouri (MU) Extension is working on a program for retired seniors (55+) to work with children in after-school programs as mentors, connecting the seniors of our communities with the children.

Two similarly-themed programs in progress are “Parenting the Second Time Around” and “Focus on the Children.”

“Parenting the Second Time Around” will focus on grandparents raising their grandchildren, in the event of absent parents.

“Focus on the Children” will be a program encouraging divorced parents to cooperate for the sake of their children.

These programs are speculated to be in operation within the next few years.

The MU Extension works heavily with agriculture to help local farmers understand “where their money comes from, and how to plug any holes in their income,” Dairy Field Specialist Reagan Bluel stated.

However, it’s only a piece of their reach.

“The University of Mis-



Above, Field Specialist in Dairy Reagan Bluel (left) and Book-keeper Lorie Speakman (right) discuss the goals for future programming they hope to finalize this winter. Photo by Ezra DeVore.

At right, Barry County MU Extension 2005 retiree, Nancy England, chats with Extension Livestock Specialist Eldon Cole (right) at the extension’s open house November 4. Cole has been with the extension for 57 years; England spent 30 years in her position. Submitted photo.

souri Land Grant mission,” MU Extension member Eden Stewart said, “is to take research-based information from the college to the communities at large.”

The Barry County MU Extension is a community-focused program designed to equip Barry County citizens with research based information affiliated with the University of Missouri.

An open house was held Thursday, November 4, at the

extension office at the Barry County Courthouse in Cassville.



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Able 2 Recognizes Employee Service



Eight employees of Able 2 Products Company in Cassville were recognized for milestone employment anniversaries at a company-wide meeting on November 9. In business since 1972, Able 2 Products Company sells lights and accessories to police, emergency and utility markets under the SHO-ME trademark. Company president Jerry Watley awarded gifts and certificates of appreciation to the honorees. Pictured above, left to right, are: Carolyn Kilts, 15 years; Greg Beck, 40 years; Melvin Anders, 20 years; Caleb Buntin, 15 years; Stephanie Bowling (Alerte Systems), 15 years; Jennifer Rose, 15 years; Rebeka Bishop (Alerte Systems), 30 years; and Clint Miller, 5 years. Able 2 Products Company is located at 804 East Highway 248 in Cassville. Submitted photo.

CHS Senior named to All-State

Cassville High School Senior Volleyball Player Sharyah Seymour (shown at left) has earned All-State recognition for the 2021 season. All State Volleyball recognition is earned based on stats and athletic achievements throughout the season. With over 60 players nominated for this honor, only 30 athletes were chosen from across the state in Class 3. Seymour earned All State recognition during both the 2020 and 2021 seasons. She is the daughter of Angela and Chris Seymour of Cassville. Photo by O-Zone (Ozarks Sports Zone), used with permission from the Seymour family.



Purdy High School cast performs beloved classic, “Little Women”



The March sisters gathered around Marmee to hear a Civil War greeting from Mr. March, addressed lovingly to his “Little Women” in the 2021 Purdy High School Music Department’s production of Little Women. From left: Leanna Moore, as Amy; Amarie Burt, as Meg; Ruby Knight, as Marmee; Anna Hoffman, as Beth; and M’kena Propps, as Jo.



Jo March, played by Purdy High School Senior M’kena Propps, attempted to explain her recent haircut and other life choices to her Aunt March, played by Purdy High School Senior Jaden Morgan, in the 2021 Purdy High School Music Department’s production of Little Women on November 5 and 6.



The supporting cast in the 2021 Purdy High School Music Department’s production of Little Women shone brightly as they brought to life the characters in Jo March’s novel. From left: Sophomore Austin Greenway, as the Knight; Freshman Hadasah Harris, as the fair Clarissa; Freshman Keele Allen-Thorpe, as Rodrigo 2; Freshman Kira Tate, as Rodrigo 1; Freshman Savannah Bricker, as the Troll; and Senior Avalon Rivers, as the Hag.

Of her leading role as the headstrong Jo March in the 2021 Purdy High School Music Department’s production of Little Women, Senior M’kena Propps noted, “I loved her! If I could be Jo every day I would. She is independent, outspoken and strong. She is comfortable with who she is.” Propps grew wistful when asked about her final performance on the PHS stage. “I hated it . . . but I loved it. It was such an amazing way to go out, but I didn’t want it to be over.” Propps is currently exploring options for continuing her performance career on the college stage.



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CHS students present Veterans’ Day assembly



Above, left to right, Treva Samuel and Kalia Miller read the meaning behind each of the ceremonial 13 folds of the American flag at the Veterans’ Day assembly at Cassville High School Thursday. Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above, Mathew Whittenburg and Brennen Cieslinski (facing camera) fold the flag in unison to the reading of each fold’s meaning during the Veterans’ Day assembly at Cassville High School Thursday. Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above left, retired Marine Sergeant and Missouri State Highway Patrol officer, John Lueckenhoff, poses with his wife Wendy and their two grandsons, Henry Naugle (left) and Greyson Lueckenhoff (right). Henry is the son of Jessica (Lueckenhoff) and Danny Naugle; Greyson is the son of Bradley and Brittany Lueckenhoff. Submitted photo.

Retired Marine Sergeant John Lueckenhoff was selected by Cassville High School students as their “Veteran of The Year,” and was honored during the Veterans’ Day assembly at the high school Thursday.

Lueckenhoff was born in Jefferson City and attended school in Mt. Vernon and Greeley West High in Greeley, Colorado, where he graduated in 1988 and afterward enlisted in the United States Marine Corp where he served from 1989-1995.

He completed basic train-

ing at the Marine Corp Recruit Depot in San Diego, California, and was then stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. He was later transferred to a base in Millington, Tennessee, to complete helicopter training. He afterward returned to Camp Pendleton.

He started out his career as an Airframes Mechanic on helicopters then later trained to become a UH-1N Crew Chief, where he assisted pilots in flight He also did mechanical work on helicopter engines, transmissions, and rotor blades. He ended his



Above, Cassville veteran Pete Landstad listens intently to speakers at the CHS Veterans’ Day assembly Thursday. Photo by Sheila Harris.

career as a Sergeant/E-5 rank.

Lueckenhoff received several awards during his time in the Marine Corp including the Good Conduct Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Unit Citation and was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter.

Upon leaving the Marine Corp, he followed in his Uncle Jim’s footsteps and began another career of service as a Missouri State Highway Patrol Officer. He retired in 2021 after 25.5 years of service. He now spends his days substitute teaching, hauling scrap, assembling golf carts, mowing lawns and any other job he can find. He also serves the community in many capacities. His friends and family joke that he is busier in retirement than he was during his career.

Purdy High School students remember 9/11



Purdy High School students recalled 9/11 with a moving tribute that included images and the recorded words of several students and staff members, past and present, during a Veterans’ Day assembly held Thursday in the Performing Arts Center at Purdy.

Photos by Sheila Harris.



“An idea or institution may arise for one reason and be maintained for quite a different reason.” -Joseph McCabe, writer, speaker, and former priest



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Location: 3709 Farm Road 2242  
Washburn, MO 65772  
(Approximately 3 miles west of Washburn on Hwy 90)





**HAROLD “RED” LAVERN SCATES**  
Harold “Red” Lavern Scates, 85, of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, died November 9, 2021, at his home.

He was born February 1, 1936, in Clifty, Arkansas, to John Scates and Mary Wilson Scates. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air force and was self-employed as a roofer for many years. He enjoyed dancing, fishing, and camping. He attended West Side Baptist Church in Pea Ridge and is preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Dorothy Scates; second wife, Nancy Scates; brothers, Lee, Johnny, Wayne and Ray Scates; and a sister, Ila Mae Franklin.

Survivors are two children, Judy Bargay and husband, Bill, of Seligman, and Jim Lothes and wife, Teddi, of Pea Ridge; five step-children; one brother, Kenny Scates, of Kansas; and many

many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.  
A memorial service was held 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 13, 2021, at West Side Baptist Church in Pea Ridge with a dinner following.  
Cremation arrangements are by Sisco Funeral Home in Pea Ridge. Online condolences may be made at [sisco-funeralhome.net](http://sisco-funeralhome.net).



**WENDELL HAROLD “WINKIE” SHEPARD**  
Wendell Harold “Winkie” Shepard, age 73, of Shell Knob, passed away November 12, 2021, at his home.

He was born December 7, 1947, in Branson, the son of Wilber and Alice (Pride) Shepard. On April 14, 1984, in Aurora, he was united in marriage to his lovely wife Ruth Nicholls, who survives. Also surviving are two sons, Coby Shepard and his husband, Todd Mc-

Intyre, of Tampa, Florida, and Scott Shepard and his wife, Tabitha, of Mount Vernon; one daughter, Shelia Campbell and her husband, Lester, of Crane; two brothers, Ronnie Shepard, of Shell Knob, and Tommy Shepard, of Golden; three sisters, Wanda Corning, of Marshall, Arkansas, Carol Greenhaw, of Oklahoma, and Tina DeLong, of Lampe; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; three brothers, Will, Dale and David and one sister Virginia.  
Wendell grew up and received his education in Branson, where he graduated from high school. He was drafted by the United States Army and served two years in Vietnam.

After returning, he owned and operated Shepard’s Garage in Aurora for several years and later went to work for a moving company and spent time cutting and selling wood. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.  
*Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.*  
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OBITUARIES



**VIRGINIA (GINGER) HANCOCK**  
Virginia (Ginger) Hancock, 85, Springfield, formerly of Cassville, passed away Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at the home of a granddaughter. She was born on Friday, October 2, 1936, in Cassville to Johnney and Lily Jesse (Banks) Edie. Virginia was a member of the Baptist Church, in Cassville. She was a retired assistant activities director for Springfield Health and Rehabilitation Center. Ginger always enjoyed exploring and seeing new things. Now she has taken her final journey, to be with her beloved children.  
Virginia was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Marty Joe Loftin; her daughter, Glenda Diane Swift; her brother, Billie Max Edie; and sister, Dr. Sue Buckman (Edie). She is survived by her seven grandchildren, Joetta Swift, Glen Loftin, James Loftin, May Loftin, Corey Swift, Amanda Loftin, and Greg Loftin; two brothers, Marlee Edie and his wife, Johnnie, and Mansel Edie and wife, Debbie; and two sisters, Mary Claypool and Johnnie

Loftin.  
Private graveside services were held at Maplewood Cemetery, near Exeter, on Saturday, November 13, 2021.



**JEFFREY SCOTT BEATTIE**  
Jeffrey Scott Beattie, age 57, of Cassville, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family Sunday, November 14, 2021.  
He was born January 17, 1964, in Cassville, the son of John and Helen (Oxendine) Beattie. On December 10, 1982, he was united in marriage to Brenda Henderson, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Justin Beattie and his wife, Neely, of Webb City; one daughter, Jerin VanSickle and her husband, Jordan, of Fort Scott, Kansas; two sisters, Janice Paul and her husband, Charles, of Cassville, and Jackie Hendrix and her husband, Wayne, of Cassville; three grandsons, Jackson, Jessup and Johnathan. Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother, Johnny Beattie.  
Jeffrey grew up and received his education in Cassville graduating from Cassville High School in 1982. After graduation, he worked for the city of Cassville for several years. He then started Barry County Plumbing alongside Wayne Hendrix and later

owned and operated Beattie Construction. Jeff was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Cassville, where he faithfully served playing the drums with the praise and worship team. He had a passion for music of all kinds. He loved fishing, camping, hiking and was always up for an adventure. In 2013, Jeff and Brenda completed a rim-to-rim backpacking trip across the Grand Canyon. This was an accomplishment that made him proud; however, he found his greatest joy in being a husband, father and Poppy.

A special thanks to Hospice Compassus of Monett for their support and care as we navigated through the challenges of Early-Onset Alzheimer’s. It was important to Jeff and his family for him to remain at home. Without Hospice, this would not have been possible.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, November 18, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Johnnie Hendrix will conduct the services.

Contributions may be made to Hospice Compassus in memory of Jeffrey.  
*Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.*  
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**VICTORIA SALAS**  
Victoria Salas, 82, of Monett, passed away Sunday, November 14, 2021.  
Funeral Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Monett. Arrangements are under the direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

*The Family of*  
***Jerry Laney***  
*would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, food, flowers, expressions of sympathy, and for taking such good care of us during our time of loss.*  
***Betty Laney and family***

**CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER**  
**WEEKLY MENU**

**NOV 22:** Grilled ham & cheese sandwich, potato soup, green beans, crackers, cheesecake swirl brownies

**NOV 23:** Goulash, loaded cauliflower, garlic bread, lemon cream pie

**NOV 24:** Beef stew, tomatoes & zucchini, cornbread, fruit cocktail cake

**NOV 25-26:**  
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Evening - 6:30 pm  
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Services:  
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• Morning Service 10:45 am  
• Evening Service 6:00 pm  
• Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm  
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**GEORGIA LOUISE LINVILLE**

Georgia Louise Linville, age 78, of Aurora, passed away Monday, November 8, 2021, at her home.

She was born October 1, 1943, in Wichita, Kansas, the daughter of George and Fredda (Hunt) Woodman. On August 30, 1996, in Aurora, she was united in marriage to Francis Linville, who preceded her in death in July of 2011. Also preceding her in death were her parents; a spouse; one daughter, Shirley Bell; and two brothers.

Surviving are five sons, Donald Alley, III and his wife, Laura, of New Hampshire, James Bell, of Wichita, Kansas, Shannon Linville, of Aurora, Leslie Alley, Sr. and his wife, Sara, of Springdale, Arkansas, and Larry Alley, of Kansas City; one daughter, Ruthanne Mathews and her husband, Kenneth, of Aurora; nineteen grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Georgia grew up and received her education in Wichita, Kansas, graduating high school and later attaining an Associate Degree. After working various jobs in Wichita, she moved to this area twenty-five years ago. She was employed by several nursing homes as a medical technician and also worked in the pharmacy at Walmart. Some of her pastimes were crocheting, embroidery and cooking. She enjoyed working crossword puzzles and reading about medicine.

No services are scheduled at this time. 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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**JERRY DAN WILKINS, SR.**

Jerry Dan Wilkins, Sr., age 78, of Wheaton, passed away Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at Freeman Hospital West in Joplin.

He was born June 28, 1943, in San Bernardino, California, the son of Raymond Jackson Wilkins, Sr. and Reba Dalton (McGee) Wilkins. On December 2,

1961, in Stillwell, Oklahoma, he was united in marriage to Carolyn “Sue” McCracken, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Larry Allen Wilkins, of Coos Bay, Oregon; six grandchildren, Jessica Wilkins, Jeffrey Wilkins, Allyson Wilkins, Tiffany Louise Wilkins, Brittany Wilkins and Ceverrette Jay Wilkins-Cheek; and four great-grandchildren, Logan Wilkins, Jordyn Wilkins, Maddelyn Wilkins and Harper Coleman.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one son, Jerry Dan Wilkins, Jr.; one daughter, Debbie Wilkins; and two brothers, Raymond and Gary.

After leaving California, Jerry attended school in Arkansas and Texas, later moving to Wheaton, where he lived with his aunt and uncle. While living in Wheaton, he was employed by the Wheaton Journal as a pressman and typesetter. In 1964, Jerry and Sue moved from Missouri to Oregon where he worked at Weyerhaeuser Plywood Mill for twenty-three years. In 1985, the family moved to Oklahoma where he was employed by OK Foods Industries as a maintenance supervisor for seventeen years from where he retired in 2005. They returned to Wheaton in 2006. Some of his favorite pastimes were riding motorcycles, fishing, hunting and working with wood.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at Muncie Chapel Cemetery in Wheaton, under direction of McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton. Pastor Paul Wahlert conducted the services.

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

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**BRADLEY MAX HUFFORD, JR.**

Bradley Max Hufford, Jr., age 41, of Seligman, passed away Friday, November 12,

2021, near Eagle Rock.

He was born December 6, 1979, in Bentonville, Arkansas, the son of Bradley Max Hufford, Sr. and Sharon (Thompson) Hufford. On March 8, 2002, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, he was united in marriage to Rebecca Poland, who preceded him in death on March 16, 2008. Also preceding him in death was his father.

Surviving are his mother, Sharon Hufford, of Seligman; one daughter, Brianna Hufford, of Seligman; and two sisters, KarrLa Dean and her husband, Larry, of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Shelly Miller, of Seligman.

Bradley grew up and attended school in northwest Arkansas graduating from Fayetteville High School West in Fayetteville, Arkansas. After graduating, he began welding, got married and started his family. After his wife passed away, he moved to Seligman with his daughter. He enjoyed making flashlights and hunting lights he would take coon hunting. Some of his favorite pastimes were going to the gym and playing pranks on everyone. Most of all he loved spending time with his daughter. He was a member of Seligman New Beginnings Ministries.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Friday, November 19, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Joe Pride will conduct the services.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. Thursday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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

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# THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank all our friends, family, church members, and neighbors for their prayers, phone calls, food, and kind thoughts during the illness and death of our Father R.J. Timmons. A special thank you to Brother Randy Comers for the heartfelt service and the members of Calvary Baptist Church and White's Funeral Home.

*The Timmons Family*

OBITUARIES



**LORNA “KAY” HESS**

Lorna “Kay” Hess, age 68, of Butterfield, passed away Friday, November 12, 2021, at home.

She was born January 31, 1953, in Rogers, Arkansas, the daughter of Benford and Laura (Ruark) Scott. On July 27, 1973, in El Dorado Springs, she was united in marriage to John Hess, who survives. Also surviving are her parents, Benford and Laura Scott, of Washburn; one son, Chris Hess and his wife, Brandy, of Butterfield; one daughter, Lisa Skelton and her husband, Adam, of Seligman; one brother, Kenneth Scott, of Washburn; one sister, Carolyn Tiedman and her husband, John, of Washburn; and four grandchildren, Alicia, John, James and Kerryann.

Kay attended high school

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in Ottawa, Kansas. After moving to this area in 1976, most of their time was spent living in Washburn, later moving to Butterfield. She enjoyed being out in the yard and taking care of her flowers.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Brother Tony Ball will conduct the services. Burial will be at Roach Cemetery in Eagle Rock.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 until service time at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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

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**JOE HEAD**

Joe Head, 85, of Clever, passed away on October 28, 2021.

Celebration of Life services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Clever Christian Church, 201 W. Carpenter, Clever.

Arrangements entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

**ROBERT “BOB” ALVIN LAXTON, SR.**

Robert “Bob” Alvin Laxton, Sr., 81, of Seligman, passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born November 13, 1939, in Yuba, California, the son of Stanley and Bonnie Dunn Laxton. Robert married Faye Albertson August 26, 1960. He was an amazing husband, father and Papa. Bob was a great musician, mechanic and handyman. He will be forever missed by all that knew him.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Joseph Laxton; two brothers; and three sisters. He is survived by his wife, Faye Laxton, of the home; one son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Dolores Laxton; two daughters, Angel Laxton and fiancée Everett Thomason, of Washburn, and Kathy Laxton Bartleson, of Seligman; one brother; one sister; ten grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

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**Service Times:**

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Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.

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

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- Cooking Wild in Missouri

cookbook (\$16) features more than 100 recipes for native game, fish, fruits, nuts, and mushrooms.

- Trees of Missouri(\$8) field guide can help identify more than 170 tree species by leaf arrangement and shape, with easy-to-understand descriptions, range maps, and full-color illustrations.
- A Paddlers Guide to Missouri(\$8) makes a great gift for canoeists, kayakers, and floaters with color photos and maps and descriptions of 58 rivers and streams.
- Missouri's Wild Mushrooms book (\$16) is a great guide for hunting, identifying, and cooking the state's most common mushrooms.
- Discover Missouri Natural Areas, Second Edition (\$19.95) helps nature lovers experience 50 great examples of our state's natural heritage. The new edition features updated maps, text, references, and scientific names.
- A Key to Missouri Trees in Winter (\$5) is back in print with clear black-and-white illustrations, descriptions, and maps for each of the 123 different species featured.
- The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri, Third Edition (\$29) has been updated and expanded to a 522-page illustrated guide that provides descriptions, distribution, habitats, habits, breeding, and other information on nearly 130 species of

native salamanders, toads, frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes.

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For information on how to apply, visit [cfozarks.org/applyforgrants](http://cfozarks.org/applyforgrants). The deadline for applications is 11:45 p.m., Friday, Feb. 4, 2022.

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50th wedding anniversary




Gary and Gail Robbins of Wheaton, will be married 50 years November 20, 2021. Gary and Gail were married November 20,1971, at the 1st Baptist Church of Wheaton. Gary is retired from Wells Aluminum/Hydro in Cassville with 37 years of service. Gail has also retired from being a beautician and having a Beauty Salon in Wheaton for 45 years. Gary and Gail have two children, John Robbins, of

Wheaton, and Heidi Valentine, of Patterson. They also have 10 grandchildren! We are honoring Gary and Gail with a 50th Anniversary celebration on Saturday November 20, 2021, at the Southern Baptist Church in Wheaton at 1 p.m.! Please come and help us celebrate their Anniversary with fellowship and share memories on Nov. 20!

Farm Succession Planning Workshop Set for November 30

A workshop to help farm families plan for transitioning to the next generation is being held Tuesday, November 30 a the Southwest Research and Education Center in Mount Vernon. The workshop will begin with dinner at 6 pm and the program will follow. Wesley Tucker, Field Specialist in Ag Business for MU Extension, will provide the program.

According to Karla Deaver, County Engagement Specialist, the Lawrence County Extension Council asked for the program in a planning discussion this fall. “Our Extension Council members, many of whom are involved in agriculture, have known of friends and neighbors who have had difficulty making the transition from one generation to the next. With the average age of Missouri farmers now approaching 60, it is important to provide tools and information to help farmers with this transition,” Deaver said.

Tucker is a well-known and popular speaker on the topic of farm succession planning. The program will provide an introduction to succession and transition planning, and discuss steps to give farm families the best chance of being successful and protecting family harmony.

Dinner will be served at 6 pm, and the program will begin at approximately 6:45 pm. Due to the generosity of local sponsors, the workshop, including meal, is free of charge. However, you must register by calling the Lawrence County Extension office at 417-466-3102. Please register by November 23rd. The Southwest Research and Education Center is located at 14548 State Rd H, Mt Vernon.

The workshop is sponsored by the Lawrence County Extension Council. For more information, or to register, please call the Extension office at 417-466-3102 or email Lawrenceco@missouri.edu.

Two New Routes Start at Springfield Airport

This Friday, November 19, is a big day at the Springfield airport marking the beginning of new air service to Austin, Texas, and Punta Gorda, Florida. The addition of these routes gives the airport a total of 15 non-stop destinations.

Allegiant Air is providing the new service. The low-cost airline specializes in flying to vacation destinations.

The addition of service to Austin and Punta Gorda means that customers can now fly on Allegiant non-stop from Springfield to nine destinations, coast-to-coast.

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# Cassville open houses brought holiday cheer



Above, left to right, Connie Michael, Missy Parker, Brenna, Riley and Krystal Clifford survey the bounty offered at The Ole Home Place during its holiday open house Saturday.

Below, left to right, Paula Finch, Laura Holycross and Mindi Artherton peddle nuts for The Soroptimists Saturday during Cassville's annual holiday open houses. Photos by Sheila Harris.



Above, new owner at Forever Yours, CJ Tabor, enjoys introducing herself at the store's open house in Cassville Saturday.

Below, Brett Nickle and Teagan Johnson pause for a photo at Forever Yours. Photos by Sheila Harris.



Above, Kaye Hughes (left) makes a purchase from Kaylee Tichenor (center), an owner of Diva Bling & The Tiny Highlander, assisted by Bailie Walls and tiny Carlie Lehman (right) at the store's holiday open house Saturday. Photo by Sheila Harris.



Above, Barbara White (left), of Purdy, and Sherry Lotufo (right), of Exeter, catch up on the latest news at Whitley's holiday open house Saturday. Photo by Sheila Harris



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