

Purdy Christmas Parade brings out local color



Above, left to right, Becky (Fly) Woods, Brenda (Keeling) McNeil, Melinda (Hayes) Chapman and Janice (Saville) Courdin - members of the 1981 state-title-winning Purdy High School girls basketball - took their annual ride with Santa atop a fire truck during the Purdy Christmas Parade Saturday. Photo courtesy of Brenda McNeil.



Above, Mark and Susan Moller, of Purdy, took their pony cart and grandkids for a Saturday morning drive during Purdy's Christmas Parade. Photo by Tammy Starchman.  
See more photos on Page 1B

Second Act speaks of life-change for Scucchi



Above, Bobbi Scucchi holds up a festive new winter jacket, one of many new items available in Second Act's Christmas Shop. Photo by Sheila Harris.

Sheila Harris  
When the position of manager for Second Act thrift store in Cassville came open several months ago, Bobbi Scucchi told her daughter, for whom she was working at the time, "Sweetie, I've got to go."

stood," said Scucchi, of Cassville, who's been managing Second Act for the past five months.

"For me, (this job) is a total love story," Scucchi explained. "People who know me and know my story understand."

Over sixteen years ago, Scucchi was addicted to meth, a downhill journey, she says, which began when she was in her 20s. She's now 60 years old and has been clean for over 15 years, a redemption she takes no credit for, but one for which she is extremely grateful.

"I don't think anyone ever chooses to be a drug addict," Scucchi said. "Everyone wants to be loved, and addiction is often the result of making one bad choice after another in our search for acceptance."

Sixteen years ago, while living in Monett and essen-

tially homeless, Scucchi said she was "dumpster diving" at night, searching for food and clothing, when she heard the still, small voice of God calling her out.

"I heard just two words: 'Follow me,'" said Scucchi.

It was enough to make an impression. Scucchi said she crawled out of the dumpster and returned to the home where she was staying. That night, she explained, the door of the house was kicked in by the Drug Task Force, an event for which she is now thankful.

"It turned my life around,"

she said. "A warrant was issued for me, for the possession of meth, and I began (another journey) through the court system."

"During that time, I struggled every day just to put one foot in front of the other," Scucchi said.

Scucchi says she attended rehab at Celebrate Recovery at the Church of The Nazarene in Monett, where she gave her life to Christ and has never looked back.

"I walked all over Monett

See SECOND ACT 6A



Above, Bobbi Scucchi, manager at Second Act, in Cassville, makes adjustments to some of the store's Christmas decor. Photo by Sheila Harris.

CHS Christmas Royalty Raise Serious Cash



Mister and Miss Merry Christmas candidates at Cassville High School brought home the bacon, in the form of \$17,915.85 raised for Cassville OACAC's Share Your Christmas program.

The top male fundraiser, Miller Reid, was crowned Mr. Merry Christmas, while his counterpart, Gracie Harmon - top among female fundraisers - was crowned Miss Merry Christmas.

Reid, a freshman, is the son of Lisa and Dusty Reid, of Cassville. Harmon, a sophomore, is the daughter of Andy and Nikki Harmon, of Springfield.

Shown above, left to right, are candidates Joseph Burton, Alyzea Myers and Josh Case; Mister Merry Christmas, Miller Reid; program volunteer, Jill LeCompte; Miss Merry Christmas, Gracie Harmon; candidates, Jake Anthonysz, Ellie Arndt and Andi Oliphant.  
Photo by Ezra DeVore.

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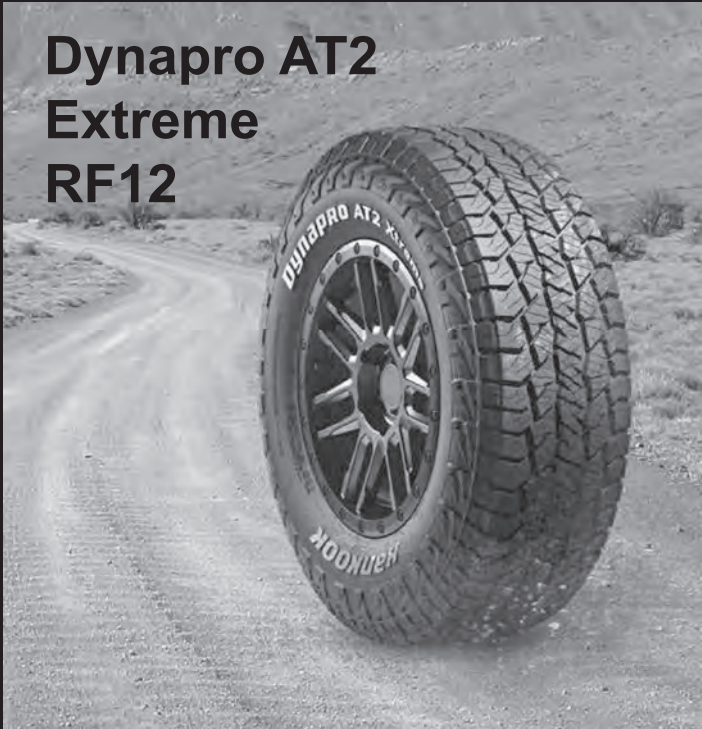
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## Life360’s Hahn named Meals Champion Cohort

Life360 Community Services’ Jeremy Hahn has been named a No Kid Hungry 2022-2023 Out of School Time Meals Champion Cohort. Hahn, who is one of ten professionals who has been exemplary in his work to end hunger in his community through the Summer and Afterschool Meals Programs, has been named an inaugural cohort.

Over the next year, the cohorts will work to raise awareness about the Summer and Afterschool Meals Programs, provide support and expertise to new program sponsors and work together to develop and share promising practices to providers across the country.

“Kids need proper nutrition to learn, thrive, and grow—every day of the year,” Paige Pokorney, program manager for the No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices, said. “These champions have been working tirelessly to ensure kids have the food they need, whether schools are open or not. We’re so excited to work with and learn from these champions over the next 12 months.”

Ensuring children have access to meals when they’re not in school has always been important, Pokorney says, but the pandemic has magnified the importance of out-of-school-time meals.

“When school doors are closed, school nutrition staff and community organizations step up to get meals out the door,” Pokorney said. “For nearly two years, they

have pivoted to serve meals in creative ways, guaranteeing kids are nourished while also helping staff remain safe throughout the COVID-19 crisis.”

“It is an honor to receive this distinction,” Hahn said. “As we work to feed, house, educate and empower young people from cradle to career, the LCS team never gave a second thought to expanding our services during the pandemic. We are happy to serve wherever needs arise.”

### About No Kid Hungry

No child should go hungry in America. But in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, one in six kids could face hunger in 2021. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food needed to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization committed to ending hunger and poverty.

### About Life360 Community Services

Life360 Community Services is reversing poverty’s effects on families and communities. In collaboration with community partners, we are enhancing the well-being of underserved and at-risk individuals from the time they leave the cradle to the moment they enter the workforce. Life360 Community Services feeds 23,000 kids daily in over 150 public schools across Missouri and Arkansas. LCS housing initiatives are helping families progress in life to independent, safe housing conditions, and our education and empowerment initiatives are helping young adults and the underemployed prepare for a life of productivity, success and community contribution.

## Area accidents result in injuries

Ezra DeVore, Sheila Harris

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, on December 17 at 4:20 p.m., a westbound 2018 Chevrolet Equinox driven by Hilda Gomez (50), of Exeter, failed to yield to a 2006 Dodge Caravan traveling south on Highway 37 at Butterfield. The Caravan, driven by Laura N. Caha-Fiedler (51), of Springfield, struck the Equinox in the side.

Both drivers, as well as a passenger in the Caravan - Amanda A. Gammill (32), of Springfield - were taken by EMS transport to Cox South in Springfield with serious injuries.

Gammill and Caha-Fiedler were wearing safety devices; Gomez was not.

Both vehicles were totalled. The Equinox was towed by Wilson Towing, of Cassville. It is unknown whether the vehicle was insured.

The Caravan was towed from the scene by Brice’s Towing, of Cassville. It was insured through Liberty Mu-

tual.

The accident was investigated by Trooper L. A. Wilson, with the assistance of Sergeant J. E. Givens.

According to another Missouri State Highway Patrol report, on December 18, at 2:50 p.m., Tristy Erway (39), of Stark City, was eastbound in a 2014 Chevrolet Equinox when she traveled off the right side of Highway 86 and struck trees and a fence.

The Equinox sustained extensive damage; Erway was transported by EMS to Mercy Cassville with moderate injuries.

Erway was not wearing a safety device at the time of the accident.

The Equinox, which was insured through Traders Insurance, was towed from the scene by Thomas Towing, of Monett.

The accident was investigated by Sergeant J. E. Givens, with assistance from Corporal J. J. Long.

## Kaiser Re-elected to Farm Bureau Board



Duane Kaiser

### Submitted Content

Duane Kaiser, of Monett, was re-elected to a to a two-year term on the Missouri Farm Bureau (MOFB) board of directors during the organization’s 107th annual meeting December 7 at the Lake of the Ozarks. Kaiser represents

District 7 in southwest Missouri. He was first elected to the board in 2019.

Kaiser is a retired agriculture education teacher and currently raises 70 registered Jersey and Guernsey dairy cows, and 40 beef cows. The original homestead became a Century Farm in 2014. He earned a bachelor’s of science degree from Missouri State University and a master’s in vocational education from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He and his wife, Colleen, are Barry County Farm Bureau members where he served as county president. Through MOFB, Kaiser is involved in the District 7 PAC, dairy committee and resolutions committee.

The couple has three grown children.

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And the winner is . . .



Above, Tori Williams (left) and Karlea Holder (right), representing CS Bank as tellers, drew the winner for Week Three of The Barry County Advertiser’s “Tis The Season To Be Giving” contest.  
 The name of Zanna Jones, age 10, of Exeter, was drawn from among the contest’s 18 entries. Jones’s gift was accepted on her behalf by Patsy Beck, of Exeter, shown below (right).  
 Below (left), CS Bank employee Brooke Harris is shown presenting the gift basket to Beck.  
 Photos by Adriana Keeton.



Cassville R-IV School District has remained flexible in doing our very best for the educational needs of our students despite the many outside distractions associated with social media panic, political unpredictability, and strong opinions concerning best practices in dealing with COVID-19. I would like to assure parents that last Friday’s national TikTok threat posed no danger to Cassville R-IV students. Our administrative team was aware of this sinister social media activity and did an outstanding job communicating with the Cassville Police Department. I appreciate Chief of Police Kammerlohr for promptly and professionally responding to this situation by increasing officer presence throughout all of our campuses during the day. The administration and police officers quickly determined that this national social media threat was too vague and posed no specific threat to any particular location. In every decision we make, the safety of our students and staff will always be our top priority. This is a good time to remind ourselves and our students that if they hear or see something, they should report it immediately to an adult.

With the most recent letter from the Missouri Attorney General, it was determined that we should update our Return to Learn Plan for the remainder of the school year. At this time, we will shift into Engagement Level 1 which includes traditional seated in-person instruction with health precautions. We will no longer enforce quarantines or isolations for students or staff who have been determined to be a close contact of a positive

A note from Dr. Johnson

case. We will partner with parents to exclude students from the school setting who have or who are liable to transmit any known illness. We will continue to contact trace and notify all students and staff who are determined to be close contacts. Close contacts will be asked to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Students and staff deemed to be close contacts may choose to self-quarantine, but will not be required to do so. Confirmed COVID-19 notifications will result in exclusion from the school setting. A positive COVID-19 test will exclude all students/staff until cleared by a negative test (with no symptoms) or 10 days from the onset of symptoms (with no symptoms). If you have any questions or concerns about our Return to Learn updates, you can view the plan on our website or you may contact any school administrator.
 At Cassville Schools, we are always looking and preparing forward. We con-

tinue to ask: What more can we do? These questions have been at the forefront of many Cassville R-IV leadership conversations. We have involved our administrators, building leadership teams, parents, medical and health professionals, and board of education members. As we prepare for the second semester our focus remains on doing our best for students and staff. Our students and their learning are at the center of everything we do. We will continue to support our teachers, leaders and staff who are doing their best for our students.
 Flexibility in planning will remain our focus due to the inability to predict what tomorrow, next week, or next month will look like. Our children need stability. We want to provide stability and consistency for our children during these changing times. Our strength lies in lifting each other up and uniting our efforts to do our best for our children.
 As the first semester con-



Dr. Merlyn Johnson

cludes, I would like to thank you for lending us your most precious possessions every day. The staff at Cassville R-IV School District appreciates your partnership as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your children. I am hopeful that each of you will have a safe and happy Christmas break and New Year. I look forward to seeing your students as they return on Tuesday, January 4.

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# Simmons opens 417 Aesthetics in Cassville

SPONSORED CONTENT



Certified aesthetician Kaleigh Simmons, above, opened a medical spa in Cassville in October. Submitted photo.

Ezra DeVore  
“Being a nurse during Covid was too hard on my family,” said Kaleigh Simmons, owner of Cassville’s newest Medical Spa: 417 Aesthet-

ics. Simmons has worked in nursing since 2013, but her dream of being an aesthetician became possible when nursing began to exhaust her. Soon after, when she dis-

covered she was pregnant with her son, Sterling, who is now eight months old, she said, “I just couldn’t do it anymore.”  
Her husband, TJ Simmons, then convinced her to go to Dallas, Texas, to earn her official Medical Aesthetics Certificate from National Laser Institute. Upon completing the course, Simmons opened 417 Aesthetics in October of 2021.  
“I just love it,” Simmons said.  
“My heart is in skin care, but I also love nursing. I get patients that want to see me now, instead of them being sick and they need to see me,” Simmons laughed. “It’s more of a luxury service, too,

so, either they’ve saved their money, or it’s a gift to them.”  
“I’ve been a one-man-show since we opened, but after the first of the year, I’ll have a full time aesthetician and a full-time receptionist, and I’ll be adding a second boutique,” she added.  
From botox to lashes, and beyond, Simmons is relieved to get to, “treat patients for their wants and needs, instead of a sickness.”

According to Simmons, opening the medical spa wasn’t always a guarantee.  
“The biggest risk,” Simmons explained, “was putting all my time and money into a spa in a small town; I didn’t know how successful it would be, but now my patients thank me for being here as they leave. I was a part of my community’s health needs, and I now want to be part of their beauty

needs, to give them the confidence they deserve.”  
According to Simmons, she’s booked for the rest of the year.  
To contact 417 Aesthetics, people may call 417-846-6651 or visit their Facebook Page, 417 Aesthetics, or their Instagram, 417 Aesthetics Botox & Beyond. 417 Aesthetics is located at 401 S Main Street, Suite G, in Cassville.



“No one else sees the world the way you do, so no one else can tell the stories you have to tell.” -Charles de Lint, writer

## SECOND ACT from FRONT

looking for work,” she said. “The first one I found was at Herd’s. Later, I got one at IDF.”  
Scucchi says she acquired a bicycle and rode it back and forth to work until her daughter (one of Scucchi’s three children) helped her buy her first car: a convert-

ible.  
Scucchi laughs now at the memory.  
“I’d go cruising through Monett at night with the top down, looking for homeless drug addicts and dumpster divers. I’d invite them into my car so we could talk about what God had done for

me and what he could do for them, too,” she said. “I had a CD of *The Purpose Driven Life* in my CD player. We’d listen to it, and we’d talk, and people started giving their lives to Christ right there in my convertible.”  
Some things have changed since those days. Scucchi now

ministers to the homeless, drug-addicted and recovering addicts through Second Act, where she puts those who have emerged from the drug courts to work.  
“Most people are required to perform about 100 hours of community service,” Scucchi explained, “and hours spent working in Second Act count toward that total.”  
Scucchi also sets aside all the new clothing donated to the store for those who she knows will appreciate it the most.

“I opened a Christmas Shop inside the store this year,” she said. “It’s a room that contains all the new items I’ve been setting aside, so people can give new gifts for Christmas.”  
Scucchi says she sees and hears (from the police) of many dumpster divers at Second Act.  
“I wish they knew they didn’t have to do that,” she said, “but it’s the way drug addicts are. If I’m around, I invite them to come inside where it’s warm, and I talk to

them.”  
Scucchi says she makes a point of asking the names of the customers who come into Second Act, in a store whose name, she says, speaks to her of God’s providence in her own life.  
“We have something beautiful going on in this store and in our community,” she said. “People in Barry County are so loving. We receive some really wonderful donations here.”  
Scucchi thanks the community, the drug court programs that allow her to help with community service hours, and, most of all, God, who called her out of her own past addiction and put her in a new position at Second Act.

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Letter to The Editor

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Dear Editor,  
Here's a big shout-out of thanks!  
Catherine Curtis and I have been feeling really, really miserable, trying to sleep between hacking coughs when not feeding crows, birds, Bark-Lee and Bitsie. Due to no energy, we've neglected emails, and phone calls. Just no energy!  
A big thank you shout out to Traci Parkin, Catherine's daughter, for contacting Brenda Wallis, our old neighbor, now in Cassville,

to check on our health and welfare.  
Brenda Wallis contacted our neighbor, Steve Blankenship, who left his warm home at 10 p.m. to drive over for a wellness check. I was embarrassed he had to drive over, but was greatly appreciative that he had. Thanks, Steve!  
Early the next morning, from Boulder City, Nevada, Traci Parkin called the Barry County Sheriff's Office to arrange for a wellness check.  
Deputy Jeremy Berner arrived and said he was there for a wellness check. Bless Officer Jeremy Berner! I had the early morning shakes and confusion and agreed to his suggestion that an ambulance should be called for transporting Catherine to the hospital. Officer Berner helpfully explained what was happening to Catherine and me. He said he would remain there until the ambulance arrived to guide them as necessary.  
Officer Berner's friendliness soothed my confusion and fear until the ambulance arrived. I never fully appreciated sheriffs or deputies as friends. They are!

The ambulance crew arrived and involved me in a discussion about which hospital to take Catherine to, as local hospital beds were in short supply. A trip to Cox Hospital in Springfield was open as a possibility. Cox Monett was selected. The crew was very helpful locating Catherine's Medicare, driver's license, and insurance cards. My hands were shaking too much to handle the thick contents of her purse.  
I was advised that my breathing was labored, and that I should leave for the hospital now before the ambulance was loaded, go slow, and pullover if confused or weak. The ambulance caught up with me as we approached Pleasant Valley.  
I stayed with Catherine in the Cox ER until about 5 p.m. and was advised to go home and call for updated information.  
With all of that said, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all of those who reached out in our time of need.  
Barry C. Hughes,  
Aurora

Six COVID-19-related deaths reported by health department

Sheila Harris  
Active cases of COVID-19 are again on the increase in Barry and surrounding counties.  
The Barry County Health Department reports that 10.34 percent of tests administered during the December 9 through December 21 reporting period were positive. The positivity rate for the previous reporting period was 8.29 percent.  
Ninety new cases of CO-

VID-19 were reported, up from 80 new cases during the previous counting period.  
According to the health department, six people have died from complications of COVID-19 during the same reporting period. Two patients were in the 41-60 age bracket; four were in the 61+ age bracket. All six patients suffered from significant underlying health conditions. Two were residents of congregate care facilities.  
Although county health departments have been restricted, per orders from Missouri's attorney general, from enacting and publishing further information about aspects of the virus regarding the isolation and quarantining of patients, Roger Brock encourages residents to take personal responsibility for their own health and that of those around them.

Fuel oil leak results in road closure

Ezra DeVore, Sheila Harris  
A concerned county employee reported fuel oil running into the storm drain near the Cassville Post Office Wednesday morning, which resulted in the closure of portions of West and Eight Streets near the square by the Cassville Public Works Department.  
"After some investigation," Public Works director, David Brock said, "we discovered that an old fuel oil heater in the basement of the build-

ing located at the southwest corner of West and Eighth Streets had flooded the basement floor and was being pumped out of the building with a sump pump."  
Brock said the oil is being contained with absorbent cat litter.  
"We'll absorb what we

can," Brock said, "and the petroleum will dissipate. Then we'll clean it up in a responsible manner."  
The Aurora Police Department, responsible for handling nuisance complaints, is currently investigating the situation.

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## Dilbeck making Missouri, CHS JAG history



Above, Makenzi Dilbeck (left) is shown with the Mayor of Jefferson City, Carrie Tergin, during the National Student Leadership Academy in Jefferson City.

Submitted Content  
Cassville High School Senior Makenzi Dilbeck is making Missouri JAG history as the first Community Service State Officer. The Jobs for American Graduates program, or

JAG, at CHS was started in 2019. Dilbeck was a founding member. The program helps members reach their full potential by first graduating from high school and being successful at whatever career they chose to enter. It is a state-based national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting young people through leadership training. Dilbeck had to complete a two-step interview process to be considered for the Vice President of Community Service. First, she had to create and edit a three minute video stating why she deserved to be chosen to serve in this capacity. Second, she completed a virtual interview with the JAG National Trainer and both the Executive Director and the Program Director for JAG Missouri. After completing the interview process, Dilbeck was told in October that she had been named for this state office. As Community Service VP, Dilbeck said she is currently part of a state-wide team that is planning a scholarship fund for JAG students. She is the daughter of Rusty and Staci Dilbeck of Cassville.

## CHS Lady Wrestlers take top honors in Branson



Front row (l to r): Scotlyn Richardson, Hailey Roark, Annie Moore, Faith James, Breanna Gordon; back row (l to r): Coach Nathan Fortner, Makenzie Watkins, Haley Morse, Kelsey Harris, Ryleigh Burnette, Kailey Artherton, Taylor Glidewell, Coach Casey Parsons, Coach Ben Glidewell; absent from photo: Jhandi Shears.

The Cassville High School Women's Wrestling Team earned first place during the 2021 Branson Girls Invitational Saturday, December 18. In addition to winning the team championship, five lady wildcat wrestlers were individual champions. They are: 105-pound, Jhandi Shears, Second; 110-pound, Kelsey Harris, Champion; 115-pound, Annie Moore, Champion; 120-pound, Kailey Artherton, Champion; 125-pound, Breanna Gordon, Third; 130-pound, Hailey Roark, Champion; 135-pound, Faith James, Champion; 141-pound, Haley Morse, Third; 174-pound, Ryleigh Burnette, Second.



## Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week

Meet Halloween, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Halloween is a beautiful kitty who had been abandoned. He was shy at first, but with time has become a sweet and affectionate boy. He might need a short adjustment period in his new home, but will make a wonderful friend for his lucky adopter. Halloween is estimated to be a little over a year old, is good with other cats, is litter-box trained, neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and negative for FIV and leukemia. He didn't find his family during the holiday season that shares his name, but he's hoping Christmas might be his lucky time instead! Meet him at the Haven!

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# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From our families to yours

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Renée Bear  
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Richard Wagener  
Chris Barnes

Shana Harter  
Adriana Keeton  
Scott Clancy  
Ezra DeVore  
Cade Keeton

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CMS Wrestlers Place Third in Big 8



The Cassville Middle School Wrestling Team placed third in the Big 8 Conference Tournament on December 11. The tournament took place in Seneca.

The CMS Wrestling Team includes: Wyatt Bohanan, Dalton Burnette, DJ Glidewell, Colton Roark, Ethan Sizemore, Tristan Thompson, Noah Uria, Riley James, Kaleb Artherton, Kamden Beebe, Kole Fry, Jayce Graham-Magula, Kadyne Greene, Izaak Henbest, Rylen Holman, Easton Hughes, Jesse James, Mason Rillstone, Eli Roark, Jaren Stearns, Joy Burnette, Heather Hall, Kayla Priest, Meadow Richardson, Riley Stumpff, Kennedy Truman, Courtney Wall, Kaelyn Pogue and Analeigh Winchell

Nine Wildcats earned the title of Big 8 Conference Champion. Conference Champs are as follows:

**Boys division:** Kaleb Artherton, Colton Roark, Riley James, Tristan Thompson and Ethan Sizemore. **Girls Division:** Kennedy Truman, Analeigh Winchell, Heather Hall and Meadow Richardson.

Shown above, left to right, in the front row are: Riley James, Meadow Richardson, Heather Hall and Kennedy Truman; back row: Colton Roark, Tristan Thompson and Analeigh Winchell; Kaleb Artherton and Ethan Sizemore are absent from the photo.

Cassville FFA Attends National Expo



Members of the Cassville FFA Chapter are shown above, left to right, front row: Alyssa Whisenhunt, Kayla Cheek, Grace Yocum, Langston Mitchell, Windy Dunfee, Kalee Lowe, Hailey Bryan and Elizabeth Ray; back row: Jaret Hinson, Colton Blankenship, Rebekah Fry, Jacob Duncan, Jenna Crim, Richard Fohn, Maci Barton, Timothy Hudson, Dalva LaGac, Taylor Smith, Zoie Coupland, Hanna Blankenship and Tierany Sloan.

The Cassville FFA Chapter attended the 94th Annual National FFA Convention & Expo the week of October 27-30 in Indianapolis.

The National FFA Convention & Expo is the largest youth convention with nearly 55,000 FFA students from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

Students learned about careers in the agricultural industry, competed for awards and discussed the future of the National FFA Organization.

At the National Convention, CHS graduate, Lindee Mitchell, class of 2020, received her American FFA Degree. The American FFA degree is the highest degree

an FFA member can receive.

CHS FFA member, Grace Yocum, said, "I enjoyed being able to come together as a chapter and get to bond on a new level. We had an absolute blast together and made so many memories. I am so lucky to have fun advisors who made the trip an unforgettable experience."

Wheaton, Seligman Parade contest winners

Ezra DeVore

Many floats participated in last weekend's Christmas parades; however, only few departed victorious.

**Wheaton:**

- Baptist Church won best Religious Float

- Phoenix Custom Bait's won best Non-Religious Float.

- The Best Band/Marching Unit was the Southwest Trojan Marching Band.

- Sandy Summers's White Ford Truck won best Car/Truck.

- Benny's Automotive Farmall A, Farmall 560 and Farmall Super C won Best Tractors.

- Sarah Catron won Best Horse.

- Josh & Kinsey Kinnaman won the 2021 Wheaton

Christmas Light Contest.

**Seligman:**

- People's Community Bank won best Christmas Float

- Best Dressed Elf going to LJ Epperson.

- The Best Dressed Grinch was Aria Short.

- The Southwest Trojan Marching Band won best Marching Band/Unit.

- Paul Farms won best Antique Vehicle.

- First place in Non-Antique Vehicles went to McGarrah Auto.

- Otto Miller won best Motorcycle or Off-Road Vehicle.

- Pyper Glynn won best Animal Unit.

- The winner of the Seligman Christmas Lighting was Angie Corn.

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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CONNIE THOMPSON

Connie Thompson, of Monett, passed away Friday, December 17, 2021, at her home following a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

She was born Constance Lynn Bland on February 13, 1949, to George and Bertha Bland in Columbus, Ohio, later moving to Westchester, California, with her family as a young child.

Connie met the love of her life, Charlie Thompson, while out cruising with friends and they were married on November 9, 1968, in Westchester, California.

During their 53 years of marriage, they were perfect partners, supporting each other's dreams and goals, devoting themselves to their family, and sharing a love of travel. The two had four children, Becky, Justin, Tim, and Rick, and moved from Hawthorne, California, to raise their children in Cassville, and ultimately settled in Monett.

Connie was a devoted and amazing stay at home mom who took extraordinary care of their four children. She adored being a class mom, attending field trips, games, and activities, and being a member of the booster club. Connie had a passion for photography, and what began as a fun hobby of photographing her children and their friends developed into a thriving business, opening Connie's Photography in September of 1989. Her customers became family, and she cherished the part she played in creating memories for the community. But if you asked, she would tell you the

OBITUARIES

greatest joy of her life was her husband, children, and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Bertha Bland.

She is survived by her husband, life partner, and caregiver, Charlie Thompson; her children, Becky Stephens, Justin Thompson, Tim Thompson, Rick and wife, Jamie, Thompson; her grandchildren, Kaelynn and husband, Dakota Bradley, Bo Stephens, Jack Stephens, Zeke Thompson, Natalie Thompson, Harper Thompson, Van Thompson, and Quinn Thompson.

The family would like to give a very special thank you to Integrity Hospice and Home Instead Senior Care for helping to navigate the end of life, and for the love that you showed Connie at every visit.

Funeral services were held today, Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at Buchanan Funeral Home with Pastor Johnnie Hendrix officiating. Interment followed at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Butterfield. Memorial contributions have been suggested to the Alzheimer's Association in care of the funeral home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett



REVEREND JAMES E. STEWART II

Reverend James E. Stewart II, of Cassville, went to be with his Lord Jesus December 15, 2021.

James is survived by his wife of 44 years, Janell (Lee) Stewart, and one son, Robert "Dru" Stewart, his father's pride and joy, who resides in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

James is also survived by his very loving and close-knit family including his brother, Scot W. Stewart and his wife, Bonita, of Longville, Louisiana; one sister, Darlene Creasman and her husband, Michael, of Lake Charles, Louisiana; his loving mother-in-law, Barbara Lee, of Cassville, and sister-in-law and brother-in law, Valarie and Phil Hutchens, of Cassville, plus a whole host of loving nieces and nephews and cousins whom he loved dearly.

James was born and raised

in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in 1954 to James Eldridge Stewart and Lelia Irene (Platt) Stewart, who precedes him in death.

James moved to Cassville with his family and completed his high school education as a senior at Cassville High School, graduating with the class of 1973.

James was a bi-vocational pastor/minister. He retired from Pre-formed Line Products in Rogers, Arkansas, where he was employed as an Industrial Design Engineer. He retired from Pre-formed with a warm place in his heart for the company, its leadership and people, with honorable mention of then plant manager, Bill Sutton of Rogers, Arkansas, who is still very special to him.

James served many years on the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Investment Board and the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board. He was part of the Northwest Technical Institute and served on other various educational and curriculum boards in Northwest Arkansas throughout the years.

James's first love and greatest desire was preaching and sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He served as pastor of Mission Baptist Church in Washburn, Pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, Cassville, and Faith Family Church, Cassville. At the time of his death, he served as a lay-pastor at Community Faith Chapel in Cassville with honorable mention to its Pastor Rick Cooper, who has been a friend of many years to James.

James loved people and was never ashamed to share Jesus with them no matter where he was. He leaves behind a host of people whose lives were touched by his love for them.

He will be greatly missed on this earth.

Services were held Sunday, December 19, 2021, at Community Faith Chapel in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Evangelist Ron Mills, Pastor Rick Cooper, Pastor Paul Wahlert and Reverend Ron Blackwill conducted the services.

Contributions may be made to Corinth Cemetery in memory of James.

Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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LOIS ELLEN "SONYE" MOOMAW

Lois Ellen "Sonye" Moomaw, 87, of Monett, passed away Monday, December 13, 2021. No formal services are planned at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

JOYCE KAY CARNES

Joyce Kay Carnes, 66, of Yukon, Oklahoma (formerly of Purdy) passed away Friday December 17, 2021.

Visitation is Monday, December 27, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bennett-Wormington Funeral Home in Monett. Funeral services are Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. at the Bennett-Wormington Funeral Home in Monett.

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- Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

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### The Family of KENNETH SHERMAN

would like to thank the following people for their help during Kenneth's illness:

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Family Members

Thank you all and for all the prayers we received.

Darlene Sherman  
Lynn Sherman-Howerton  
and Family

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### The family of JACK SNOOK

would like to thank the following:

Pastor Jerry Yarnall for doing such a beautiful service. Todd McCoy and the staff at Fohn Funeral Home for easing us through the process with such grace and care. Detective Doug Henry of the Barry County Sheriff's Department for leading the funeral procession and for the kind words. Sgt. Donnie Privett and the Cassville Police Department for helping with the procession. Sunni Morris and the entire staff from Walgreens in Ozark. We don't know how we would have gotten through this if not for you all. You were there for anything we needed and we will never forget the kindness and love you showed during this heartbreaking time. We also want to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, plants, cards, calls, texts, and most importantly all the prayers.

May God Bless You All,  
Karen  
Toby, Madi, Zach and Jenna  
Landon, Jennifer and Wyatt





**WILLA MAE BRUCE MCGREW**

Willa Mae Bruce McGrew, age 85, passed away Friday, December 17, 2021, at Ozark Methodist Manor, Marionville. She was born July 6, 1936, to William L. Bruce and Ethel Mae (Watchous) Bruce, at Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. She married Joseph Robert McGrew November 30, 1958, at Emporia, Kansas.

She is survived by her husband; three children, Daniel R. McGrew (Carla), of Aurora, Susan D. McGrew, of Cassville, and Michael A. McGrew of Harrisonville; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Elma Nichols, of Emporia, Jane Bower (Roy), of Bella Vista, Colorado, and Patty Henderson (Ted), of Lebo, Kansas. She graduated from Chase County Community High School class of 1955. She retired from Commerce Bank of Barry County, where she had worked for 20 years. No services will be held. Cremation arrangements under direction of Fohn Funeral Home Cassville.

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

School class of 1955. She retired from Commerce Bank of Barry County, where she had worked for 20 years. No services will be held. Cremation arrangements under direction of Fohn Funeral Home Cassville.

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**MARY LOU BECKLEY**

Mary Lou Beckley, age 84, of Eagle Rock, passed away Friday, December 17, 2021, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield.

She was born December 22, 1936, in Lincoln Township, Adams County, Iowa, the daughter of Percy and Mabel (Mills) Frederick. On June 8, 1958, in Cleg-horn, Iowa, she was united in marriage to Roy Beckley, who preceded her in death on April 20, 2002. Also pre-

ceding her in death were her parents; one sister, Joan; and three brothers, Bob, Dean and Darwin.

Surviving her are one son, Kory Beckley, of Eagle Rock; one daughter, Karla Stinnett and her husband, Tim, of Richmond, Virginia; three granddaughters, Amanda (Brian) LeVelle, of Ava, Mary (Nathan) Crouch, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Tiffany (Jeremy) Miller, of Chesterfield, Virginia; six great-grandchildren, Sarah, Stetson, Gus, Montana, Layla and Kinley; ten great-great-grandchildren, Oakley, Bethany, Carson, Jacob, Paisleigh, Mason, Nova, Hunter, Daw-

son and Addisyn May; one sister, Sandra Parks, of Cleveland, Minnesota; one sister-in-law, Doris Frederick, of Cleghorn, Iowa; and also many nieces and nephews.

Mary grew up and received her education in Cleghorn, Iowa, where she graduated from high school. She continued her education and attained her degree in Elementary Education. Mary began teaching, met and married Roy, and started their family. She spent time teaching at numerous schools in Nebraska including Woodlake, Crookston and Ballard Marsh. Later returning to college, she re-

ceived a Master's in Education and went on to become an Administrator at St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota, where she retired from her teaching career. After retiring in 1992, Roy and Mary moved to Eagle Rock where they opened and operated Uncle Roy's convenience store. Some of her favorite pastimes were gardening, watching birds, and going on adventures such as white water rafting and riding in a hot air balloon. She also enjoyed playing golf, sewing and baking, especially her delicious pecan rolls. Mary was a beloved member in Beta Sigma Phi and she treasured her relationships with all of her sorority sisters. She was a

member of All Faith United Methodist Church in Eagle Rock. The most important thing to Mary was spending time with her family and she especially loved having all of the little ones around.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at Mano Cemetery in Mano, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Bill Kenagy conducted the services. Memorial contributions may be made to Haven of the Ozarks in memory of Mary.

Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study/Youth ..... 7:00 p.m.

Everybody Welcome!

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;  
He rises to show you compassion.  
For the Lord is a God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for Him.  
Isaiah 30:18

## THE FAMILY OF LYNNE SIEBERT

would like to thank everyone in our great community for your thoughts, flowers, and prayers. A special thanks to White's Funeral Home for the respectful service, to Milford Baker for his kind words, and to the Exeter School District for being a "2nd Family."

Thank you all very much for being there during our difficult time.

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

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Salvador Purdy 1st

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Mary Birchfield

Skip & Kathy White

Al Chandler

From all our staff we hope this season finds you peace

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John Hile

Carrie Beck

Josh Burton

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**RUTH “WILLEEN” STOGDILL**  
Ruth “Willeen” Stogdill, age 84, of Neosho, passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at Medicalodges Neosho in Neosho.  
She was born May 1, 1937, in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, the daughter of Albert “Willie” Wilson and Euna Murl (Miller) Beaver. On August 22, 1953, in Loomis, California, she was united in marriage to Warren Albert Stogdill, who preceded her in death on October 21, 2021. Also preceding her in death were her parents; two brothers, Melvin Shingleton and Harold Shingleton; one sister, Virginia Mitchell; and one son-in-law, Jerry Pettit.  
Survivors include one son, David Clinton Stogdill and his wife, Debra, of Palmer, Alaska; two daughters, Kedren Diane Pettit, of Carl Junction, and Holly Elizabeth Lyall and her hus-

band, Loy, of Neosho; eleven grandchildren; twenty-four great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; one brother, Charles Willis Beaver; and one sister, Hazel Lambert.  
Willeen attended school in California, moving back to Washburn in 1959 and then to Exeter in 1999. She was a homemaker and also a babysitter for several years. Spending time with family, relaxing and watching TV was what she enjoyed but she loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Being with family was the highlight of her life. She was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where she also taught Sunday School.  
Services were held Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Washburn, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Randy Comer conducted the services. Burial was at Roller Cemetery near Washburn.  
Contributions may be made to Roller Cemetery in memory of Willeen.  
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**FOHN FUNERAL HOME  
CASSVILLE, MO.  
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**LARRY NATHAN CARPENTER**  
Larry Nathan Carpenter, age 46, of Purdy, passed away on Saturday, December 18, 2021. No services are scheduled at this time. 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



**JERRY LEE BECK**  
Jerry Lee Beck, age 78, of Cassville, passed away Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield, Missouri.  
He was born March 3, 1943, in Cassville, the son of LeRoy and Jessie (Price)

**OBITUARIES**  
Beck. On July 10, 1964, in Ukiah, California, he was united in marriage to Joan Davis, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Jerry Manuel Beck, of Cassville; three daughters, Lisea Cape, of Cassville, Christine Tucker, of Cassville, and Joann Dunfee and her husband, Tony of Cassville; one brother, Floyd Beck and his wife, Kay, of Cassville; one sister, Jackie Beck, of Butterfield; thirteen grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.  
preceding him in death were his parents and one sister, Joyce Holmes.  
Jerry grew up in the Cassville area and attended Cassville schools. After school, he started logging and welding. He moved to California where he married Joan and they started their family. In 1974, they returned to this area and he began working for G&R Machine Works in Purdy as a welder and later at Clark Industries Incorporated in Monett. He liked old cars and pickups and enjoyed playing music. He loved his wife and family dearly. He was of the Baptist faith.  
Services were held Monday, December 20, 2021, at Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services. Burial was at Horner Cemetery in Cassville.  
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**TINA JO MASSEY**  
Tina Jo Massey, age 54, of Cassville, passed away at her home on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Ms. Massey, daughter of Marvin and Glenda (Sears) Christy, was born on February 12, 1967, in Trenton. Tina was a loving mother who always put her children and grandchildren first. She had a huge heart and she would take care of everybody she came across no matter what difficulties she herself might have been going through. She loved to cook and nobody was allowed to go hungry. Tina was an avid animal lover and she would adopt every stray or baby animal in the world if she could. She loved being on the water whether it was the lake, creek, pool, or beach and if anyone managed to talk her into getting into the water, they couldn't talk her back out. She lived life to the fullest, never met a stranger, was a friend to so many and she will be greatly missed.  
Survivors include three sons, Jesse Poe and his wife, Amanda, of Camdenton, Zackary Poe and his wife, Allison, of Denver, Colorado, and Chisum Massey and his fiancé, Nefertiti, of Columbia; her father, Marvin Christy and his wife, Mary, of Cassville; six grandchil-

dren, Alex, Kaleb, Axel, Tara, Tyler, and Trisha; three great-grandchildren, Nieza, Ataira, and Thea; two brothers, Greg Tipton and his wife, Judy, of Cassville, and Rodney Christy and his wife, Angel, of Cassville; and several nieces and nephews.  
Tina was preceded in death by her mother, Glenda Christy.  
No services are scheduled at this time. A private family burial will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville at a later date.  
Cremation arrangements are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

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**JANICE LAVONNE DAVIS**  
Janice Lavonne Davis, age 83, of Seligman, passed away at her home on Sunday, December 19, 2021, while surrounded by her children. Ms. Davis, daughter of Glenn and Janet (Wolf) Lee, was born on February 12, 1938, in Kansas City. Janice was a nurse's aide by trade who enjoyed going to the casino for fun. She loved her family dearly, as well as her dog, Little Bit. Janice will be greatly missed by all who knew her.  
Survivors include her three children, Luke Green and his wife, Sonja, and Albert Green and his wife, Ruthie, all of Seligman, and Valissa Tucker, of Silver Point, Tennessee; eight grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.  
In addition to her parents, Janice was preceded in death by one daughter, Debra Ward, and one brother, Glen E. Lee.  
A private family burial will be held at a later date.  
Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home & Crematory, Cassville.

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STEPHEN DEAN GRYDER

Stephen Dean Gryder, age 54, of Shell Knob, passed away at his home on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Mr. Gryder, son of Elbert and Opal (Cox) Gryder, was born on March 27, 1967, in Merced, California. On March 26, 1986, he was united in marriage to Joan Lambert in Exeter. Steve enjoyed the outdoors such as fishing, hunting, boating, and going on float trips, as well as carpentry and wood working. He was also an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan. Some of his most memorable pastimes were working on cars with his boys, spending time with his two precious granddaughters, and tractor time. Steve was a friend to so many and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his loving wife, Joan Gryder, of Shell Knob; his two sons, Bryan Gryder and his fiancé, Nakita, of Shell Knob, and Andrew Gryder and his wife, Maranda, of Garfield, Arkansas; two granddaughters, Freya and Hadley; two brothers, Les Gryder, of Golden, and Dale Gryder, of Aurora;

two sisters, Christine Gryder, of Bolivar, and Katherine Gryder, of Carthage; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Steve was preceded in death by one brother, Lloyd Allen.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 23, 2021, at Painter Cemetery in Shell Knob, with Evangelist John Hile officiating.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. prior to service time at the White Funeral Home in Cassville on Thursday, December 23, 2021.

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

W

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GARY LYNN WHALEY

Gary Lynn Whaley, age 70, of Viola, passed away on Friday, December 17, 2021, at his home. Mr. Whaley, son of Lawrence and Corine (Husky) Whaley, was born on January 26, 1951, in Deso-

OBITUARIES

to. On July 18, 1987, he was united in marriage to Sharon Acheson in Webster Groves. Gary was a machinist by trade and he, along with his wife Sharon, owned and operated The Country Diner in Shell Knob, making several lasting friendships along the way. Fishing and gardening were some of Gary's favorite pastimes, as well as being an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. One of Gary's greatest joys in life was his family whom he was very proud of.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sharon Whaley, of Viola; his four children, Richard Acheson, of Shell Knob, Steven Acheson and

his wife, Naomi, of Carr Lane, Lindsey (Whaley) Everson and her husband, David, of Branson, and Travis Whaley and his wife, Destiny, of Shell Knob; nine grandchildren, Hayden Acheson, Remington Acheson, Tatum Acheson, Jocelyn Everson, Madelyn Everson, Bentley Whaley, Callie Whaley, Andrea Acheson and Carson Acheson; two sisters, Linda Engle, of Webster Groves, and Terry Sidwell, of Rolla; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by one brother, Richard Whaley, and one sister, Darlene Hutchison.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at White Funeral Home in Cassville with Pastor Bob Gaddis officiating.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from noon until service time at the funeral home.

Arrangements are under the direction of White Fu-

neral Home & Crematory, Cassville.

W

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WARM WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS

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DAVID EARL BRYANT

David Earl Bryant, age 55, of Cassville, passed away Sunday, December 19, 2021, in Exeter.

He was born December 27, 1965, in Eudora, Arkansas, the son of Travis and Ann (Stepp) Bryant, who survive. Also surviving are one son, David Bryant, Jr., and two brothers, Kevin Bryant and

his wife, Juanita, of Leland, Mississippi, and Tracy Bryant, of Cassville.

After graduating high school, David attended Moorhead College where he took an auto mechanics course. Moving to Cassville several years ago, he began working at George's Incorporated. Later, he was employed by Mercy Hospital in Cassville as a floor technician where he had been for several years. Some of his pastimes were fishing and hunting and he also enjoyed working on his truck and other vehicles. David was of the Baptist faith.

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

OBITUARIES

Visit [fohnfuneralhome.com](http://fohnfuneralhome.com) for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

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**WILLIAM "BILL" THOMAS MOUSER**

William "Bill" Thomas Mouser, age 85, of Eagle Rock, passed away at his home on Sunday, December 19, 2021. Mr. Mouser, son of Jack and Alice (Rogers)

Mouser, was born on May 28, 1936, in Horse Cave, Kentucky. On September 1, 1995, Bill was united in marriage to Sharon Simeone in Vienna, Illinois. For most of his life, Bill worked as a firefighter, retiring after many years and moving to Eagle Rock where he enjoyed fishing and restoring vintage cars.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Mouser, of Eagle Rock; one son, Thomas Mouser and his wife, Alice, of Frisco, Texas; one daughter, Connie Tenneyson and her husband, John, of Danville, Illinois; four stepchildren, Sharell Eddy and her husband, Mitch, of Webb City, Shantel Satterlee and her significant other, Doug Ralston, of Carl Junction, Matthew Snyder and his wife, Tara, of Soudan, Minnesota, and Doug Wright and his

wife, Lynn, of Hutchinson, Kansas; sixteen grandchildren; one brother, Max Bear, of Homer, Illinois; one sister, Laura Bear, of Champagne, Illinois; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, William was preceded in death by one daughter, Vicky Cassaro; one son, Tommy Mouser; two brothers, Jack Bear and Jack Mouser Jr; and one sister, Ruthie Bear.

No services are scheduled at this time.

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

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417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400



**MISTY DAUN JONES**

Misty Daun Jones, age 51, of Wheaton, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at National Health Care

Nursing Home in Joplin. Mrs. Jones, daughter of Betty Clark was born on August 19, 1970, in Kansas City. On December 11, 1993, she was united in marriage to Jeffrey Jones in Washburn. Misty lived her life to the fullest and was always ready for a fun time. Some of her favorite pastimes were camping, fishing, and making quilts. She loved her family dearly and will forever be missed.

Survivors include her husband, Jeffrey Jones, of Wheaton; one daughter, Lucinda Unger, of Wheaton; her mother, Betty Clark, of Joplin; six grandchildren, Aaron, Keshia, Alexis, Cheyenne, Christianna, and Izabella; two brothers, Robbie Witham and Adam Witham and his significant other Cynthia, all of Fort Scott, Kansas; one sister, Eva Witham, of Nevada; and several nieces and nephews.

Misty was preceded in death by one son, Christopher Jones.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 23, 2021, at Muncie Chapel Cemetery in Wheaton, with Reverend Artricia Lowry officiating.

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

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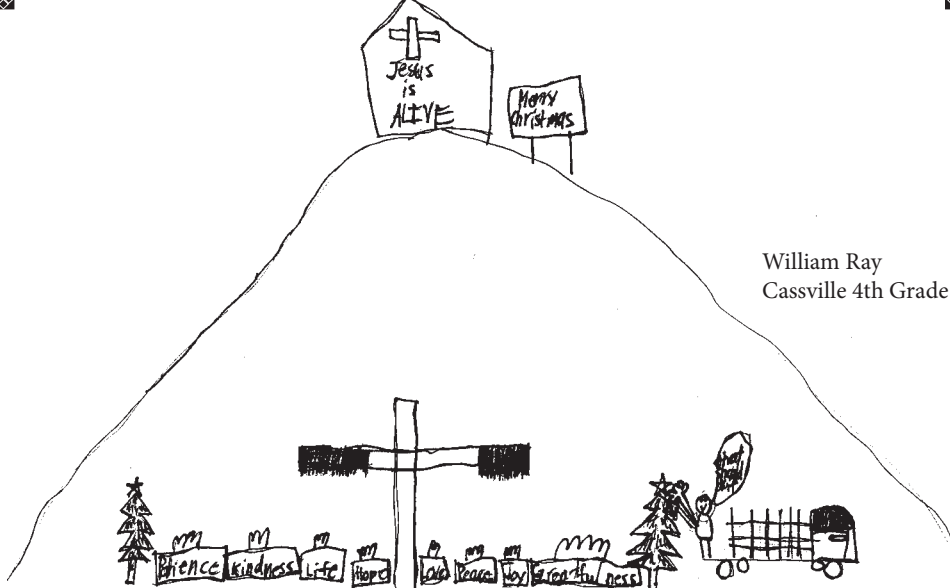
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Roaring River Health and Rehab benefits from Angel Tree

Sheila Harris  
 Caden Swearingen, owner of CS Designs, Decor and More, in Cassville, has a soft spot for the elderly, evidenced again this year by his



Above, Caden Swearingen, of Cassville, poses with some of the presents generous donors brought to the office of The Barry County Advertiser for residents at Roaring River Health and Rehab in Cassville. Photo by Sheila Harris.

organizational efforts in establishing an Angel Tree in the office of The Barry County Advertiser to benefit the residents at Roaring River Health and Rehab.

Fifty-eight angels bearing the wish list items of participating residents of the residential care facility were hung on the tree and the public was invited to fulfill

the wishes of residents. The response was tremendous, so much so that wrapped presents nearly filled the front office of The Advertiser prior to their de-

livery to the nursing facility. Swearingen wants to thank everyone who participated, including the donors,

the Barry County Advertiser and Roaring River Health and Rehab.

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 'And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not:  
 'Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people, Unto you is born this day a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.'  
 Luke 2:11  
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Crain takes first in  
MSSU Media Showcase



CHS senior Avery Crain took first place in the MSSU Media Showcase on December 7th with her entry in Animation Video. Students in Mrs. Grossman's high school Multimedia class produce videos and animations to enter in the competition against students from area schools. There were over 400 entries in this year's Showcase in the multiple categories.

Merry Christmas

from

**Mike's**

AUTO CARE

A group of ten people, mostly men in grey work uniforms and caps, with two women, posing for a group photo. Two people are seated in the front row, while the others stand behind them.

417-228-6085 Hwy. 37 at Farm Road 2160, Cassville (by the airport)

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Christmas

• AND •

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A large group of people, including students and adults, are sitting in bleachers, smiling for a group photo. The photo is tilted slightly to the right.



PURDY PARADE from FRONT



"If you're not in the parade, you watch the parade. That's life." - Mike Ditka

Above left, The Eagle Echoes carol parade-goers at Purdy's annual Christmas Parade Saturday. Photo by Tammy Starchman.

Above right, Barry County sheriff and Purdy native, Danny Boyd, waves to parade-goers in Purdy Saturday, while his helpers toss candy to children. Photo by Ezra DeVore.

At left, the Americorp reading coaches at Purdy R-II do their part to delight crowds at the Purdy Christmas Parade Saturday. Photo by Tammy Starchman.





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Wishing you and your family joy and laughter this holiday season!





*Sheila Harris*  
Although news of the sinkhole has tapered off since it first broke ground in February of 2005, Bob Berg remembers well the day a neighbor called to ask him what was going on his field.

*"He told me, 'You've got a hole out there with water*

"I went to Cassville and let some officials know what was going on," Berg said, "but they laughed and told me just to throw a few rocks in the hole and not to worry about it. After that, I called the DNR office in Jefferson City, and they didn't waste any time getting someone

"Office of Emergency



directions. By contrast, bedrock was detected within 20 or 30 feet from the surface to the east and parts of the south side of the sinkhole. The county road, open to east-west through traffic, lay along the north side of the sinkhole and was included in the area with no discernable bedrock near the surface. The DNR recommended that the road be permanently closed or rerouted. County officials opted to close it.

According to Berg, the sinkhole always contains water, although water levels vary, depending on the amount of rainfall in the area. Last week, the water level stood about 30 feet below ground level, but, Berg said, no "bottom" to the water has been found.

"We threw weighted fishing lines in when the sink first opened up and filled with water," he said. "The deepest we ever measured was 150 feet, but something down there kept breaking our lines. We think there's a strong current down there from an underground river that's breaking it against rocks."

Berg does say, though, that he now occasionally sees fish in the water: white bass, not the trout from Roaring River that one jokester tried to convince people were present in the sinkhole.

"He put flyers up all over Cassville and Exeter, telling people they could purchase trout tags and permits to fish in my sinkhole when March 1 came around," Berg said.

Berg still has a copy of the flyer.

Another lady who lived north of Exeter was terrified by news of the sinkhole, Berg recalled.

"She called me several times, asking me if I thought the sinkhole would expand as far north as her house and swallow it," Berg said.

At times, Berg says, with heavy rains, the vast pit fills to the brim and overflows into adjacent creek beds and ditches.

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People can learn more about the unique process of raising trout Dec. 30 at MDC's virtual program

SINKHOLE from 2B

Where the water goes when the sinkhole drains is what hydrologists Bob Lerch and Ben Miller, with the Cave Research Foundation, are trying to discover.

"The fact that it's draining makes it worthy of a dye-tracing test," Lerch said. "Many sinkholes have no drains, and the water just sits and stagnates."

According to James VanDike with the Missouri DNR – as reported by Adriana Keeton in a February 25, 2005, article in The Barry County Advertiser – sinkholes tend to appear more commonly after periods of heavy rain or extended drought. The months preceding the Exeter sinkhole's opening had been extremely wet, VanDike said.

VanDike also indicated

that a fault line had been detected within a mile of the sinkhole and that an earthquake had occurred in Arkansas the previous month. However, he believed that neither event had prompted the dramatic opening of the earth southwest of Exeter.

"I believe this is a naturally occurring sinkhole," he said in 2005.

Hydrologists Bob Lerch and Ben Miller anticipate the lab results, due back in January, which may prove that the sinkhole's water makes its way into Roaring River Spring. The two, with the assistance of Kelly Koch – from Roaring River State Park – have charcoal packets situated near Roaring River Spring which will absorb dye from the water if it's present.

"We've also placed char-

"The Hatchery In Pictures." This free online program will be 6-7 p.m. and is being conducted by staff at MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center. This program, which will be in-

coal packets in strategic hollows running along Thomas Hollow toward Mike's Creek, to the southwest of the sink," he said, "because it's possible that the dye from the Exeter sink might show up in both Roaring River Spring and Mike's Creek. If so, it would indicate that the sinkhole feeds a shared recharge area for the two."

Lerch believes that the more we learn about the interconnectivity of Ozarks waterways, the more we'll understand the importance of caring for this life-sustaining resource.

structured by MDC Naturalist Leah Eden, will be a photographic tour of Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery. Eden will talk about the facility's history, how trout are raised at the hatchery, and where they are stocked. This program is designed for all ages. People can register for this program at: <https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/181334>.

Though this program is free, registration is required to participate using the link above. Registrants must provide an e-mail, so a program link can be sent to them. The program will include a chat-based question-and-answer period where participants can interact with the presenters.

Program registrants should note that they now have the option to link their

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

To find out more about this event or other events at the Shepherd of the Hills

Conservation Center, call 417-334-4865, ext. 0. The Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Center is part of MDC's Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery and is located at 483 Hatchery Road on the west end of Lake Taneycomo near Branson.

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

Green Forest, AR

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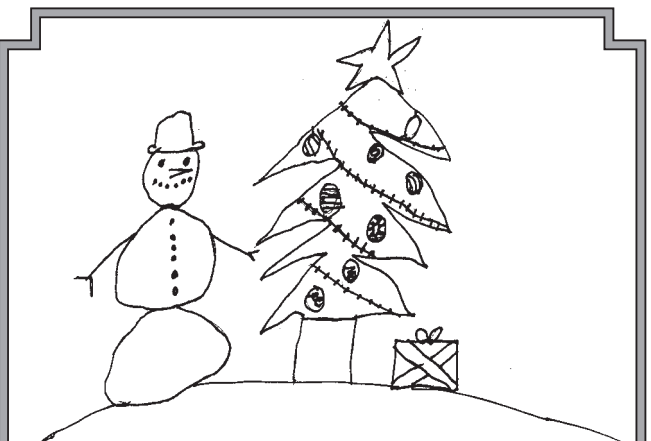
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PUBLIC NOTICE  
 City of Purdy  
 Candidate Filing for April 5, 2022, Election

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

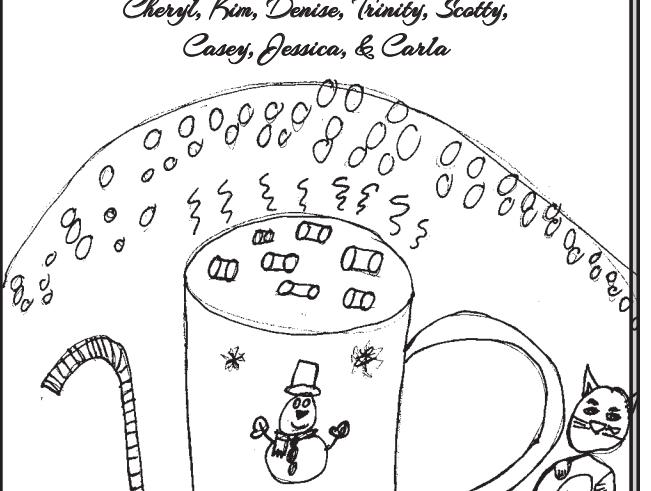
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Flyover of Hooten home arranged by  
Air Force



Chief Master Sergeant  
Matt Self

Sheila Harris

Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) Matt Self, a 1994 graduate of Monett High School, is nearing the end of his 26-year Air Force active duty career. Self joined the Air Force in 1996 and has been a Loadmaster on C-130 Air-

craft ever since.

He has been assigned to bases in Florida, the United Kingdom, Illinois and, most recently, Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas.

He has been deployed numerous times in support of combat and peacetime operations across the globe.

His final flight occurred November 18, when he flew his last low-level training mission over the Monett century farm of his grandparents, Bob and Wanda Banks, followed by a dip over the home of his mother and father-in-law, Carlin and Kathy Hooten, south of Cassville.

Self's retirement ceremony was held in Little Rock on December 10. His effective retirement date is March 1, 2022.

A C-130 flyover (above) of his in-laws' home south of Cassville, with Self aboard, was recently arranged by the Air Force in honor of Self's pending retirement from active service. The plane also flew over Self's grandparents' Century Farm in Monett. Submitted photo.

Self, his wife, Jayna, and children Hunter and Hannah reside in Cabot, Arkansas.



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Colored by Zoei Stockton, age 7, daughter of Ryan and Hilari Stockton of Cassville

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12c



Xtreme GraphiX cuts Cassville Chamber ribbon

At right, Remington Taylor cut the Cassville Area Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Friday for his and his step-mother's business, Xtreme Graphix, located at 701 Mill Street, Cassville.

To the right of Taylor is his wife, Macey Taylor, and to his left, his stepmother and co-owner, Stephanie Parsons.

Photo by Ezra DeVore.

Christmas poem almost 200 years old

Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863), an American scholar and poet, wrote a poem in 1822 to entertain his children. A friend submitted it to The Troy Sentinel, where it was published anonymously on December 23, 1823, as "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas." It later became known as "The Night Before Christmas," and Moore's delightful description of St. Nicholas became the definitive portrait of Santa Claus.

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Alt: (417) 858-2561  
bmitche2@amfam.com  
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from the crew at

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