

Purdy Christmas parade delights crowds



Above, the Purdy Eagles Marching Band delighted listeners.

According to organizer Julie Terry, with 82 entries (some who joined at the last minute), the size of the Purdy Christmas parade on Saturday, December 19, far exceeded her expectations. Happy onlookers lined both sides of Highway C in Purdy under sunny skies and were not disappointed by what they saw.

Terry said there was no fee for participants to enter the event, but neither were prizes awarded. See additional photos on pages 4 and 5B.



Above, First Christian Church of Purdy was one of several area churches that entered a float in Purdy's Christmas parade Saturday.

Pfizer vaccination underway at Mercy



At Mercy Cassville, Jessica Banks, RN (right) receives a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination from LPN Echo Bishop.

According to Mercy Hospital spokesperson, Sonya Kullman, the first allotment of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine arrived at Mercy Cassville, Thursday, December 17. Kullman said

facilities get vaccinated first," she said, "so we don't know yet when the vaccines will be ready for the general public, and we aren't sure yet what the guidelines will be for distributing those."

Kullman advises people to watch their MyMercy accounts and local media for updates.

Mercy will ensure that everyone is well informed about what they need to do when the vaccine is ready for broader public distribution, she said. If prospective vaccine recipients don't already have a free MyMercy account (app or www.mymercy.net), they can download that now and they'll receive a message when the vaccine is available.

Moderna arrives at Cox Monett



Cara Galloway, pharmacy technician, transports Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to the hospital's pharmacy to prepare for frontline staff vaccinations set to begin on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Sheila Harris

On Friday, December 18, the FDA granted approval for the emergency use of Moderna, the second vaccine in the fight against COVID-19, and the vaccine CoxHealth will be offering their employees.

In a media briefing Thursday, December 17, CoxHealth CEO, Steve Edwards, indicated that a plan was in place to distribute the vaccine to all of its facilities as soon as it was initially delivered to Springfield after FDA approval.

"Our first vaccine at CoxHealth in Springfield will be given to key RNs beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday, December 21," he said.

Janell Patton, spokesperson for Cox Monett, said their first employee will be vaccinated at 6 a.m., on December 22.

Edwards said CoxHealth will receive an initial allotment of 7,000 vaccines, which must be used within a ten-day time-frame, with first rights given to direct patient caregivers, and second



Shown above, Cheryl Webb, an RN at Cox Monett, was the first recipient of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday morning.

The first COVID-19 vaccines were administered to frontline staff at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at Cox Monett.

Cheryl Webb, RN, was the staff member chosen to receive the first shot. Applause filled the conference room as the first dose was administered.

"Back in March I had the opportunity to go to New York to help fight the pandemic on the frontlines," said Webb. "God was pulling at my heart to help, so I knew this was what I had to do."

In July, Webb was presented with another opportunity to go to Texas to work in a hospital's COVID-19 unit. Unfortunately, the surge in patients followed her back

to southwest Missouri where she has worked locally at Cox South and Cox Monett caring for COVID-19 patients.

"The chance to take the vaccine meant the world to me," she said. "I want life to get back to normal and this was my chance to fight back at the virus that has taken so much from so many people. So many of my patients didn't get a chance to fight back, so this is my chance to fight for them."

Cox Monett received 100 doses of Moderna's vaccine with more arriving next week. In total, five vaccine clinics will be held for employees over a two-week period.

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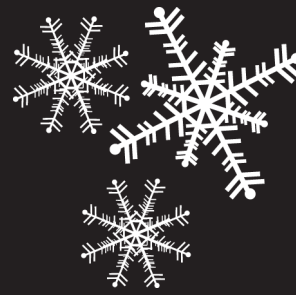
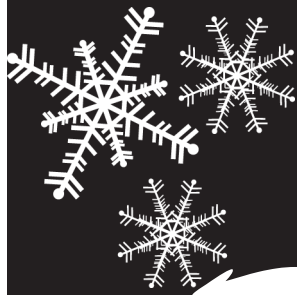
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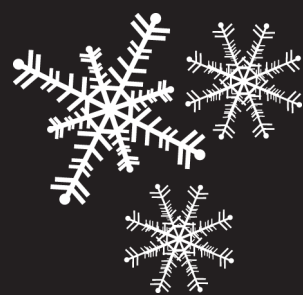
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DHSS answers FAQs about COVID-19 vaccines

On December 20, Dr. Randall Williams, director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) signed the standing order for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine administration after final review of recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“The first week of vaccinations among health care workers in Missouri went extremely well,” said Williams. “We are appreciative of the health care systems for quickly executing their plans in order to administer the Pfizer vaccines as efficiently as possible. This is just the beginning, and there are thousands of health care workers still to be vaccinated. Our supply from our federal partners will dictate the speed at which these vaccinations can continue to occur, and we will continue to be flexible and adapt to any changes that may be presented to us.”

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which was authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Dec. 18, is a series of two doses administered four weeks apart. It is now advised that each person should be monitored by their provider for 15 minutes following vaccination for both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

Below are common questions that are answered by the latest guidance issued for use of the Moderna vaccine.

• What do I do if I miss the second dose of the Moderna vaccine 28 days after the first dose?

Patients who do not receive the second vaccination dose at 28 days should still receive that second dose as soon as possible thereafter.

• Should you get the vaccine if you have already contracted COVID-19?

Yes, but for both symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 patients, you should defer vaccination until you have met criteria to discontinue isolation.

• Can you receive the vaccine if you are pregnant?

Yes, pregnant females are recommended for the vaccine depending on the individual’s risk of acquisition due to the level of community transmission, personal risk of contracting COVID-19 due to occupation or other activities, risks of COVID-19 to the mother and potential risks to the fetus, efficacy of the vaccine, known side effects of the vaccine and the lack of data about the vaccine during pregnancy. Special counseling and a 15-minute observation period after vaccination, if chosen, is recommended.

• Should you have a pregnancy test or antibody test prior to receiving the vaccine?

Routine testing for pregnancy or antibody tests is not recommended in relation to vaccine use.

• Can you get this vaccine if you are in quarantine due to an exposure with a positive

COVID-19 case?

You should delay your vaccination if you have had a known SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19) exposure until your quarantine period has ended, unless residing in a congregate setting (health care/long-term care facility, correctional facility, homeless shelter, etc.).

• Can you get the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?

There is no information on co-administration of this COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines. The Moderna vaccine should be spaced at least 14 days from any other vaccine.

• Who is not recommended for the Moderna vaccine?

- 1. Those under age 18.
- 2. An individual who has experienced a serious reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a prior dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of its components. For more information on vaccine components, refer to the manufacturer’s package insert.

• If you have been vaccinated, can you stop from using other precautions?

No. While experts learn more about the protection

that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC’s recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

The most commonly reported side effects, which typically lasted several days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes in the same arm as the injection, nausea and vomiting, and fever. Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. No specific safety concerns were identified in subgroup analyses by age, race, ethnicity, underlying medical conditions, or previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.

“We’ve been incredibly encouraged by how many

people are choosing to be vaccinated,” said Williams. “Shipments received from Pfizer and Moderna this week will continue to serve the most vulnerable to COVID-19: our patient-facing health care workers and long-term care staff and residents.”

Residents and providers are encouraged to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines in Missouri at www.MOStop-sCovid.com.

“We encourage Missourians to take time to learn about the vaccine, get their questions answered and consider vaccination to help protect themselves and their loved ones. We can see the day when vaccinations, along with social distancing, wearing face masks and good handwashing, will get us to a better place together,” said Williams.

Cassville High School Schedule Update:

According to a recent press release, beginning January 5, Cassville High School will be returning to a 5-day student attendance schedule.

“We are excited to transition back to full attendance beginning second semester,” Cassville Superintendent, Dr. Richard Asbill, said.

“As a result of the recent adjustments by the Centers for Disease Control and the modified quarantine guidance from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, as well as the Barry County Health Department, we believe this provides us great options to keep staff and students safe while also offering in-person learning.”

In order to maintain full 5-day attendance beginning January 5th, the masking requirement for staff and students will remain in place.

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Community Calendar

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

Notice:

Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sancturary is hosting a Christmas adoption event featuring: \$25 off adoption fee for dogs and cats who have been Haven residents over one year or who are over 5 years old; qualifying cat adoptions \$40; qualifying dog adoptions (ages 1-5) \$65 - (over five) \$50. All adoptees are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, microchipped & vet checked. Haven of the Ozarks is open 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. 7 days a week. For more details, see advertisement on page 5B.

Barry County Court House and Judicial Center will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, December 25, 2020, for the Christmas Holiday.

All branches of the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library District will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2020, through Sunday, January 3, 2021. The library branches will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.

The Central Crosing Senior Center will be closed from December 24, 2020, until January 4, 2021, for the Holidays. This means no drive through lunches will be available during those 11 days.

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, December 24, 2020; Friday, December 25, 2020; and Friday, January 2, 2020.

Please call the OATS Transit office at (417) 887-9272 or (800) 770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about service in your area. Visit our website at www.oatstransit.org and click on the bus schedules tab for your county to see the full schedule. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Cassville Branch Library's Virtual Story Time began in September. Participants can access the live sessions on a tablet, computer, or smart phone. Families of preschool children ages five and under will receive registration information via email. Please send child's name, caregiver's name (the person watching the story time with the child) and email address to verna@blrlibrary.org.

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).

Habitat for Humanity is looking for families to apply for a home in Wheaton. For more information or to apply, stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 900 10th St. in Cassville. They are open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dec. 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held from 6 P.M. to 6:45 P.M. at the First Christian Church, 907 Old Exeter Road, Cassville. Face masks are required.

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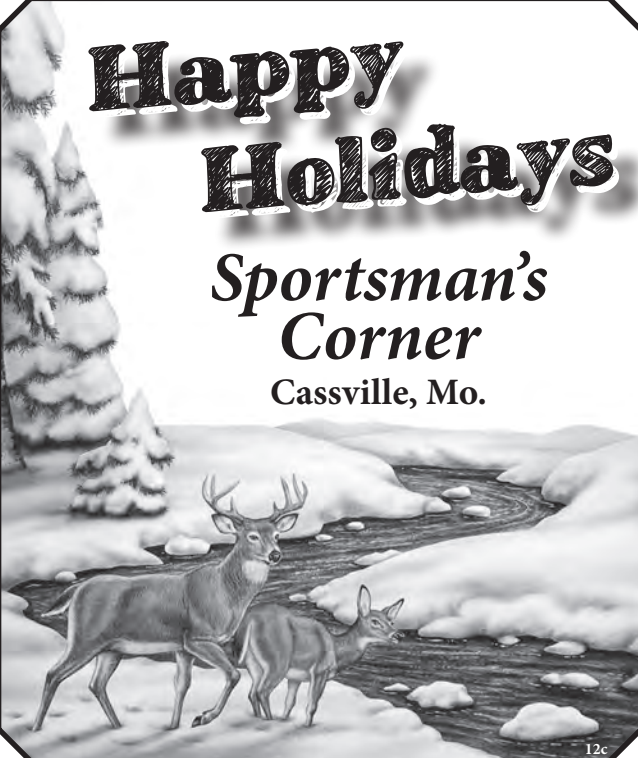
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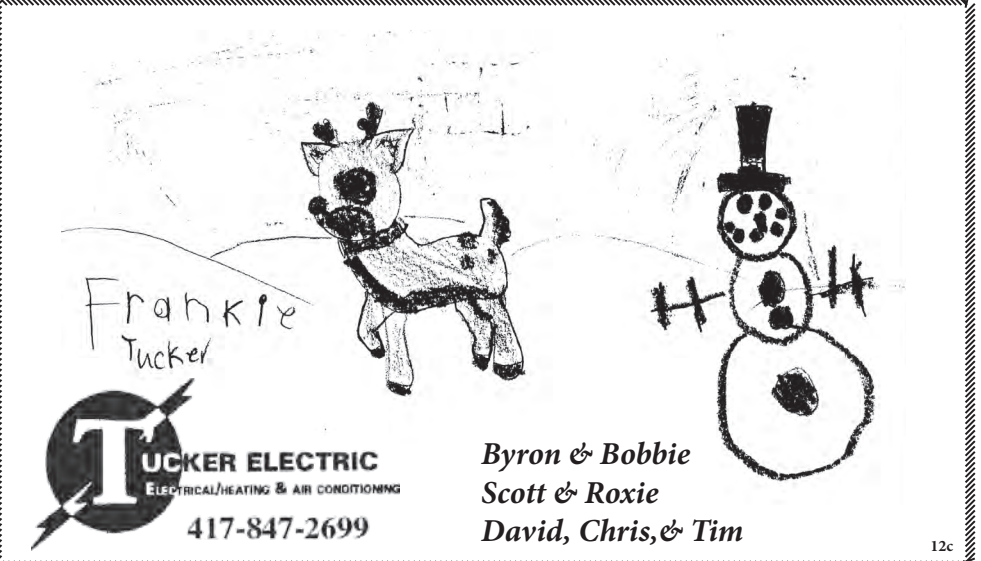
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School board meeting draws concerned residents

Sheila Harris

The Cassville R-IV school board met Thursday, December 17, with three members of the community present to communicate their unhappiness with the school's recently adopted masking ordinance.

Amanda Tucker, who has two daughters in Cassville schools, alleged that one of them had been unfairly treated by her teacher when, due to a health condition, she wore a face shield at school, instead of a mask.

Tucker, who removed her daughter from the classroom to a virtual-learning setting as a result, says she believes her children's education is very important.

"You've taken that away from (my daughter)," she said.

Parker Stumpff, another Cassville resident, also removed his daughter - a kindergartner - from the classroom because of the masking ordinance.

"I feel as though we've had a violation of our rights as parents when the school

board passed a masking requirement without consulting us," he said. "As parents, we have to sign a waiver for our kids to go on a field trip, so the school will be relieved of liability, but we weren't asked about *this*."

Stumpff pointed out there was no way school personnel could know whether any of the children might have an underlying health condition which could be adversely affected by wearing a mask.

Stumpff's father, Donnie Stumpff, also spoke to the board in agreement with his son and Amanda Tucker.

"I'm not altogether against wearing a mask," he said, "but to degrade a child because they are not wearing a mask is not acceptable."

"I'm here as a friend and a neighbor," Stumpff continued. "I love you all, but we need to fix this problem. We're better than this."

In other matters, the board approved the purchase of a lot located at 1309 Harold Street for \$9,500 and will discuss outdoor classroom, garden, and natural resource

options for students and the WILD Academy in the next few months.

The Board also accepted the resignations for Sam Madsen, Thomas McCormick, and Tina Mills.

In addition, the Board has accepted the retirement resignation of Leigh Martin.

Martin has dedicated 30 years to education, six of those at Cassville.

"The District appreciates Martin's service to our students and wishes her well in retirement and next pursuits," Superintendent Dr. Richard Asbill said.

The Board approved the FY2020 Fiscal Audit and approved the FY2021 mid year budget amendment.

Reports were presented by departmental teachers, Return-to-Learn guidelines were discussed, and as was a prospective school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. A draft of that calendar will be presented for discussion at the January board meeting, with approval to be made in February.

Dr. Asbill reminds area

residents to focus on hope.

"Hope is one thing that has provided me great comfort and strength," he said. "This past semester we have seen sons and daughters and friends get married; we have seen loved ones lost or taken too soon; we have seen the blessings of new births; we have seen the good and bad in politics, happiness, sadness, friendship; and likely we have all experienced frustration and challenge. But I pray that you have all experienced *hope*."

"Hope is a confident expectation that good will come. Hope is encouraging. Hope is trusting that things will get better. I will admit that there have been some days that I have felt that hope was out of reach, but hope is knowing that we are not alone."

"From my family to yours, we pray that you know and find hope," Asbill said, "not just in the moments of challenge, but in your everyday life and in your heart. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Governor Parson Announces Additional A+ Scholarship Funding

December 16 Governor Mike Parson announced an additional \$10.1 million for the A+ scholarship program, including \$4.9 million in CARES Act funding and \$5.2 million in supplemental funding to be proposed in the Governor's recommended budget.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused more students to utilize the A+ program than originally anticipated in the state's budget. As a result, community colleges are facing a shortfall of funding for the program.

"COVID-19 has had far reaching impacts on our state, including higher edu-

cation," Governor Parson said. "Many students across Missouri rely on the A+ program, so we are excited to be able to announce this funding and help community colleges continue providing the full A+ scholarship for all students."

The A+ scholarship program provides scholarship funds to eligible graduates of A+ designated high schools who attend a participating public community college or vocational or technical school as well as certain private two-year vocational or technical schools.

CITY OF FAIRVIEW BOARD OF ALDERMAN ELECTIONS

The City of Fairview encourages qualified persons interested in running for a position on the Board of Alderman to file an application to be a candidate in the April 6, 2021, election. Interested persons may pick up an application at City Hall, located at 100 South Central, Fairview, Missouri 64842. For more information, you may contact City Hall at 417-632-4318. Positions open are as follows:

1 - North Ward Alderman, 2 year term
1 - South Ward Alderman, 2 year term

Filing will begin on December 15, 2020, and will continue through January 19, 2021. Applications are available at the Fairview City Hall, M-F between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Filing dates start on December 15, 2020, and end on January 19, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

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10 & 12c

MSU to receive grant for STEM education in rural schools

Wednesday, U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS), announced that the Department of Education has awarded a nearly \$4 million grant to Missouri State University (MSU) to expand and improve computer science education programs in grades 3-8 at schools in rural areas.

"Computer science is increasingly becoming a foundational part of a student's education, but too few students, especially in

rural areas, have access to high-quality computer science education," said Blunt. "This program will provide the tools, curriculum, and technology to support 150 teachers and 13,500 students in rural areas, while building the evidence-base of what works in order to expand computer science education opportunities for rural students more broadly. This project will not only teach important STEM skills but inspire young minds."

"This grant will enable our faculty members to share computer science expertise and resources with com-

munities in southern Missouri that need them the most," said MSU President Clif Smart. "We want to get young students excited about computer science through hands-on learning, so they can envision the possibilities of a STEM-related career."

As chairman, Blunt led the effort to include \$65 million for STEM education, with a specific priority for computer science education and programs operating in rural areas, within the Education Innovation and Research program in the FY2020 Labor/HHS bill.



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Purdy Eagles reach break undefeated

Lee Stubblefield

Varsity boys roundup

The Purdy Eagles raced toward Christmas break with a perfect 8-0 record after handing Cassville a 52-19 loss at Purdy on Friday night. The Wildcats saw their early season skid continue, falling to 1-6 with the loss.

The Eagles defense stymied the Wildcats, holding Cassville to single digits in every quarter.

14-6, 14-8, 14-1, 10-4 quarter scores told the story.

- Southwest 85, Diamond 75

The Southwest Trojans survived an overtime battle at Diamond, defeating the Wildcats, 85-79. Four Trojans scored in double figures. Cruz Marquez poured in 27, 11 in the overtime period.

- McAuley 65, Exeter 57

Despite a 29-point performance by Kris Allen, the Exeter Tigers lost at McAuley on Tuesday. After trailing by 10 in the second half, the Tigers fought back and cut McAuley's lead to 45-40. But a 13-2 stretch run gave the Warriors a cushion enroute

to the win.

Varsity girls roundup

- Cassville 37, Wheaton 36

The Cassville Lady Wildcats squeezed out a 37-36 win at Wheaton on Tuesday. A 20-14 halftime lead turned into a nailbiting one-point decision. Sharayah Seymour and Riley Morris both scored 8 to lead a balanced Cassville attack. Allison Whitman pumped in 18 for Wheaton, with 10 in the fourth-quarter comeback bid.

The Ladycats have won four of their last five, improving to 4-3 on the season. Wheaton slipped to 3-5 with the loss.

- Purdy 50, Exeter 26

The Purdy Lady Eagles

handed Exeter a 50-26 loss, but then sat idle when their game against winless Thomas Jefferson was postponed.

- McAuley 80, Exeter 32

The McAuley girls jumped all over Exeter early, posting a 15-0 opening run and holding a 25-11 lead after one quarter. Kennedy DeRuy scored a game-high 30 points to lead the Lady Warriors. Abbie Caddell led Exeter with 10.

- Diamond 59, Southwest 35

The Southwest Lady Trojans dropped a pair of games heading into the Christmas break. Southwest lost to Diamond, 59-35, then to College Heights, 54-22, to fall to 2-5.

Southwest Holiday Tournament returns

Lee Stubblefield

The annual Southwest holiday Basketball Tournament returns to the Washburn campus this weekend, featuring area teams in a classic post-Christmas gathering. This edition marks the 38th year for the boys tournament, and 7th for the girls. The Purdy Eagles and Cassville Lady Wildcats are the top seeded teams in this year's tournament.

Girls open play on Saturday with the following pairings:

- (1) Cassville vs (8) Exeter @ 4 PM
- (4) Reeds Spring vs (5) Marionville @ 5:30 PM

- (2) Billings vs (7) Southwest @ 7 PM
- (3) Wheaton vs (6) East Newton @ 8:30 PM

The boys tipoff on Monday with these pairings:

- (1) Purdy vs (8) Southwest JV @ 4 PM
- (2) Marionville vs (7) Exeter @ 5:30 PM
- (4) Diamond vs (5) Wheaton @ 7 PM
- (3) Southwest vs (6) Cassville @ 8:30 PM

Second round and consolation games continue on Tuesday, with award and championship games concluding on Wednesday.

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and Staff



PSC opens case to investigate ten-digit local dialing

The Missouri Public Service Commission has opened a case at the request of the Public Service Commission Staff (Staff) to assist Staff regarding an order from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requiring ten-digit local dialing in four of Missouri's six area codes by July 15, 2022.

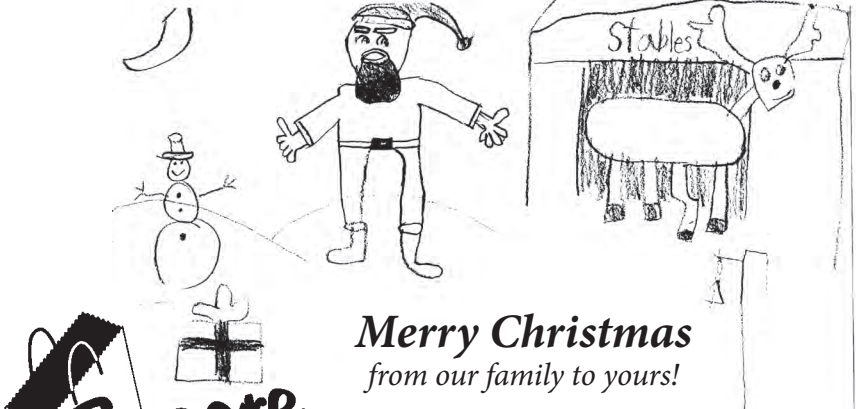
The change to ten-digit local dialing is necessary to allow for the establishment of "988" as a three-digit code to reach a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

To avoid conflict with the new 988 code, all United States area codes that use a 988 NPA prefix (for example 314-988-xxxx) must move to ten-digit local dialing. In Missouri, the affected area codes are 314, 417, 600 and

816. Area codes 573 and 636 do not use a 988 NPA prefix and can continue to use seven-digit local dialing. Staff intends to use this case to communicate with Missouri's telecommunications providers about their plans to implement ten-digit dial-

ing and to gather company-specific information about the timing of implementing ten-digit local dialing as well as general plans for notifying customers and other entities. Staff plans to periodically report on its findings to the Commission.

For more information on this topic, please go to: <https://psc.mo.gov/CMSInternetData/Telecommunications/988%2010%20Digit%20Dialing%20FAQ.pdf>.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Purdy
Candidate Filing for April 6, 2021 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 6, 2021:


MAYOR - At Large (TWO YEAR TERM)
ALDERMAN - East Ward (TWO YEAR TERM)
ALDERMAN - West Ward (TWO YEAR TERM)

Opening Date for Filing: Tuesday, December 15, 2020
Closing Date for Filing: Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Declaration of Candidacy may be filed 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. 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).

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AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Debbie Redshaw City Clerk Purdy, Missouri

10-15c

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Eunice Thomas Elementary Students of the Month



Shown above are First Graders, front row, left to right: Jonathan Lunsford, Addison Myers and Jack Weiser; second row: Greycynn Ware and Ella Kelley; third row: Raven Wilmot; back row: Rhett Artherton and Michael McNeill. Absent from the photo: Ella Yates, Brandon Grant, Harper Hollingsworth and Miller Hollingsworth.



Shown above are Second Graders, front row, left to right: Riley Clifford, Ellie Baker and Serenity Dupuis; second row: Dexter Beyer; third row: Kenzleigh Speer and Tatum Wolfe; fourth row: Hayden Jantzen; back row: Bentley Bratton and John Godsey. Absent from photo: Kole Flynn, Gemma Johnson, and Aiden Harris.

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Haven of the Ozarks: Pet of The Week



Hugo

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will make a great addition to any family, so come meet him at the Haven any day of the week.

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COMPANIES

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

The Word of The Month: “Respect”



Shown at left are Kindergarteners, front row, left to right: Camile Smith, Tristian Fields and Brooklyn Fields; second row: Zane Whittington and Kiptyn Johnson; third row: Ella Dutton, Jace Kennedy and Jessica Morgan; back row: Aceson Hobbs, Tessa Willis and Addi Hill. Absent from the photo: Justis Houston.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced, with exceeding great joy.”
- Matthew 2:10 KJV



Shown above, left to right, are students in the Kinder Academy: front row: Layton Parker and Steven Hall, Jr.; back row: Athena Ganoung. Absent from the photo: Kylie Thompson.

COX from FRONT

rights to other patient-facing personnel, such as those who work in registration and housekeeping.

Vaccines will not be mandated for employees Edwards said, in part because of the short supply.

“We have asked employees interested in taking the vaccine to pre-register,” Edwards said. “So far (as of December 17) we’ve had about 5,000 of our employees do so.

“Of those who have not registered, we’re hearing that some are concerned about the unknown risks of a new vaccine, and others - of child-bearing age - have received false information regarding the vaccine’s implications for

future fertility.”

While Edwards does understand the initial hesitation, he says he is prepared to roll his own sleeve up when it’s his turn to receive the vaccine.

“Those who register now,” he said, “may be given a spot on the calendar several weeks out. By that time, they will know how the first round of vaccinated employees have responded to the vaccine, and decide from that point whether to move forward with it.”

As a safety precaution, those who receive the vaccination will be held for a 15-minute observation period after they are vaccinated,

Edwards said.

“It will be a challenge to vaccinate 7,000 people throughout all of our facilities within the 10-day window over the holidays,” Edwards said, “but we typically vaccinate 12,000 people every year during flu season, so we’re familiar with the process.”

The 10-day vaccination requirement by the state has nothing to do with the shelf-life of the vaccine, which does not need the ultra-cold storage required by the Pfizer vaccine. Rather, it represents the state’s effort to encourage recipients to administer the vaccine, as opposed to hoarding it.

The Moderna vaccine administered by CoxHealth will require a second, follow-up dose in 28 days.

The Pfizer vaccine requires a second dose of vaccine 21 days after the initial injection.

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Missouri’s inaugural elk hunt declared a success

Missouri’s first elk-hunt-ing season ended Sunday with all five of the hunters selected for permits harvest-ing bull elk during the fire-arms portion Dec. 12-20. An archery portion ran Oct. 17-25 with no harvests. The five Missouri hunters were select-ed for elk-hunting permits

through a random drawing of more than 19,215 permit applications, including 33 for one resident-landowner antlered-elk permit and 19,182 for four general permits. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) con-gratulates the five Missouri hunters on their success!

“What an exciting gift right before the holidays to see all five hunters harvest elk in this first inaugural elk season in Missouri,” said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. “This success also showcases the hard work and collaboration of our Com-mission, staff, partners, land-owners, and citizens. One of the hunters called me per-sonally just a few minutes af-ter he harvested an elk full of excitement and thanks, but the real thanks goes to the bigger team for making this happen.” Joe Benthall of Mount Vernon, who was drawn for an antlered-elk general per-mit, harvested a 5x5 bull elk Dec. 12 on National Park Service property near Log Yard in Shannon County. He was the first of five Missouri hunters selected for elk per-mits to harvest an elk. Ben-

thall has been deer hunting off and on for 25 years and had not hunted elk before. He says he applied for the Missouri opportunity be-cause he has wanted to hunt elk but has not had the time or money for a trip out west. He added that he only hunted during the firearms portion. Michael Buschjost of St. Thomas, who was drawn for an antlered-elk general per-mit, took a 6x6 bull elk Dec. 15 outside of the refuge por-tion of the MDC Peck Ranch Conservation Area. He has hunted elk in Montana, Col-orado, and Wyoming with two bulls and a cow elk har-vested from those efforts. He said he was excited to hunt elk in Missouri and to take his three kids with him to scout the area before the sea-son opened. Sam Schultz, of Win-field, who was drawn for an antlered-elk general per-mit, harvested a 5x6 bull elk Dec. 15 on private property in Shannon County. Schultz has been hunting for 30 years

and he mostly hunts deer and turkey. He has successfully hunted elk before in Colo-rado back in the early 2000s. “My elk was originally a 6x7 bull, but he had two bro-ken antler tines, which left him to be a 5x6,” said Schul-tz. “It was a tough hunt, but I had a blast doing it. Best of all was one of my boys was with me when I harvested this awesome animal. Thank you, MDC, for bringing them back to Missouri.” Gene Guilkey, of Lib-erty, who was drawn for an antlered-elk general per-mit, harvested a 6x7 bull elk on public land in Shannon County Dec. 16. “I have never hunted elk before and this hunt was the dream trip of a lifetime,” Guilkey said. “I literally dreamed of taking a 6x6 bull but didn’t think it was pos-sible nor would I be up to it, but the good Lord above had better plans than I did!” He added, “When I harvested this bull, I was stressed, relieved, and over-

joyed all at the same time. I screamed loud enough that quite possibly all three coun-ties involved could hear me! What a thrill! Taking this trophy was the hardest hunt I have encountered. It took a lot of scouting before and during the archery season to get the terrain laid out. During the hunt, we were delighted to find this bull on day three and focused on the area he was spotted in. He was actually bugling, which was an experience we did not expect so late after the rut. These are amazing animals!” Bill Clark of Van Buren, who was dra,wn for the res-ident-landowner antlered-elk permit, harvested a bull elk on his property Dec. 19. Clark is a life-long hunter of deer, turkey, and small game. He has also pursued elk in Colorado and Wyoming in the 1990s. He and his fam-ily own 80 acres east of Peck Ranch Conservation Area where they conduct timber-stand improvements on the heavily forested property and also plant clover and na-tive grasses for elk and other wildlife. Clark says he ap-plied for the elk hunt because he supports MDC’s elk resto-ration and management ef-forts, wildlife management in general, and wanted to help the herd by thinning a bull. “I see elk on our land all the time,” Clark said. “I’m nearly 80 and use a cane and a crutch so I’m limited in my mobility. I was standing on my back deck and saw a group of cow elk about 100

See ELK 11A



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Anahi Hernandez
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Grant available for growing lavender

Missourians may learn more about lavender thanks to a grant to University of Missouri Extension from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

The \$39,274 grant will determine standardized growing practices for lavender in Missouri.

It is one of four grants recently awarded by the Missouri Department of Agriculture to MU Extension. Federal funding comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

MU Extension horticulturist Kelly McGowan will lead the research on standardized growing practices such as plant establishment and soil preparation, winter protection, cultivar selection, plant phenology, insect and disease issues, optimal flower and oil production parameters, and fertilization.

Native to the Mediterranean, lavender is in the mint family. Plants grow about 1-2

feet tall. Dense hairs coat its pale green leaves to give it its trademark silvery luster. The light purple lavender flowers are tiny and arranged in spikes.

Every part of the lavender plant contains the oil that produces a sweet fragrance. Lavender oil is used for balms, perfumes and cosmetics. It is also used in cooking and medicines.

While lavender can be difficult to grow in Missouri because of winter stress and high summer humidity, McGowan says it offers opportunities in agritourism. Farm-to-table establishments with outside dining could plant pungent lavender fields to enhance the dining experience, she says.

McGowan hopes the grant will help researchers find ways to increase its use in essential oils, dried arrangements and commercial operations.

ELK from 10A

yards through the trees in the yard with a spike bull with them. He stopped, and that was the shot I had and the shot I took. We then broke down the carcass and are processing it ourselves.”

Clark added, “I’m really happy to represent what I believe to be one of the most important hunts of my life. This program is an example of one of the best things to happen for the people of Missouri in years, and I’m nearly 80 years old.”

Elk are a native species in Missouri but were hunted to extinction in the state through unregulated hunting during the late 1800s. Missouri’s first elk hunt this fall came after years of restoration efforts of the native species by MDC, numerous partners including the Rocky

Mountain Elk Foundation, and many supporters including local communities and area landowners. Learn more about elk restoration in Missouri at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZYJ.

MDC extends MRAP landowner enrollment deadlines

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is extending the deadline to Jan. 15 for landowner enrollment into the Missouri Outdoor Recreational Access Program (MRAP). MRAP provides incentive payments of \$15 – \$25 per acre and habitat improvement financial assistance to participating landowners in return for allowing public access to their land for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Participating landowners can choose the recreational activities allowed on their property by selecting one of the following MRAP access types: all access hunting and fishing, small game and turkey hunting, youth only hunting and fishing, archery hunting, fishing only, or wildlife viewing.

Offered lands must meet minimum eligibility requirements such as being 40 contiguous acres in size (5 contiguous acres for wildlife viewing access types or 1 pond acre for fishing-only access types). MRAP properties must also consist of at least 20% quality wildlife habitat (native grass fields, crop field buffers, managed woodlands) to be eligible for the program.

Did you see the “Christmas Star?”

Sheila Harris

The phrase “when the stars align” has taken on new meaning for me in connection with the stellar event that took place in the southwestern sky, Monday, December 21.

According to NASA astronomers, the planets Jupiter and Saturn reached their closest conjunction since the 17th century, and presented a spectacle that was the most easily viewed since the 13th century.

It was reported that the best vantage point for viewing a brief appearance of the planets as a single “star” or “double-planet” would be near the equator. For residents of southwest Missouri, however, they appeared to be pretty darned close. The two planets could be seen in the southwestern sky (a bit more

to the south than to the west) as they descended toward the horizon during the hour or so immediately after sunset.

They can still be viewed during the nights to follow (cloud-covering-permitting), but the their proximity will not appear to be quite as close.

Although heralded by many as a reappearance of the “Star of Bethlehem,” I’m not in a position to make that determination. Perhaps what appeared to be a “star” in the southwestern sky to us could be hailed as a star in the east by residents of the other side of the world.

Whatever one chooses to call it or what portent one ascribes to it, it’s worth taking a look at it. A four hundred-year-occurrence doesn’t roll around too often.

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Happy Holidays!

Hale Cox
Cassville 4th grade



JERRY LYNN BUTTS
Jerry Lynn Butts, age 52, of Washburn, passed away Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Mercy Hospital in Rogers, Arkansas.
He was born January 8, 1968, in Springfield, the son of Jerry and Patricia Ruth “Patsy” (Goodale) Butts. He was united in marriage to Delores Maggert and to this union two sons were born.
Jerry received his education in Marshfield and Washburn, graduating from Southwest High School. For a few years, he worked in construction and various jobs before working as a machinist at Precise Machine and Manufacturing. One of his favorite pastimes was listening to older music.
Surviving are two sons, Nathan Butts and James Butts, both of Washburn; one

brother, James Lee Butts and his wife, Anna, of Washburn; and two grandchildren, Jessica and Kinsley Butts.
Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother, John Butts.
Memorial services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Monday, December 28, 2020, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Paul Homan will conduct the services.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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MARY “BETTY” MILLER
Mary “Betty” Miller, age 96, of Cassville, passed away Sunday, December 13, 2020.
She was born October 31, 1924, in Grand Junc-

OBITUARIES
tion, Colorado, the daughter of Charles Walter and Edith (Hankins) Barker who preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death are her husband; two brothers, Ted and Charles Barker; one sister, Anna Mae Divilla; and one granddaughter.
She married Harold Miller in 1942 at Reverend Silas’ home. They were married for fifty-one years. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church, taught Sunday School and Bible School, was a member of the choir and played the organ and the piano when needed. Betty was a member of the WMV and worked at Roaring River Restaurant for thirty-four years. She liked taking care of her flowers, watching birds and loved tomatoes. Her love for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren was very special. If you came within reach, you got a hug and an “I love you”.
Surviving are five sons, Gerry Miller and his wife, Tamorah, of Cassville, Bill Miller and his wife, Kay, of Joplin, Danny Miller and his wife, Debbie, of Cassville, Timmy Miller, of Cassville, and Kerry Miller and his wife, Debra, of Golden; fifteen grandchildren; thirty-two great-grandchildren; and seventeen great-great-grandchildren.
Services were held Friday, December 18, 2020, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services. Burial was at Corinth Cemetery in Cassville.
Contributions may be made to Corinth Cemetery in memory of Betty.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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RANDALL “RANDY” RONALD RICKLEFS
Randall “Randy” Ronald Ricklefs, age 57, of Monett, passed away at home, on Friday, December 18, 2020. Randy, son of Ronald and Margaret (Schoon) Ricklefs, was born on August 28, 1963, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was united in marriage to Lorie Smith and they were blessed with three children. Mr. Ricklefs worked many years at Wells Aluminum as an of-

fice manager and went on to receive his CDL to become an over the road truck driver. Randy loved to go hunting, fishing, watch football, and loved to spend time with his kids.
Survivors his daughter, Mandy Ackerman and her husband, Eric, of Aurora; two sons, Justin Ricklefs, of Mt. Vernon, and Cody Ricklefs, of Centralia; five grandchildren, Jaden, Trellie, Lakin, Audrey, and Drake; his parents, Ronald and Margaret Ricklefs, of Monett; one sister, Diane Fletchall and her husband, Roger, of Oak Grove; and two nephews, Austin and Collin.
A private family burial will be held at a later date.
Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home, in Cassville.
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LOREN L. LOWE, JR.
Loren L. Lowe, Jr., age 77, of Aurora, passed away Friday, December 18, 2020, at Aurora Nursing Center in Aurora.
He was born March 13, 1943, in Purdy, the son of Loren L. Sr. and Fern (Wi-

ley) Lowe. On February 27, 1981, he was united in marriage to Brenda Mullins, who survives. Also surviving are four sons, Jerry Lowe, of Aurora, Stacy Lowe and his wife, Kaitlyn, of Carthage, Aaron Lowe and his wife, Katee, of Carthage, and Cody Lowe, of Jenkins; three daughters, Cherri Morgan and her husband, Troy, of Cassville, Tracy Lowe, of Carthage, and Amanda Bowen and her husband, Justin, of Cassville; twelve grandchildren with one on the way; and three great-grandchildren.
Loren was a lifetime resident of Cassville, where he received his education graduating from Cassville High School. He was a self-employed truck driver for over forty years. He enjoyed raising bucking bulls and hauling cattle and loved rodeos. One of his greatest loves was watching his kids and grandkids compete. Loren enjoyed family gatherings and eating homemade ice cream. He was of the Baptist faith.
Preceding him in death were his parents; one son, Loren L. Lowe, III; one grandson, Mason Lowe; and two brothers, Aaron Lowe and Valen Lowe.
Graveside services were held Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Loy Bowen conducted the services.
Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.
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Exodus 15:13

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JOHN ERNEST HENDRIX

John Ernest Hendrix, age 83, of Washburn, left this life December 18, 2020, at his home. Ernest was born on October 7, 1937, to Bud-die Ernest and Mildred Irene (Henry) Hendrix at their home on Greasy Creek. On July 21, 1956, Ernest was united in marriage to Olene Rose and they were blessed with two sons, Leonard Hendrix and Rex Hendrix, of Washburn, and four daughters, Donna Thompson, Joyce Ann Pendergraft, Tonya Hendrix, all of Washburn, and Sondra Gundel, of Jacket, and also their wives and husbands; 15 grandchildren, John, Heather, Misty, Dusty, Daisy, Rusty, William, Stephen Lee, Stacie, Kristy, Joey, Ashley, Montana, Eric, and Randy and their wives and husbands; and thirty-one great-grandchildren.

Gone on before him were his dad and mom, and four brothers, Clifton, Robert, Kenneth, and Howard. Surviving are three brothers Ralph, Larry and Gary; and two sisters, Betty Banks and Sue Popanz.

Ernest attended school at O.K. and Washburn High School. Ernest was saved and baptized at Blue Bend at an early age and was a member of Prairie Hill Baptist Church.

He lived on the farm with family. Ernest caught chickens, cut wood, hauled lots of square bales of hay. Together, they milked cows, mowed, raked and baled hay.

They worked logging timber at their sawmill. They also raised chickens and cattle. Ernest also coon hunted and loved riding horses with family and was a member of The Lazy-H-Riding Club.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at the family farm west of Washburn, with Pastor Jerry Williams officiating.

Instead of memorial contributions, one thing that Ernest would want would be for each of us to give our heart and soul to Jesus.

Service 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



CAROL "NAN" WOODS

Carol "Nan" Woods, age 70, of Cassville, passed away at her home surrounded by her family on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Carol, daughter of Russ and Wanda (Boman) Smith, was born on September 24, 1950, in Lebanon, Oregon. In 1996,

OBITUARIES

she was united in marriage to Monty Woods. Over the years Carol, together with her sisters, Teresa and Lorrie, owned and operated numerous restaurants, including The Wagon Wheel in Diamond, The Donut Shop in Cassville, The Whistle Stop and the Sale Barn Café in Exeter, The Duck Inn and the Lindenwood Hotel in Purdy, and the Over the Hill Grill located at the Cassville Golf Course. Throughout this time many friendships were made with lasting memories, and Carol became known for her famous cinnamon rolls.

Carol, or "Nan" as most knew her by, loved her Lord and Savior with all her heart and beyond that nothing came before her family. Her family was always her number one priority but still she wasn't afraid to set any of them straight. Carol always enjoyed having her house full with family gather-

ings and loved to cook for all of them. She loved to be around people and never met a stranger, had a huge heart, and was always putting the needs of others before her own. Carol enjoyed working on her flower beds and loved to give others a hard time. She was a member of the McDowell Community Church, and will forever be missed by all the lives she touched.

Survivors include her husband, Monty Woods, of Cassville; three daughters, Dana Clayton and her husband, Jeff, of Freistatt, Amy Meadows and her husband, Randy, of Cassville, and Shanna Garner and her husband, Rockey, of Miller; two stepdaughters, Anna Woods, of Cassville, and Melanie Woods, of Stotts City; one stepson, Matt Woods and his wife, Callie, of Exeter; fifteen grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; one sister, Lorrie Ricklefs, of Monett;

three brothers, Frank Smith and his wife, Becky, of Stella, Alan Smith and his wife, Sherrie, of Marshall, Arkansas, and Rusty Smith, of Joplin; her lifelong best friend, Sandy McClain, of Independence; and several nieces and nephews.

Nan was preceded in death by her parents, Russ and Wanda Smith, and her sister, Teresa A. Miller, who passed away on January 15, 2011.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 21, 2020, at the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville, with Brother Bryon Ozburn and Brother Steve Spillman officiating; burial followed at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Butterfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the McDowell Community Church in memory of Nan and entrusted to the White Funeral Home and Crematory, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625.

Funeral 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

RITA KAY BAXTER

Rita Kay Baxter, age 61, of Purdy, passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield.

There are no services 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 CASSVILLE, MO. 417-847-2141



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Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

6:00-6:45 p.m.

First Christian Church 907 Old Exeter Rd., Cassville

Face masks are required

Uows exchanged



Sydney Olbertz, of Shell Knob, and Dylan Williams, of Golden, were wed on September 5, 2020, at Sweet Water Farms. They honeymooned in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Williams reside in Springfield.

90th birthday



Shirley Blythe will celebrate her 90th birthday on January 6, 2021. If you would like to help her celebrate, please send her a card at 1108 Townsend Street, Apt. 1D, Cassville, MO 65625.



Christmas piano recital held



Pictured above, left to right, front row: Helen Wormington, Emily Maples, Sierra Cheatham, and Kuper Eden. Middle row: Mrs. Burnside, Quinn Bergeron, Kaleb Bergeron, Connie Lee, and Mallie Clifton. Back row: Sherie Sehrbrock, Elijah Maples, Zeke Maples, and Heidi Sehrbrock.

A Christmas piano recital was held Dec. 6. Teacher Mrs. Ruth Burnside opened the re-

cital by playing *It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.

The students performing Christmas songs were: Heidi and Sherie Sehrbrock; Emily, Elijah, and Zeke Maples; Helen Wormington; Mallie Clifton; Sierra Cheatham; Kaleb and Quinn Bergeron; Connie Lee; and Kuper Eden.

The Christmas songs played and enjoyed were: *Jingle Bells*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *Angels We Have*

Heard On High, *Joy To The World*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, *We Three Kings*, *Away In A Manger*, *Last Christmas*, *Silver Bells*, *O Christmas Tree*, *Silent Night*, *The First Noel*, *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*, *What Child Is This*, *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*, *Auld Lang Syne*, and *My Fancy Tap Shoes*.

Certificates and trophies were presented to all the students and group pictures were taken.

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The Barry County Prosecutor's Office

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"For unto us a child is born..."

Thoughts from The Editor



Sheila Harris

I think I'm finally catching on to the reason why people like Christmas. Heretofore – before COVID – Christmas and other winter holidays offered excuses for gatherings, for parties, for non-social-distancing in general. There were options available for fending off the sometimes gloomy and portentous thoughts that arrive with darkness. I'm introverted at times, but social isolation has its limits, even for me – especially during the winter.

In a good year, I tend to struggle with depression when the days become shorter. I'm old enough now to recognize the pattern. When night encroaches, the walls

and ceiling begin to close in and a 7 p.m. bedtime sounds pretty good, along with the food I ingest to tide me over until spring.

In 2020, the pall has hit me harder: in part, I suspect, because another decade has rolled over on my calendar and I'm more aware of the brevity of life. People I've known most of my life are leaving it, or they're facing debilitating illnesses and injuries.

From my desk, I'm privy to much information. I listen to reports of calamities and feel helpless to make a difference.

The one thing I can do is wear a mask. It's a small thing, and maybe not perfectly effective, but it's concrete. It's something I've been able to do even as I've watched the nation sinking like *The Pequod* from the behemoths of

"... The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."
- Plato

political division and the effects of a pandemic.

Yes, I'm disillusioned. How can a thinking person not be?

The hinder parts of our collective anatomy have been on full display, and it's now easy to see our true colors. It's tempting to crawl into the cave behind my house and remain until things get better, or until I get hungry.

I do have this hope, though, a beautiful one. Actually, there are other hopes, too, but this one is special.

Unto us - unto my family - a child has been born: a girl.

She lit up my world when she made her arrival 13-months ago, as did her brother 18 years before her.

This little girl, a tiny replica of her mother, claps when she sees me. I don't know about you, but it's not often these days that someone claps when I arrive. In fact, I think she's the first. It's a pretty heady experience.

This grandbaby brought new life to this aging heart that, as of late, has often been weary. Children do that, I've discovered. They bring joy, they bring hope for the future, and they bring the possibility of redemption from our pasts.

Desired children enter the world bearing this weight. They don't know that, of course. If they did, they might run away in fear from our high expectations. Or

perhaps that's the very reason some of them do run.

I know a story of a child who didn't run, though. It's a story worth reading: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior... (Luke 2:11 KJV)."

For me, the story showed a way of escape from my unrealistic expectations for myself. The metaphors are many, but the word "light" enters into all of them.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

May you enjoy it through the eyes of a child, and may that child – inner or outer - scatter the darkness of your December!

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Charlee Felton
Cassville 4th grade

J. Michael Riehn
Attorney

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Hendrix recognized for 12 years of service



The Barry County Commission and county office-holders held a farewell party Monday for southern commissioner, Wayne Hendrix, in recognition of his hard work for the

county over the past 12 years. Above, Hendrix is shown with his commemoration plaque. Those in attendance included his wife, Jackie Hendrix (above, right) and his daughter, Jessica Ponder (above, left).

MDC Trail Renovations Planned

A trail renovation project soon to begin at the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Springfield Conservation Nature Center will, when completed, provide a better walking experience for the quarter million visitors that walk the nature center trails each year. Starting Jan. 5, a portion of the nature center's trail system will be closed Monday-

Thursday of each week for approximately two months. This partial shutdown of the trail will allow needed renovation work to take place while, at the same time, still allow some usage of the trail. MDC crews plan to be finished by spring. The trail renovation work, which will occur on the nature center's Boardwalk Trail, will consist of removing the

asphalt and replacing it with a more natural surface, as well as widening and stabilizing portions of the trail. This work will only impact a portion of the nature center's three-mile trail system. Other nature center trails will remain open and signage will be in place to direct users to open trails. MDC appreciates the public's patience while this

project is being completed. The MDC work team doing the trail work is also responsible for other maintenance projects in MDC's 17-county Southwest Region. For information about trails or to learn about other events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center, call 417-888-4237.



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Sunrise Restaurant owners thank community for support



At left, part of the crew from Sunrise Restaurant in Cassville poses with an oversized check for \$2,100, the amount of money raised during a November 24 fundraiser to help with medical and living expenses of the McDonald family of rural Washburn, whose home at 1600 Buzzard Roost was destroyed in an early morning explosion on November 4.

John and Cani Balazoski, owners of Sunrise Restaurant, wish to thank all of those who purchased meals and helped make the fundraiser a success. "What an amazing community," John Balazoski said. "Please continue to pray for this beautiful McDonald family. Season's greetings from all of us and God bless all of you."

According to the Balazoski's daughter, Shukrie, the youngest daughter in the McDonald family remains hospitalized in the burn unit in a Texas hospital. Talina McDonald, the mother of the children, died two weeks ago from injuries suffered in the November 4 explosion. The remaining family members have been released from the hospital. An account has been established at Arvest Bank in Pea Ridge to accept ongoing donations to help with the family's expenses. A recent photo of the McDonald family is shown below.



At left, Missouri state fire marshal investigator, Grant Wheeler, examines the remains of the McDonald home after an early morning explosion, November 4. Photo courtesy of The Pea Ridge Times.

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

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Creative Corner: "My village, my home"

By Sarah Lee Palmer



Sarah Lee Palmer

My hands are full.
Not a moment to rest.
I carry it all.

I give my best.
I feel a crack forming
inside.
I feel the light going out.
With all the weight. With
all my love. I've given all
of me.
I've got no more left now,
I see.
Here in surrender, I cry.
Here with my best efforts,
I cry.

Here overcome, here
overwhelmed, here un-
done, I cry.
I cannot do this alone.
I cannot walk on my own.

I was never meant to
anyway.
I cannot carry this weight.
My shoulders were not
made that way.
I am not meant to be
alone.
My heart needs a village.
My mind needs a village.
My hands need a village.
I need a moment to
breathe.
I'll be there for you, if
you'll be here for me.
Let's walk together.
Let's carry together.
Let's rest together.
We were not made to
journey alone.
Let's make our village our
home.

You're Not Alone: COVID-19 And The Holidays

The holiday season can be stressful, and the COVID-19 pandemic will lead many Missourians to have feelings of isolation and loneliness in the weeks ahead, especially after the cancellation of many other personal celebrations this year.

The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare and Missouri Hospital Association are reminding all Missourians to safely support one another during the holidays.

"COVID-19 precautions can lead to feelings of distance, which can be especially profound during the holidays," said Mark Stringer, Director of DMH. "For many Missourians, winter and the

onset of the holidays alone is a stressor. This year, those feelings are likely to be magnified."

According to a recent survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 35.2% of Missourians experienced anxiety and depression symptoms this year between Nov. 25 and Dec. 7. In addition, 34% say their mental health is excellent, down from 43% in 2019.

"Social distancing shouldn't keep Missourians from finding the connections they need during the holidays," said Brent McGinty, President and CEO of the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare. "Reaching out to family, friends and neighbors can help reduce their feelings of isolation and loneliness. At the same time, knowing how to set realistic expectations and finding time to step away from holiday stressors can help."

Approximately 20% of adults in the U.S. suffer from some form of mental illness, with one in 25 experiencing a serious mental illness.

As many as 10 million Americans suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder,

which influences mental health, primarily in the winter.

"We have the tools and time to stay connected during the holidays to limit the feelings of isolation and loneliness," said Herb B. Kuhn, MHA President and CEO. "For those that need additional help, behavioral health hotlines are available to help guide individuals to and through care."

Many individuals struggle with Seasonal Affective Disorder (also known as SAD), a type of depression that happens at the same time every year," Katherine Setzer, Program Director of Senior Life Solutions at Mercy Cassville.

According to Setzer, The CDC reports that about 10 million people a year are affected, with women being four times more likely to be diagnosed than men. For most people, the symptoms of SAD start in the late fall and carry into the winter months.

With the challenges we are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we expect a higher percentage of individuals will be affected by SAD," Setzer said.

"The older adults in our community are especially vulnerable, many already are feeling alone and isolated," she continued. "The winter blues are common, but some people experience more intensified feelings and changes. When changes are strong enough to be a form of clinical depression, this is recognized as SAD."

Setzer said identifying an older adult struggling with SAD can be hard at times to detect.

Below are examples of who is at risk and the signs:

Older Adults at Risk

- Lives alone
- Lives in long term care facility or assisted living who are unable to have visitors due to COVID-19
- Has chronic health conditions
- Is disconnected from family, friends and community due to COVID-19
- Is a caregiver

Signs

- Sleeps a lot
- Experiences weight gain or loss
- Experiences changes in eating or other habits.
- Is tearful
- Is agitated
- Purposely isolates
- Expresses fear
- Has aches and pains

For seniors, a simple screening can tell if a person would benefit from Senior Life Solutions is a voluntary intensive outpatient program with offices at Mercy Cassville Hospital. They can be reached at 417-847-6042.

For all age groups, Clark Community Mental Health Center provides mental health services to residents of Barry, Lawrence and Dade Counties. They can be reached at 417-476-1000.

They also offer crisis services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, at 800-801-4405.

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NEW LISTING - ROARING RIVERFRONT 1 acre of ground with over 300 feet of river frontage. Would make a nice place to build a house. #60179817 **\$29,900**

ROOMY 3 BEDROOM IN THE COUNTRY This newer doublewide sits on an acre m/l just south of town. #60179249 **\$99,900**

COZY FIXER This 2 BR, 1 BA sits on 8/10ths of an acre m/l that could be a great garden spot. #60179099 **PENDING \$19,900**

TURN KEY AUTO MECHANIC SHOP Fully insulated 4000 sq. ft. shop sits on 3.4 acres m/l and has an office and waiting area. Four 10x14 doors, 3 lifts, forklift, alignment and tire machines. #60176788 **\$305,000**

LARGE RETAIL BUILDING AND MINI STORAGE ON HWY 37 Open retail space with 2 public restrooms. Concession/kitchen area and upstairs office space. 15 unit mini storage. Highly visible location. #60178159 **\$114,900**

DEVELOPMENT LAND Over 25 acres m/l near WalMart in Cassville. Would make a nice subdivision. #60175389 **\$209,900**

BRAND NEW CABIN This 1 BR, 1 BA has been completed in 2020. Adjoins National Forest with a winter lake view. #60178451 **\$84,900**

AFFORDABLE HOME ACROSS FROM THE PARK 2 BR, 1.5 Bath with a fenced yard. New paint job, trim and cabinets. #60163214 **REDUCED \$44,900**

HOME ON SMALL ACREAGE 3 BR, 2 BA currently being remodeled on a little under 10 acres m/l. #60178021 **\$192,900**

FRESH REMODEL 3 BR, 1 BA on the top of the hill in Cassville. New flooring and paint! #60178382 **\$98,900**

CABIN IN THE WOODS Completely gutted to the studs and renovated. Open floor plan 1 BR, 1 BA with a lake view. #60178444 **PENDING \$69,900**

SPACIOUS 4 BR Open floor plan. Covered deck and patio. Newer HVAC. #60176650 **\$70,000**

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

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

BEAUTIFUL HOME SITES Approx. 14 acres m/l with some woods and some cleared land. Electric and city water are available. #60175386 **\$189,900**

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOTS Central location to build your new home with access to electric and city water. #60175388 **\$10,900**

WELL KEPT 3 BEDROOM, 2 ½ BATH Sits on a acre m/l w/ outbuildings. New roof and windows. Covered front porch. #60152138 **PENDING \$108,000**

FRESHLY RENOVATED Roomy 3 BR, 2 BA in a quiet neighborhood with a shady yard. #60174438 **PENDING \$160,000**

SECLUDED ACREAGE Almost 16 acres m/l close to town. Large pond and creek. Shared well. #60170778 **\$82,500**

LAKEFRONT BUILDING LOT Bucolic lakefront lot with a wet weather creek. Paved road w/ power available. No restrictions! #60159396 **\$27,500**

PANORAMIC LAKE VIEW Lake front lots w/ community water and septic. #60162654 **\$150,000**

2 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOTS Just under an acre m/l in an established subdivision. City water and sewer available. #60171412 **PENDING \$12,900**

EXCELLENT HWY FRONTAGE Great visibility for your business on this 2.3 ac. m/l. City utilities. #60133297 **\$60,000**

RESTAURANT W/ FULL BASEMENT AND BAR Wrap around deck and patio. 2 doors down from the Cassville Dispensary. #60076947 **\$199,900**



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Abby
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Jake
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2020 was a very different year for everyone, however, by the grace of God, it was a very successful year for Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service, Inc. and our buyers and sellers. Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service, Inc. was a Multi-Million Dollar Real Estate Seller, selling Real Estate at auction in the 90% range of all Real Estate offered at auction. We specialize in Real Estate Auctions & Personal Property of all types. We are a full service auction company with professional auctioneers, ring men, cashiers, clerks and set up crew. We have a vast knowledge in most all areas. Our professional staff is waiting to help you with your next transition in life, whether it be a life estate that needs to be settled, job relocation, downsizing, farm dispersal or whatever you need, we are here to help.
From the crew at Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service, Inc., we want to praise God and wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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PURDY PARADE from FRONT



Purdy Lady Eagles basketball team relive the past glory of their 1981 state win as they team up with Santa in Purdy's parade Saturday.



Sheriff-elect, Danny Boyd, attracted the attention of parade-goers in a '29 Mercedes Gazelle, which had belonged to his late father, Robert Boyd.



Lea White, of White's Insurance in Purdy, put on a great elf performance in Saturday's Christmas parade in Purdy.



Dr. Sam Harkey leads the dogs, who got in on the action, in All About Pets' entry in Purdy's Christmas parade Saturday.



Two-year-old Hollis Burt enjoys a little candy after Purdy's Christmas parade Saturday.

Merry
Christmas

from
Designs by Debbie

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847-4500

Lexie Meltabarger
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PURDY PARADE from 4B



Bo Prock, of Eagle Logistics, made the day brighter for kids and adults alike with the mini-semi he navigated in Purdy's Christmas parade Saturday.



A flag troop followed the Iglesia del Nazareno's float, adding a colorful display of Hispanic culture to Saturday's Christmas parade in Purdy.



Sobella Erway (left) led an inflated bovine, Dalton Stephens, down the highway as part of Edgewood Creamery's entry in the Purdy Christmas parade Saturday.



Asher Eden rides shotgun on his grandfather Rick Harris's 1937 John Deere D tractor in Purdy's Christmas parade Saturday, while his grandmother, Rhonda Harris, follows on foot.

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University of Missouri Extension kicks off a new year of Missouri Woodland Steward

ard programs to help natural resource enthusiasts learn more about how to preserve woodlands.

MU Extension state forestry specialist Hank Stelzer and natural resources field specialist Sarah Havens will teach the webinars Tuesday evenings in January and February.

Topics include basic tree identification, planting native trees and shrubs, selling timber, managing woodlands

for timber and wildlife, and invasive plants.

Classes run Jan. 12-Feb. 16. Participants may choose three of the six sessions or all six.

Register at extension.missouri.edu/events/missouri-woodland-steward-winter-webinar-series, or contact Havens at havenss@missouri.edu or 573-247-3082. ADA accommodations are available.

Arning employees share their Christmas



On Monday, December 14, 2020, the employees at Arning


Companies, Inc. participated in "Share Your Christmas" by donating an array of toys. Along with the toy donations, they also donated \$500.00 which was raised through their "Casual Friday for Charity" program.

Shown above, left to right, are: Haylee Marshall, Arning; Levi Hayward, Arning; Scott Tucker, Share Your Christmas; Fred Wood, Share Your Christmas; Ryan Stockton, Arning; and Buzz Treadwell, Arning.


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