

# Chili Cook-Off, *The Show* spelled weekend fun



Back to the square by popular demand, Saturday’s annual Chili & Salsa Cook-Off in Cassville drew a large crowd. Photo by Sheila Harris.

In spite of forecast rain, the spirits of Saturday’s Chili & Salsa competitors in Cassville were not dampened, nor were attendees put off by the weather.

A large crowd was on hand to taste the freshly cooked fare of the eight teams who prepared chili and the three teams who prepared salsa.

Over 50 craft and vendor booths were available for shoppers to peruse, as well as booths providing entertainment for kids, courtesy of First Baptist Church.

See MORE PHOTOS 5B



Shown above, *The Barry County Republicans* team knows how to make chili. Their entry took first place in both the People’s Choice and Judged categories at Saturday’s annual Cassville Chili Cook-Off on the Cassville Square. Submitted photo.

## Divers reach 451-foot depth in Roaring River Cave, no bottom in sight - See story, page 1B.

## *The Show*: beloved annual tradition returns to the stage



Cancelled in 2020, due to COVID-19 precautions, *The Show* returned to the Cassville stage this year.

At left, Krysta Rawlings mesmerized the audience with a soul-stirring rendition of “The House That Built Me,” made popular in 2009 by singer Miranda Lambert.

Above, Mary Hagins shares a laugh with emcee, Drake Thomas, after Hagins’s stirring performance of *Faded Love*, recorded in 1962 by the legendary Patsy Cline.

At right, Lexie Sanders showcased her amazing vocal range with “*Million Reason*,” recorded in 2016 by Lady Gaga.

Photos by Sheila Harris.

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#### Find the 13 bats hidden in this week’s edition!

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## Sgt. Larson commended for saving lives



Shown above, left to right, are: Chief Deputy Angela Cole, Sgt. Anthony Larson, and Sheriff Danny Boyd, of the Barry County Sheriff’s Office. Submitted photo.

In two separate incidents, which occurred only one week apart, Sergeant Anthony Larson, of the Barry County Sheriff’s Office, responded to calls where lives proved to be at stake.

Descriptions of the dispatch calls, as noted on the Letters of Commendation Sgt. Larson received for his quick actions which resulted in the saving of lives, are given below.

**Incident 1:**

On September 14, 2021, Sgt. Larson was dispatched to a residence for a subject who was attempting to attack an elderly female with a knife.

Upon arrival, Sgt. Larson

See LARSON 3A



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## MU Extension hosts blood drive



Above, Barry County Clerk Joyce Ennis gives blood during “Civic Duty Day,” Thursday in the CBCO bloodmobile that was parked outside the Barry County Courthouse. The blood drive was sponsored by the MU Extension office. Photo by Sheila Harris.

## CHS to host annual Veterans’ Day Assembly

Cassville High School will host its 33rd annual Veterans’ Day assembly on Thursday, November 11, at 9 a.m. in the high school gymnasium. It is open to members of the public who would like to attend. The assembly will include performances from the Cassville Mass Choir and Concert Band, a reading of essays written by Cassville students about the meaning of heroes and freedom and a performance by the JROTC demonstrating the Thirteen Folds of the American Flag.

Seating for the event will begin at 8:30 a.m. Any veterans who will be in attendance are invited to sign in at the registration table upon arrival so that they can be recognized for their service during the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, there will be a reception held in the FEMA gym. Pulled pork sandwiches, chips and dessert will be served to all veterans and their family members. For additional information, please contact the school at 417-847-3137.

## BC Salary Commission to hold meeting

The Salary Commission of Barry County will hold a meeting on November 8 at 8:30 am at the Barry County Judicial Center, 2nd floor, Courtroom 1. The business to be discussed will be the salaries of the office holders in the upcoming 2022 election,

which take office on January 1, 2023. The offices that will be up for re-election are:
 

- County Clerk
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Presiding Commissioner
- Collector
- Treasurer
- Recorder of Deeds

## Children’s Advocacy Center Honors Sheriff’s Office



Shown above, left to right, are: Deputy Abby Parsons, Jazmin Rodriguez (Children’s Advocacy Center), Ashley Thomas (Children’s Advocacy Center), and Sheriff Danny Boyd.

Deputy Abby Parsons and Sheriff Boyd were presented with an award today to thank the Sheriff’s office for its partnership with the Children’s Advocacy Center to acknowledge the 20,000 victims of child abuse from 1997-2021 in Barry and Lawrence Counties.

Detective Parsons is currently assigned to crimes against children at the Barry County Sheriff’s Office. The Barry County Sheriff’s Office appreciates the recognition of the team effort to bring justice to these children.

### LARSON from FRONT

observed that the residence had been set on fire. Sgt. Larson ran towards the residence and was advised by a neighbor that a man set the fire in an attempt to kill the elderly female within the residence. Sgt. Larson ran to the back of the residence where the smoke was coming from to see that the female had been successfully taken out of the home. Sgt. Larson attempted to make entry through the back of the residence, however, due to the fire spreading rapidly, he was unable to.

Sgt. Larson ran to the front of the residence and into the garage where he was able to gain entry into the residence. Sgt. Larson observed a male on the ground who was not moving. Sgt. Larson quickly responded by running into the residence to pull the male to safety. Sgt. Larson saw that the male was covered in soot from the fire and that the male had debris and soot in his mouth and that the male was barely breathing. Later, the male was life-flighted to a hospital.

to the area of Washburn for a possible overdose. Dispatch advised that the reporting party pulled over on 90 Highway near Second Street.

Upon arrival, Sgt. Larson observed that the female patient was blue in the face and no pulse was detected. Due to the information provided about the possible overdose, Sgt. Larson began doing CPR on the patient. Sgt. Larson then administered Narcan to the patient, then proceeded with CPR. Shortly after Narcan was administered, a pulse was finally detected. Sgt. Larson was assisted with further medical by Seligman Police Chief K. Phillips & B.C.S.O. Deputy Bray. After placing the patient on a bag valve mask and assisting with breaths, the patient began breathing on her own.

Finally, the patient gained consciousness and was able to speak clearly prior to EMS arriving.

“I believe that Sgt. Larson’s quick and decisive actions directly resulted in saving this person’s life,” Sheriff Boyd’s Letter of Commendation to Larson stated.

“Sergeant Larson took an oath to protect and serve the citizens of Barry County and other agencies when needed. He upheld this oath on September 14 and 24. Sergeant Larson has shown great honor in the badge and the patch on his uniform,” Boyd said.

The Letters of Commendation were signed by Sheriff Danny Boyd and Major Angela Cole, of the Barry County Sheriff’s Office.

## Crowder College to expand athletic program

The Crowder College Board of Trustees were presented and approved the expansion of athletic programs by Tiffany Slinkard, Vice President of Student Affairs.

The athletic expansion would include: Women’s Soccer; Men’s and Women’s Cross Country; and Men’s and Women’s Golf.

These additions are being made in an effort to adapt to the changing needs of our students and community in athletics.

“We are proposing these sports due to their low cost to start and maintain and additional engagement of approximately 57 students,” stated Slinkard.

These programs will make Crowder a more competitive choice for student-athletes and those who wish to have additional experiences.

Coaches for Cross Country and Golf would be part-time, while the women’s soccer coach would be a full-time position. Many competitions would provide both teams to compete on the same day, requiring less travel expense.

Crowder College currently participates in National Junior College Athletic Association Division I programs in Men’s Baseball and Soccer; Women’s Basketball and Softball; and Co-Ed eSports.

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# Community Calendar

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

## Notice:

**Donations of new and gently used clothing** are being collected by the Wheaton Church of Christ. They are looking for all types of clothing for all ages. Please call (417) 652-3873 to set up an appointment to drop off donations.

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

**Seligman Chamber Event Center** is having a country dance with live bands every Saturday night from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. No alcohol allowed. Admission is \$10 per person. 18 and under are free. There is pot luck, 50/50 and door prizes. For more information, call (417) 662-3612.

**Cassville Pantry** is currently well stocked and offering free food assistance via a curbside method. The agency is a Feeding America Pantry located at 800 W. 10th Street, Cassville. It provides fresh produce, meat, bakery, dry goods, and personal care products. Pantry is open every Monday through Thursday morning from 9 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. and every Thursday afternoon from 3:15 to 5:30 P.M.

**The Helping Hands Food Pantry services the citizens of Eagle Rock, Golden and Mano** and is open from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Saturday and Tuesday, and also 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. Questions for the pantry can be answered by calling 417-271-1301 or visiting at 32685 State Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock. (Just 1/4 mile east of the Hwy. P intersection). The pantry is supported by area churches, business associations and private donations.



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**The Old Church Gallery Farmers' Market** located on Farm Road 1240 in Shell Knob is closed for the season.

**Garden Sass Farmers Market** will be held every Saturday, rain or shine, 8 A.M. to noon on the south side of the square in Cassville.

## Oct 28

**The Barry County Republican Club** will hold it's monthly meeting in Cassville at the Barry County Museum at 6 P.M.

## Oct 29

**A Dinner and Dance** will be held at the Stella Senior Center with doors opening at 6 P.M. for a spaghetti dinner. The dance will start at 7 P.M. Music will be provided by Moccasin Bend Band. The cover charge is \$5. This dance is a Dress Up Fall Ball. Guests are encouraged to dress up fancy or funny.

## Oct 31

**Washburn First Baptist Trunk and Treat** will be held from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Washburn First Baptist Church parking lot.

## Nov 5

**Huge Benefit Auction** for the Barry-Lawrence County Development Center Building Fund will be held at the New Site Baptist Church, Monett. Silent auction is from 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. Concessions will be available at 6 P.M. If you have items/baskets to donate, please contact Lynda Painter at (417) 235-9803.

## Nov 5 & 6

**Purdy High School Music Department will present its Fall Musical, Little Women**, at 7 P.M. each night at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door.

## Nov 7

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

## Nov 11

**The Cassville High School** will be hosting their 33rd annual Veterans Day assembly at 9 A.M. in the high school gymnasium. This event is open to the public and seating will begin at 8:30 A.M. A reception lunch will be held after the assembly for veterans and their family members. For additional information, call the school at (417) 847-3137.

## Nov 12, 13, 14

**The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderton** will be presented by the SKITS performers at the United Methodist Church in Shell Knob. The show is a hilarious parody of the Hallmark Christmas movie genre. Show times are 6:30 P.M. Friday and Saturday, and 2 P.M. on Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at the door.



## Nov 13

**Cassville Cruisers Cruise In** will be held from 3 P.M. until 5 P.M. at the Barry County Museum (weather permitting). The theme will be Honoring Our Veterans. Visitors and new members are welcome to attend.

**The Horner Ridge Runners 4H Club will hosting a Veterans Day pancake breakfast** from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. at the Sho-Me Plaza located on Hwy. 248, Cassville. All veterans are invited.

**A Holiday Bazaar** will be held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the First Baptist Church, 618 N. 2nd Street, Washburn. There will be over 40 vendors and concessions will be provided by the First Baptist Youth Group.

## School Menus: Nov 1 - Nov 5

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

**Cassville R-IV High School:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, graham crackers, peaches or cereal, Nutri Grain Bar, apple. L: nacho supreme or burrito, corn, cookie, applesauce or salad meal. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, cinnamon toast, peaches. L: pork patty or pizza, Sun Chips, green beans, juice or salad meal. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, hashbrown, fruit cocktail or cereal, granola bar, orange. L: general chicken or chicken nuggets, rice, carrots, egg roll, pineapple or salad meal. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, applesauce or cereal, Nutri Grain Bar, pear. L: chicken crispito or soft taco, corn, salad, juice or salad meal. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or blueberry muffin, yogurt cup, blueberries or cereal, graham crackers, strawberries. L: pizza or turkey sandwich, Baked Lays, vegetable mix, fruit cocktail or salad meal.

**Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, mandarin oranges or cereal, Rice Krispy Treat, apple. L: pizza or crispito, corn, salad, peaches. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or mini cini, sausage, pears or cereal, granola bars, applesauce. L: burrito or nacho supreme, pinto beans, graham crackers, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or sausage biscuit, graham crackers, pineapple or cereal, graham crackers, pears. L: cheeseburger or country steak, Baked Lays, baked beans, pears. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: chicken sandwich or turkey sandwich, nachos, carrots, juice. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, pears or cereal, graham crackers, applesauce. L: chili or little smokies, cheese stick, crackers, broccoli, Sidekicks.

**Purdy R-II Schools:** Mon: B: strawberry mini bagel, fruit. L: four cheese ravioli, marinara sauce, romaine, tomato, ranch, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, fruit. wed: B: mini waffles, syrup, fruit. L: chicken tenders, french fries, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast burrito, salsa, fruit. L: wg pepperoni pizza, romaine, tomato, ranch, fruit, fudgy brownies. Fri: B: cinnamon crunch parfait, blueberry muffin, fruit. L: chicken patty sandwich, Sun Chips, baby carrots, fruit.

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# Cody Barnhart Agency here to stay

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Cody Barnhart  
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After five years of experience, Cody Barnhart has at last opened his own insurance agency in Cassville. As a licensed agent working under the broader umbrella of Farmers Insurance, Barnhart was offered the opportunity to begin his own agency and accepted happily.

“This has been the goal for as long as I remember,” said Barnhart. “The most rewarding thing to me, though, is getting to meet the people in town, and learn about what they do, and be there for somebody when something not great happens. At least I can be a bit of assistance in times of stress for folks. The [insurance agents] who do well, and last, only last because we really care.”

Born and raised in Lake

Charles, Louisiana, Barnhart earned an Associates Degree in Engineering Tech from McNeese State University in his hometown, and moved with his wife Erica to Jenkins in 2013 to be closer to family.

“We all practically live on the same road now,” he laughed.

Since then, Barnhart has continued striving toward his “dream of owning [his] own business,” and now works to insure “business professionals, farmers, and everybody in between.”

“We put the needs of the customer above everything else,” Barnhart continued, “getting back to the old-school customer service that seems to have gone away. A huge part of the environment here is that we’re here, taking care of people the right way every single time.”

The business officially opened July 1, 2021, and although Barnhart spent much of his early life in Louisiana says he plans to retire here.

“I’m in for the long-haul,” he said.

The Cody Barnhart Agency is located at 101 Main Street Suite 3, Cassville and can be contacted by calling 417-665-0555. For more information, visit [www.cody-barnhartagency.com](http://www.cody-barnhartagency.com).

# Cassville R-IV receives Arvest Foundation donation



Shown above, Cassville R-IV nurse, Bobbi Blankenship (center left), accepts a donation from the Arvest Foundation. A \$6,000 portion of the \$7,500 contribution will go toward the purchase of vision-testing equipment for student eye exams.

Left to right, in the photo above, are: Jeremy Marple and Dr. Merlyn Johnson, with Cassville R-IV; Blankenship; and Thalia Lewallen and Jeff Neil, with Arvest Bank.

The Arvest Foundation recently made a \$1,500 contribution to the Cassville R-IV School District Special Education Department. The funds will be used to purchase both the Rocket Math and Touch Points curriculum.

“The department is so appreciative of the donation to provide supplemental math curriculum,” said Mrs. Amy Stephenson, Cassville R-IV Special Education Director. “Their contribution will make an impact on students from kindergarten through 12th grade.”

The remaining \$6,000 of the gift from the Foundation is being used to purchase vi-

sion equipment for the district.

The funds will be used by the district school nurses to purchase a portable device that will complete a vision scan for each child, preschool-twelfth grade. A student’s ability to learn is largely impacted by their ability to see. The vision screening will detect: nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, amblyopia (“lazy eye”), anisometropia (one eye sees clearly and one is blurred), anisocoria (pupils are unequal) and misalignment (eye turning in or out).

“This is one of the most beneficial opportunities for every student in the Cassville



Shown above, Cassville R-IV special education director, Amy Stephenson (center left), accepts a donation from the Arvest Foundation. A \$1,500 portion of the total \$7,500 contribution will be used for special education curricula.

Left to right, in the photo above, are: Jeremy Marple and Dr. Merlyn Johnson, with Cassville R-IV; Stephenson; and Thalia Lewallen and Jeff Neil, with Arvest Bank.

School District to have for early detection of eye health that will be instrumental in the learning process,” said Bobbi Blankenship, district school nurse.

The primary purpose of the Arvest Foundation is to support local organizations

doing outstanding work to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Through a grant program, Arvest Foundation helps worthwhile charitable activities in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas.

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Gladys

4pd

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45c



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

# “The Thing With Feathers:” A Breast Cancer Story

by Susan Funkhouser



Above, Amy holds baby Alissa in a 1995 photo. Alissa notes, “Not much has changed since then!”

Susan Funkhouser

“Hope is the thing with feathers - That perches in the soul - And sings the tune without the words - And never stops - at all.” - Emily Dickinson

A breast cancer diagnosis feels heavy. The soul that must bear its cumbersome

weight longs for something lighter, something that lifts rather than drags low, something that sustains and strengthens. Hope. In the battle against a formidable foe, breast cancer patients find hope in many sources: a gifted surgeon, a promising drug trial, a compassionate

nurse, a clean set of scans, an encouraging word from a survivor, an unexpected check in the mail. Of course, family and friends serve as the most steadfast sources of hope.

When Amy Graham, of Purdy, was diagnosed with stage 2-B invasive ductal carcinoma breast cancer in 2014, her family and friends rallied for the fight, but Amy’s daughter Alissa offered a special source of hope.

“My mom and I have always been very close. Our interests have always been similar, so we would often stay up way too late, talking about literature, our latest favorite television show or religion. We shared a deep love for Edgar Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson! Many people I knew back then had strained relationships with their mothers, as many teens do, but I was blessed to have not only an occasional disciplinary figure, but also a best friend in my mother.”

Amy received her diagnosis during Alissa’s senior year of high school at Purdy. A gifted artist and singer, Alissa had plans to use her A+ scholarship the following autumn to pursue a dual degree in art and music at Crowder College, which required her to move to the Neosho campus. “After mom was



Shown above, Amy and Alissa Graham, of Purdy, at the time of Amy’s breast cancer treatment in 2014.

diagnosed with breast cancer, I decided to stay home for a year to help her. In all honesty, it wasn’t really that much of a decision to make. When I heard her diagnosis, I just knew she needed me. College could wait. My mom was against my decision at first, but I insisted.”

Through eight rounds of adjunct chemotherapy and a double mastectomy, the Graham ladies found comfort, strength and hope in each other’s company. “I helped around the house, doing dishes and laundry, but I think just being there with her was important to her.”

Amy agrees.

“Alissa was invaluable in my recovery,” she said. “While her peers went to college and started their lives, she chose to stay home and care for me. She cooked and cleaned when I couldn’t,



Shown above, Alissa (Graham) Rehmert and her mother and best friend, Amy Graham.

which took so much pressure off of me. However, the most important thing was just her presence and love. We would binge-watch TV together or lie on the bed and discuss philosophy, religion, our feelings and whatever else crossed our minds. We became closer than ever. Her love and care made a difficult time much easier.”

Alissa’s artwork also played a pivotal role in her mom’s battle and subsequent recovery.

“Alissa is an amazing artist,” Amy said. “She painted me a picture that featured the breast cancer ribbon. She hung the picture where I could see it every day, as I lay on the couch, when I didn’t have the strength to do anything else. I would look at that picture and be reminded that I could do this. I could recover. I had to fight because I had so many people who loved me . . . so much more life to live.”

Alissa heard her own melody of hope in the form of supportive friends and community.

“The Purdy School District helped us financially during their Breast Cancer Awareness assembly,” Alissa recalled. “I was also helped significantly by my close friends, Dana (Cunningham) Fabian and Ashley (Lowery) Thomas. I always knew they were there if I needed to vent. The person who is diagnosed is not the only one suffering. Those closest to them have to struggle with the possibility that their lives may have to go on without their loved ones. This is something that people deal with in different ways, but in any case they all need copious amounts of grace, love and support. Those with the diagnosis often have outward scars to show their struggle. But their family members also have scars which need care.”

Hope sang ceaselessly in the hearts of the Graham women, bringing them through the dark days. Amy won her battle with breast

See FEATHERS 7A

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Weekend carnival at Stumpff’s Event Center delighted kids and adults



Above left, Kelly Swearingen enjoyed a spin with her daughter, Brynlee Shockley, at the Fun Time Shows carnival at Stumpff’s Event Center in Cassville Friday. Above center, almost two-year-old Hayzlee Shockley, of Cassville, didn’t mind playing in the duck pond at the carnival. Above right, Addi Hinds, of Cassville, had a high time on the swings at the carnival. Photos by Caden Swearingen.

Menstrual history and breast cancer risk

Various factors can affect a woman’s risk for breast cancer. Some of these factors, including whether or not a woman is physically active, are within her control. But others are not, and those include when she started to menstruate.

According to Breastcan-

cer.org, women who started menstruating prior to age 12 have a higher risk of developing breast cancer later in life. But that’s not the only link between menstruation and breast cancer risk, as women who go through menopause when they’re older than 55 years of age also have a high-

er risk of developing breast cancer later in life.

Breastcancer.org notes that, over the last two decades, girls have begun puberty at younger ages than girls in previous generations. Researchers have linked that phenomenon to the obesity epidemic and broad expo-

sure to hormone disruptors. A rise in hormones triggers the onset of puberty. The breast tissue of girls who begin menstruating at a younger age tends to be immature and sensitive to hormonal influences, which is associated with a higher risk of breast cancer later in life.

Women may not be able to control when they start and stop menstruating, but they can control certain factors that can make them less likely to menstruate early. Breastcancer.org notes that maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly and eating nutritious foods are some lifestyle choices that girls and women can make to

keep their risk for breast cancer as low as possible.

Various factors can increase a woman’s risk of developing breast cancer. Understanding the link between those factors and cancer risk can help women make healthy decisions that benefit both their short- and long-term health.

FEATHERS from 6A

cancer, and Alissa enrolled in College of the Ozarks, where she completed two years of study and met her future husband, Jon Rehmert. The couple transferred to Kansas State University, where Alissa finished her bachelor’s degree in English, which she notes, “was a degree highly influenced by my mother in the love of literature she instilled in me!”

Alissa graduated, debt-free, in May 2021. She currently works with the Manhattan Public Library.

“Though I live five hours away, I visit my mom as much as possible,” Alissa said. “We text every day and call often. I’m so grateful for her guidance and love in my life. Looking back, it’s hard to describe the feeling you get when your loved one is

diagnosed with something so notorious. I feel that my mother’s illness helped me realize how fragile life can be and made me realize how important she is in my life

and in the lives of every person that knows her. I am infinitely thankful she made it through.”

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# McDonald County blanks Cassville, 20-0



The Wildcats and Mustangs went head to head Friday night at Anderson.

Lee Stubblefield

The McDonald County Mustangs improved to 8-1 on Friday night, posting a 20-0 shutout victory at Anderson over the visiting Cassville Wildcats. The Mustangs used a bruising running game, a pair of long touchdown passes, and a stifling defense to control the contest. Two turnovers thwarted Mac drives that could have resulted in even more points.

McDonald County had just one loss going into Friday's contest, a 31-7 stumble against powerful Lamar back in week 3. Since then, the Mustangs have been near perfect, steamrolling four opponents and winning a 39-34 shootout against Nevada.

Cassville was held scoreless for the third time this season. The Wildcats faced a distinct disadvantage on the line and waged an uphill battle the entire game.

Mac's Jakobe Montes opened the scoring, rumbling into the end zone to give the Mustangs a 7-0 lead with 2:20 left in the first quarter.

Cassville's Jake Anthonysz returned the kickoff into Mc-

Donald County territory, but an errant halfback pass was intercepted. The Mustangs then chewed up clock with a 96-yard scoring drive. Cole Martin found his favorite target, Levi Malone, open for a 22-yard touchdown connection to finish the drive with 5:15 left in the half.

Unable to establish a running game, Cassville failed to make a first down in a frustrating first half. Then after receiving the second half kickoff, the Wildcats finally moved the chains, but only once. Hernan Hernandez drilled a rugby punt that pinned the Mustangs inside their own 20-yard line.

Not for long. Destyn Dowd sprinted 34 yards on a sweep to give the Mustangs a first down at midfield. Two plays later, Martin rocked the Cassville secondary with a 51-yard scoring bomb to Malone. Ethan Fuchs and Cosmo Rhoads combined to block the PAT, but the lead had grown to 20-0 with 7:38 left in the third quarter.

There would be no more scoring.

After exchanging punts,

the Wildcats gritted out an 11-play drive to start the fourth quarter. But Anthonysz was stopped on fourth down at the Mac 26-yard line with 7:27 left to play. The Mustangs then ran out the clock, reaching the Cassville 22-yard line as time expired.

Most telling statistic? McDonald County rolled up 450 yards of total offense. Cassville was held to just 74 yards in the game. The Mustangs had 24 first downs. The Wildcats had more punts (six) than first downs (four).

Lance Parnell's team finishes the regular season at 3-6, and moves into Class 3 District 6 play. The Wildcats travel to Mountain Grove on Friday to play the Panthers. Kickoff is set for 7 PM.

### Big 8 scores

- McDonald County 20, Cassville 0
- Lamar 48, East Newton 0
- Nevada 41, Aurora 16
- Hollister 48, Springfield Catholic 0
- Seneca 26, Monett 21
- Rogersville 45, Reeds Spring 7
- Marshfield 26, Mt. Vernon 14

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Big 8, SWCL, Ozark 7 Cross Country Championships

Mandatory CWD testing required in Barry, McDonald counties this fall

Lee Stubblefield

This week saw area cross country teams compete in conference meets as the regular season winds down.

Big 8 Conference @ McDonald County, Tuesday, October 19

The Cassville boys, paced by Caleb Leach, finished third in the boys varsity team standings with 96 points. East Newton was first with 27 points. Kelton Sorrel led the Patriots with his first-place performance of 16:50.54 over the 5000 meter course

**Cassville boys finishers**

- 7 Caleb Leach, 18:16.66
- 20 Ethan Bohmke, 19:09.84
- 21 Charles Elliott, 19:16.44
- 28 Sage Duhr, 19:45.96
- 35 Evan Butler, 20:10.76
- 47 Jacob Martinez, 20:51.22
- 58 Simon Gates, 21:54.45

The Lady Wildcats finished fourth in the girls varsity race, also scoring 96 points. Jolie Evans was Cassville's top runner, taking fourth in 21:34.85. The Rogersville girls won the meet with 52 points. Kiersten Potter of Lamar was the girls champion, running 19:57.83.

**Cassville girls finishers**

- 4 Jolie Evans, 21:34.85
- 8 Annie Moore, 22:18.72
- 27 Dakotah Anderson, 24:04.15
- 40 Evelyn Elliott, 26:06.45

- 48 Elizabeth Butler, 27:30.00
- 51 Sheridan Beach, 28:00.24

**SWCL Conference @ Blue Eye, Saturday, October 23**

The Blue Eye girls had the only complete team entered in the SWCL meet Saturday, winning by default with a perfect score of 15. Blue Eye's Riley Arnold was the individual champion, running 19:47.42.

For Southwest, Cally Bowyer finished seventh in 23:57.01, Alexis Raucstadt was tenth in 24:49.73, and Ryli Miller came in fourteenth in 27:08.05.

The Southwest boys, with the one-two punch of Christian Long and Caden Uthe, finished second in the team standings, scoring 50. Blue Eye won, scoring 31. Ryan Cardenzana of Blue Eye claimed first place with his 16:59.22.

**Southwest boys finishers**

- 2 Christian Long, 17:38.04
- 3 Caden Uthe, 17:40.75
- 12 Otis Rainer, 19:30.73
- 14 Robert Humphries, 19:35.78
- 30 Henri Balk, 22:05.30

Purdy's Bruce Ozbun, the Lone Eagle, finished seventh in 18:36.87.

Purdy's middle school girls team edged Blue Eye, 26-29, to win their team title. Spokane won the middle

school boys race, scoring 33. Southwest was second with 55, and Purdy was fourth with 64.

**Ozark 7 Championships @ Joplin, Friday, October 22**

The Wheaton boys finished third at the Ozark 7 meet in Joplin on Friday, scoring 72 points. College Heights won the meet with 30 points. Kip Attyberry of Thomas Jefferson was the top boys runner, winning in 17:00.10.

**Wheaton boys finishers**

- 6 Blake Morgan, 18:49.27
- 9 Camren Brattin, 19:23.48
- 16 Fernando Gonzalez, 21:05.20
- 18 Hunter Wyatt, 21:53.33
- 26 Dustin Harris, 29:16.57

**Wheaton girls finishers**

- 4 Lakeisha Wise, 23:39.72
- 8 Lori McNeill, 25:13.46
- 13 Kauseng Hang, 30:50.54

**Exeter boys finishers**

- 20 Austin Mattingly, 22:34.99
- 21 Josue Alcaez, 22:36.85

The Wheaton girls placed second in the middle school girl race, scoring 32. St. Peters won with a score of 23.

Andy Ostmeyer, *The Joplin Globe*

Mandatory sampling of all whitetail deer harvested on the opening day of the modern firearms season, Nov. 13-14, will be required in Barry and McDonald counties. Hunters can take their deer or just the head on the day of harvest to a designated sampling station.

The effort is part of a campaign by the Missouri Department of Conservation to detect chronic wasting disease as quickly as possible as it spreads, and to monitor changes in the state population.

In Barry County, sampling stations will be set up at Roaring River State Park, south of Cassville; at The Gathering Place in Purdy; and at the Central Crossing Fire Protection District headquarters in Shell Knob. In McDonald County, the sampling stations will be at the McDonald County Fairgrounds in Anderson, and at

Rocky Comfort Elementary School in Longview.

Sampling stations will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on opening weekend.

Mandatory sampling is also required in 32 other counties, including Stone and Taney. The latter are the only two counties in Southwest Missouri that have a positive in wild deer for CWD, with each having four positives during the 2018-19 season.

In all, there have been 206 positive cases in Missouri's free-ranging deer herd since the state began testing more than a decade ago. Missouri has tested more than 150,000 deer in that time.

However, wildlife officials also are worried about the expansion of the disease in Northwest Arkansas, where 1,113 cases in deer and elk have been reported since it was first detected in an elk there in 2016. Newton County, Arkansas, has been the epicenter of the disease in that state, accounting for more than half of all cases.

About 300 of those cases have been found in counties along the state line. Among the Arkansas counties bordering Southwest Missouri, CWD has been found in Benton County seven times, the closest being north of Bentonville, only a few miles from the state line; Carroll County, 124 times, with some cases along the state line; and Boone County, 169 times.

In January, Arkansas officials announced that a team of state and federal officials, led by the University of Georgia, would be researching CWD in the state and will be capturing, collaring and monitoring deer over a five-year period. The study will focus around Newton and Searcy counties, where the outbreak originated, according to Keith Stephens, spokesman for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The goal of the study is to

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**WARREN ALBERT STOGDILL**

Warren Albert Stogdill, age 87, of Neosho, passed away early Thursday morning, October 21, 2021, at Freeman Hospital in Neosho.

Warren was born November 2, 1933, in Putnam, Oklahoma, the oldest son of Alvie Lee and Pauline (Cline) Stogdill. Warren married Ruth Willeen Beaver on August 22, 1953, in Loomis, California. He was employed by Stone Container in Rogers, Arkansas, from where he retired in February of 1996. He was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Washburn, where he was an



ordained deacon and taught adult Sunday School classes for many years. He was an accomplished wood carver and harmonica player. In later years, he enjoyed hand carving wooden signs for family and friends. He loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Warren always had stories to tell as he was a very social person.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Willeen Stogdill; one son, David Stogdill and his wife, Debra, of Palmer, Alaska; two daughters, Kedren Pettit, of Carl Junction, and Holly Lyall and her husband, Loy, of Neosho; eleven grandchildren; twenty-four great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild and one on the way; and one sister, Dolores Sanchez and her husband, Peter, of Orangevale, California.

Preceding him in death were his parents; two brothers, Bill Stogdill and Boyd Stogdill; two sisters, Lois Ann Hendrix and Phyllis Norman Whited; and one son-in-law, Jerry Pettit.

Services were held today, Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Washburn, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend

OBITUARIES

Jerry Seigel conducted the services. Burial was at Roller Cemetery in Washburn.

Contributions may be made to Roller Cemetery in memory of Warren.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
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**NICHOLE RAE KING**

Nichole Rae King, age 43, of Butterfield, passed away Friday, October 22, 2021, at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield.

She was born April 3,

1978, in Barre, Vermont, the daughter of Michael and Margaret (Juckett) Cox.

Nichole grew up in Vermont and attended Harwood High School in Waterbury, Vermont. After moving to Butterfield in 2008, she began working at Oxford HealthCare in Springfield as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Some of her favorite pastimes were fishing, listening to music and dancing. She loved doing activities with her children, cooking and just having fun.

Surviving are her significant other, Jake King, of Butterfield; her mother, Margaret Flynn, of Essex Junction, Vermont; two sons, Dylan Robar, of Essex Junction, Vermont, and Mason, of Butterfield; two daughters, Lexy Robar, of Butterfield, and Justine Robar, of Butterfield; two half-brothers, Leslie Jones, of Arkansas, and Jacob Cox, of Oklahoma; and one half-sister, Holly Wells, of Arkansas.

Preceding her in death

were her father and one brother, Nathan Michael Cox.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 until 2:00 P.M. Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to the family in memory of Nichole.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
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**EDMOND EARL "EDDIE" JENKINS**

Edmond Earl "Eddie" Jenkins, 79, of Aurora, passed away Monday, October 25,

2021, at his home.

He was born to Orville and Carrie Wells Jenkins on August 1, 1942, in Galena. He was a retired equipment operator for the City of Aurora.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby; two sons, Marty Jenkins and wife, Susie, of Monett, and Mitch Jenkins and wife, Bridgette, of Mt. Vernon; daughter, Tammie Nibert and husband, Doug, of Monett; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers, Clifford, Loyal, Charles, John and Harold Jenkins; and six sisters, Lucille Essary, Erma Essary, Dola Parker, Louise Hendrix, Joann Scronce and Arlene Colley;

Funeral services will be held Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the Reavisville First Baptist Church under the care of Peterson Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in Nolan Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Saturday from 1:00 p.m. until service time in the church.

WGU Missouri Launches New Scholarship for First Responders

In honor of National First Responders Day, which takes place annually on Oct. 28, WGU Missouri is launching a new scholarship to show appreciation for first responders – including EMTs, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers and others – who have demonstrated unprecedented selflessness and commitment in serving

area communities as they carried out their duties throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The fully online, nonprofit university plans to award up to \$80,000 in scholarships to area first responders – and their spouses – who are interested in furthering their education.

Each "First Responder Appreciation Scholarship" is

valued at up to \$4,000 per student and will be applied at a rate of \$1,000 per term for up to four terms. The scholarships are available for new students enrolled in any of WGU Missouri's more than 60 degree programs in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education and health professions, including nursing. The scholarship application is available at [www.wgu.edu/firstresponders](http://www.wgu.edu/firstresponders) and will be open through June 30, 2022.

"First responders make countless sacrifices on a daily basis to protect our communities, uphold the law and save lives," said Dr. Angie Besendorfer, Chancellor of WGU Missouri. "While we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe our first responders, we at WGU hope that this scholarship offering can help provide those first responders and their spouses

who are considering going back to school an even more affordable path to earning their degrees."

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For more information about WGU Missouri or available scholarships, visit [Missouri.wgu.edu](http://Missouri.wgu.edu).

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**NOV 5:** Pork ribs, roasted carrots, Brussel sprouts, cornbread, chocolate cake

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Oliphant, Annecharico  
named to  
All-District Honor Choir



Two Cassville High School students were a part of the Southwest Missouri District All-District Honor Choir. Jonathan Oliphant (Sr) and Hunter Annecharico (Jr) went through a rigorous audition in September, made the choir roster, and went to an all day clinic at Joplin High School on Saturday, October 23. The clinic was led by Dr. Jennaya Robinson from University of Missouri, Kansas City. Following the clinic, the singers presented a concert for their family and the choir directors of the area. Oliphant is the son of Trent and Michele Oliphant of Cassville. Annecharico is the son of Brian Annecharico and Dawn Annecharico of Cassville.

State Historical Society of Missouri Expands  
Historic Missourians Website

As part of its mission to support educational outreach, the State Historical Society of Missouri continues to add new biographies to the freely available education website Historic Missourians. An essential resource for students and educators, Historic Missourians features well-resourced biographies of notable Missourians. The articles are written for a school-age audience and meet education standards set by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, but readers of all ages visit the site.

The new biographies were made possible through a generous donation from Carolyn P. and Robin R. Wenkeker, whose financial support allowed the State Historical Society to engage Mizzou graduate students in researching and writing articles on people with a connection to the University of Missouri. “The Wenkekers’ commitment to the expansion of Mizzou-connected Historic Missourians is both ongoing and deeply appreciated,” said SHSMO executive director Gary R. Kremer. Recently added biographies include nationally rec-

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1 Timothy 6:9

SW Elementary September “Students of The Month”

At Southwest R-V Elementary, during the month of September, students were chosen to be Rangers of the Month. These students exhibited the character trait of Responsibility. Southwest Elementary’s September Responsibility Students are: front row: Ezmae Flick, Grayson Pendergraft, Wesley Barras, Paige Owens, Scarlett Thompson; middle row: Jessie Tull, Marshall Tucker, Lolo Chisholm, Ali McKinney, Audrey Starr, Azlyn Kelley; back row: Brody Holt, Addy Lakey, Brylee Cutberth, Easton Wilson, Aubrey Miller. Chevelle Hackler was absent from the picture.



MU Extension to hold beef cattle workshop

University of Missouri Extension will hold a Whole System Management of Beef Cattle Reproduction Workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, at the MU Southwest Research Center, 14548 Highway H, Mount Vernon. MU Extension livestock specialist Eldon Cole said

that beef reproduction specialist Jordan Thomas and others will lead the discussions. Thomas, with assistance from numerous other MU beef researchers, recently authored a new manual on the whole system management approach. He will discuss

relevant reproductive technologies as part of a yearlong system. Topics include: •Managing for an ultra-short calving season. • Managing cow body condition economically. • Heifer selection. • Maintaining cows in positive energy balance in variable forage conditions. • How to minimize effects of stress (heat, fescue toxicosis, etc.) on reproduction. • Bull management in and

out of season. The day includes a tour of Southwest Center’s cattle operation. Registrants receive lunch and a copy of the new Whole System Management of Beef Cattle Reproduction manual. Register at bit.ly/Repro-Systems. For more information, contact Eldon Cole at 417-466-3102, or Jordan Thomas at ThomasJor@missouri.edu or 573-882-7519.

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# Roaring River site of Wonders of Wildlife classes for kids, adults



Above, left to right, Ivy Hulvey, of Columbia; Caleb Byrd, of Tucumseh; Avery Hulvey, of Jeep, Arkansas; Mia Hoffpauir, of Grove, Texas; Lydia Lewis, of Liberty; and Andrew Finch, of Cassville enjoyed the opportunities available at the Wonders of Wildlife Kids' Camp at Roaring River State Park, October 8-10. Photo by Adriana Keeton.



Kids marched to the tune of their own drummers during a Wonders of Wildlife expedition at Roaring River State Park October 8-10. Photo by Sheila Harris.



The Flyin' Buzzards (above) provided musical entertainment to patrons (below) who enjoyed the fish fry sponsored by Wonders of Wildlife at Roaring River State Park, October 9. Photos by Adriana Keeton.



Adults learned to fly-fish at a Wonders of Wildlife class held at Roaring River State Park October 8-10. Photo by Sheila Harris.

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A lesson in kindling fire with materials at hand was presented during a Wonders of Wildlife class at Roaring River State Park October 8-10. Photo by Sheila Harris.

## CWD from 9A

obtain a better understanding of how deer infected with CWD move across the landscape, survive and reproduce relative to healthy deer, according to Jenn Ballard, state wildlife veterinarian with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The hope is for wildlife officials to use the information to develop strategies to mitigate the spread of the disease.

Missouri Department of Conservation Wildlife Health Program supervisor Jasmine Batten said much remains unknown about CWD in Arkansas, but they do know that

around the epicenter as many as 1 in 5 deer may be infected. But she added that it “varies a lot over even small geographic areas.”

According to the department, it takes an average of 18 to 24 months from the time a deer is infected until it looks visibly sick. Deer can spread CWD before they look or act sick. In Missouri, most deer that test CWD-positive do not exhibit the disease.

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At 451 feet sub-surface, Roaring River Spring still “bottomless”



Above, KISS Rebreathers diver Randall Purdy, of Kearney, Nebraska, displays the camera and housing used for shooting photos of the team’s underwater explorations. Purdy says he has reached the camera’s depth limit of 330 feet in Roaring River Spring and has plans to invest in a new camera capable of operating at a depth of 600 feet. Photo by Sheila Harris.

Sheila Harris

The KISS Rebreathers dive team returned to Roaring River State Park over the weekend, and, during a series

of three daily dives, firmly established Roaring River Spring’s status as the deepest recorded spring in Missouri. “I made it to a depth of 401



Above, KISS Rebreathers diver/cartographer Jon Lillestolen, of Blacksburg, Virginia, swims head-first through the restriction at a depth of 224 feet in Roaring River Cave. Photo by Randall Purdy Photography, used with copyright permission from TLBass Telepictures.

feet on Saturday, then down to 451 feet on Sunday,” head diver Mike Young said. Mike Young says the underwater terrain has changed

at the newly reached depth of 451 feet. “There’s still no bottom in sight,” he said, “but I’m beginning to see some ‘stepping down’ of rock formations along the sides, and there’s no silt, which leads me to believe I’m getting close to the source of the water.”

The lack of silt, Young says, signifies that water flow is keeping it at bay. When asked why he didn’t continue his descent just 12 more feet to put Roaring River Spring in the record books as the deepest spring in the nation, Young said it’s because he didn’t want to deviate from his pre-established dive plan. “If I swam down just ten more feet,” he said, “it would require an additional 30 min-

utes of decompression time before I could resurface. I didn’t want to do that to my teammates.” For the KISS team, safety is a priority. Each diver has a written dive-plan recorded with surface manager Tony Bryant before entering the water. “I record the time they go into the water, the length of time they plan to stay and the time come out,” Bryant said. “If they’re late resurfacing, we wonder why.”

According to Young, during Sunday’s dive, he had a little scare near the bottom of the abyss when he felt his safety line go slack. Cartographer Jon Lillestolen had repositioned the small inner tube through which the safety line passed



Above, CEO and head diver of KISS Rebreathers, Mike Young, emerged from Roaring River Spring after his 222-minute dive Sunday. According to Young, he reached a depth of 451 feet, with no bottom yet in sight. The hardest thing he faces during the necessary sub-surface decompression-time prior to returning to the surface is boredom, Young says. Photo by Sheila Harris.

for the purpose of giving Young a bit more slack in his line. However, Young, for a startled moment, believed that his line had accidentally been cut. “If that actually been the case, I could have found my way back to the surface,” Young said, “but it would have been a little more difficult.” Young says he’s confident that Roaring River Spring’s



KISS Rebreather diver and surface manager Tony Bryant holds the clapper board in front of the face of diver/cartographer Jon Lillestolen (seated) prior to Lillestolen’s recorded interview with Tim Bass (far left), of TL Bass Telepictures. Bass’s assistant, Barry Gooch, holds the microphone. Photo by Sheila Harris.

See DIVE 3B

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# Barry County Century Farm Families Honored



Above, Jane Owens and Jan Ruhlman and families, representing the Oleah and Ethel N. Ray Century Farm, are shown with MU Extension agent, Marcia Moreland (far right).

Maintaining a farming operation in the family for one century or more through the good times and hard times is something to celebrate. This year, the University of Mis-

souri Barry County Extension celebrated not one, but two families at its monthly council meeting October 14th, 2021. Century Farm Families for 2021 include:

- Bill & Kathy Pendergraft, of Washburn, who have achieved the accomplishment of having a 50-acre Century Farm, purchased in 1885. The farm has served as a sawmill, dairy farm,



Above, MU Extension agent, Marcia Moreland (left) is shown with Missouri Century Farm owner Kathy Pendergraft and family.

and a general farm that produced many different goods throughout the years.

- Jane Owens, of Jenkins, and Jan Ruhlman, of Greensboro, North Carolina, also achieved the accomplishment of having a Century Farm with 197 acres purchased in 1896. The farm has been very diversified during the years, from raising sheep, dairy cattle and

hogs to growing grain crops. However, it is most noted for raising registered Hereford herd cattle that continues to this day.

The Missouri Farm Bureau is a proud partner in the recognition of century farms.

“We applaud the hard-working farm families that have kept us fed and clothed for generations” said Garrett Hawkins, president of Mis-

souri Farm Bureau. “They represent an important part of our heritage.”

## Cassville city-wide cleanup

The Cassville city-wide clean-up will be the week of November 8 on customers’ normal service days. It’s only for residents inside the City of Cassville.

**CURBSIDE PICK-UP**

- Citizens must have their acceptable items at the curb (where the trash cart normally sets) no later than 7:00 a.m. the morning of your normal schedule service day for pick-up.

- Any non-acceptable items will be left at the curb for disposal by the resident.
- Crews cannot access personal property to assist in moving items to the curb.
- Clean-up will not take place at businesses, apartment buildings or vacant homes.
- No material accepted from large construction or remodeling projects.

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- Must be broken down to 5’ ft. lengths or they cannot be picked up.

- Small items must be bagged
- Please limit large furniture and mattresses to two items.

**ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED**

- No tires/wheels
  - No construction/large remodeling materials
  - No brush/limbs/yard waste
  - No items over 6-foot length
  - No rocks, bricks, concrete
  - No bulk liquids
  - No propane tanks
  - No fluorescent/CFL/HID bulbs
  - No batteries
  - No hot tubs /large pools
  - No large lumber or landscaping ties.
  - No medical items (needles)
  - No hazardous waste (including paint, oil, aerosol cans, fertilizers, etc.)
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# Hospitalist joins Cox Monett Hospital

Cox Monett is pleased to welcome Karissa Merritt, DO, to our hospitalist team. Dr. Merritt specializes in the care of hospitalized patients. Growing up in St. Joseph, Merritt became interested in medicine early on when she recognized the devastation that the absence of care and various social determinants of health care can cause. “I decided to become a physician because I am passionate about science and people,” she said. “A series of doors opened that made me

realize this career path is the perfect fit for me.” In addition to clinical and evidence-based medicine, Merritt is also interested in postulation health, social contributors to health outcomes, and advocacy at both the state and national levels. “Caring for patients in the hospital allows me to still have a role in projects related to the community’s population health,” she said. “Once I met the staff at Cox Monett, I felt it was the right place for me.” Merritt is married to Seth,

who is the “best guy she knows.” They have a new precious, snuggly daughter named Cora and a puppy named Henry. In her spare time, Merritt enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors, exercising, and reading a good fiction novel.



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depth will surpass that of Phantom Cave Spring in West Texas, which, at 462 feet, holds the current record as the deepest in the nation. “There’s plenty more down there in Roaring River Cave still to explore,” Young said. “Lots more than 12 feet.” In addition to reaching a record depth, divers also ascended to the surface after passing through the 224 foot restriction, where they discovered two more airbells. “They’re larger than the Colossal Dome,” diver Jon Lillestolen said, “but they don’t contain as many attractive rock formations.” Prior to exiting the cave after their final dive on Sunday, some 20 safety or “bail out” air tanks were brought back to the surface. The tanks were labeled for different depth levels and had been stationed along the course of the divers’ descent into Roaring River Spring over the weekend. According to diver Randall Purdy, each safety tank contains a specific mix of gas for its designated depth. “The tank labeled for a 480-foot depth contains only enough breathable air to last a diver for four minutes,” he explained. The KISS Rebreathers plan to return November 12 - 14, although, with the typical fall rains, Young doesn’t expect to be able to deep-dive any more this year. “If we’re able to, we will,” he said. “But, if not, we plan to do more mapping of the cavern above the restriction.” The KISS team’s chief underwater photographer, Randall Purdy, says he probably speaks for most divers when he says that the record-breaking Roaring River dive project represents the dream of a lifetime. Purdy says he plans to invest in a new camera ca-

pable of filming at a depth of 600 feet. “I can’t take my current camera below 330 feet without it imploding,” he said. A full-length documentary of the dive team’s exploration of Roaring River cave, which will also include history of the area, is being created by Tim Bass of TLBass Telepictures of Bentonville. Short video clips of the exploration can be found on the official Roaring River State Park Facebook page.

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**Monday, Nov. 8, 2021 • 10:00 AM**  
**LOCATION:** Cassville, MO. From the 4 way stop jcts. of 76, 86 and Hwy. 37, go south on Hwy. 37, 3.8 miles. Auction on west side of Hwy. 37. (22507 State Highway 37, Cassville, MO)  
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2 properties to be offered. (1) Large metal building with 6 acres m/l & approx. 800 ft of Hwy 37 frontage. (2) Moderate fixer upper home on ½ acre m/l. **Real Estate: Property #1.** Approx. 76'x80' red iron building, with 20' side walls. (2) 14'x14' overhead doors, (2) walk in entry doors, concrete floor & electric on 6 acres m/l with approx. 800' of Hwy 37 frontage & Hwy 37 entrance. **Property #2:** Moderate fixer upper, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with kitchen, living room & utility room on ½ acres m/l on the corner of Hwy 37 & Farm Road 2212. Rural water, septic & central heat and air. **Note:** Property #1 & property #2 join each other. However, we will offer them separately. We will offer the large red iron building first promptly at 10:00 AM on Monday Nov 8th. This building sets on 6 acres m/l with lots of Hwy 37 frontage and would be a fantastic location for mechanic shop, with tall side walls for motorhomes, large trucks, buses, boats, etc, would be a great location for equipment rental & sales, etc or buy the home and large building and have a place to live and business location together. Unlimited possibilities here. Only 4 miles to Cassville or a short drive to Northwest Arkansas right on Hwy 37. Call 417-847-2507 to learn how to get qualified to bid or to preview these properties before auction day. Please read all terms and conditions and come prepared to buy on Monday November 8th. Real Estate sells first promptly at 10:00 AM. Go to [www.stumpffauction.com](http://www.stumpffauction.com) to view complete listing and photos. **Real Estate Terms:** Qualified buyers only w/pre-approved bank letter of approval. Nonrefundable 10% paid day of auction w/balance due in cash or certified funds within 30-45 days. Buyers and sellers will be responsible for their own portion of their closing cost. Taxes will be prorated to date of close. Sells as is where is with no warranties or guarantees. Bidders, buyers or agent of the buyer is responsible for conducting own inspection of property prior to auction and should rely solely upon their own due diligence and inspection. This property is offered with absolutely no contingencies of any kind, no contingencies on financing, surveys, appraisals or final walk throughs. Seller has the right to accept or reject final bid. A 10% buyer's premium will apply on Real Estate only. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all printed material.

**\*\*\*See next week's paper for complete listing\*\*\***  
**Owners: Keith & Linda Parker**

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September Students of The Month named at Eunice Thomas Elementary

The Word of The Month: "Friendship"



Shown at right, left to right, are Kindergarten students.

Front row: Avery Greek, Emma Privett, Kylie Thompson, Autumn Forke, Kynlee Fry, Brenna Clifford. Back row: Raegan Stott, Alex Gomez-Cortez, Axel Tellez, Timothy Blangger, Finley McGlumphy. Brody Anderson is absent from the photo.



Shown at left, left to right, are Kinder Academy students Joshua Thomas, Easton Schoelzel, Abel Pierce and Presley Treadwell.



Shown above, left to right, are First Grade students. Front row: Addie Anderson, Brooklyn Crumpler, Evelyn Dice, Jeanelle Daniels, Nessa Kulina; back row: Brayden Crawford, Gabriel Vargas, Luke Bauman, Maverick King, Eli Ortiz, Silas Buntin, Everth Ruiz.



Shown above, left to right, are Second Grade students. Front row: Ella Kelley, Harper Hayward, Maggie Miller, Frankie Tucker, Zoe Tellez; back row: Axel Day, Eastan Beall, Jack Weiser, Jameson Fellwock, Rogan Mizer. Mackenna Russell and Nathen Vickers are absent from the photo

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CHILI COOK-OFF from FRONT



The team from Barry Electric (shown above) were voted the “Most Spirited” group. Their salsa entry was voted best in the “People’s Choice” category and was given third place by the judges. Submitted photo.



Above, Hazlee Peters enjoyed a cracker without chili at Saturday’s Chili & Salsa Cook-Off in Cassville. Hazlee is the daughter of Amber Balch, of Cassville. Photo by Sheila Harris.



The team from Extreme Graphics was awarded third place by the judges for their chili in Saturday’s Chili & Salsa Cook-Off on the Cassville Square. Submitted photo.



The Habitat for Humanity team took second place for both its chili and salsa in the judged categories at Saturday’s Chili & Salsa Cook-Off in Cassville. Submitted photo.



Shown above, members of the Barry County Drug Court team won first place for their judged salsa and took the prize for “Best Decorated Booth.”

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Above, Cheryl Williams (left) and Niki Null (right) manned a booth for the Soroptimist Club’s annual nut sale at the Cassville Chili & Salsa Cook-Off Saturday on the square. Photo by Sheila Harris.


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## CHS Softball Wildcats finish season on high note



Shown above, left to right, in the back row are: Coach Trent, Taylor Smith, Brooklyn Mitchell, Maci Barton, Kaylyn Weiser, Tyler Hayward, Elly Raemaker, Lauren Sparkman, Macy Walker, Kalee Lowe, and managers Makayla Manwarren and Hailey Bryan; middle row: Breanna Gordon, Aleigha Bryan, Grace Yocum, Alyssa Whisenhunt, Ashlyn Bryan and Kailey Artherton; front row: Seniors Ryleigh Burnette, Belle Edwards, Emily Mann, Kenzi Dilbeck, and Coach Videm-schek.

The 2021 Softball Wildcats finished the season on a high note with a 2nd place finish in districts. The team beat conference rivals Monett 10-8 and Seneca 8-1 before advancing to the district championship against Class 3 #3 state-ranked Rogersville. Final score was a hard fought 8-4 which the girls had rallied in the 7th to put themselves in position to tie it up, but was just short of a final comeback. The girls finished the year with a record of 14-14.

## Haven of The Ozarks: Pet of The Week



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## CMS Lady Wildcats win Big 8 Tourney



Shown above, left to right, are Cassville Seventh Grade volleyball players, back row: Kendal Allison, Avery Stokes, Kami Stough, Keely Bailey, Coach Courtney Hammen; front row: Alexis Lopez, Tomi Blankenship, Taylor Kennedy, Audrey Kennedy.

Cassville Middle School Volleyball team earned first place in the Big 8 Conference Tournament Saturday, October 9, at McDonald County School.

"The girls fought hard all season to earn a number one seed in the Big 8 West Conference tournament" said CMS Volleyball Coach Courtney Hammen.

"We traveled to Mac County to play Nevada as our first opponent of the day to determine if we played for 1st or 3rd place in the tournament. This was a hard fought

game that went to three sets and the girls came out with the win. We moved on to the 1st place game against our favorite rival Monett. The girls played smart and quick

and came away with the win in two sets. These 7th grade girls worked hard and improved all season long. We're very excited to continue watching them in the future."

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