

Galena man arrested on animal abuse charges Pg. 2

Fake money used to purchase classic car in Cassville



J.D. Hunter, above right, met with a man known as Aaron Montgomery on Facebook, above left, on Saturday to sell his classic muscle car. Hunter captured the above footage on his home security system.

By Adriana Keeton, editor@4bca.com

A Cassville man is seeking assistance from the public to find his muscle car he sold on Facebook Marketplace that was paid for with fake bills.

Cassville resident J.D. Hunter posted his 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass on Facebook Marketplace a little over a month ago. Hunter states he received a message from a man named Aaron Montgomery through Messenger requesting information on the muscle car.

“He asked every question a buyer would normally ask when buying a vehicle,” Hunter said. “We messaged for over a week and made plans to meet in town (Cassville) originally, but the cold weather killed the battery in the car and he got a little upset because he said he drove 5 ½ hours from the St. Louis area to purchase the vehicle and didn’t want to wait. So, I had him come to my house while I had friends help me get the battery replaced.”

On Saturday, January 20, at approximately 8:15 a.m., the man known to Hunter as Aaron Montgomery arrived at Hunter’s home along with a woman he stated was his wife and a four year old child in a Black Land Rover.

“My original asking price was \$20,500 for the vehicle. He started negotiating the price right off. He looked under the hood, under the car and test drove the car,” Hunter said. “We agreed on \$18,500.”

SEE FAKE MONEY PG. 3



The above 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass, owned by J.D. Hunter, of Cassville was purchased with fake “motion picture money” last Saturday.

Icy conditions turn Barry County roads into a slip and slide

By Adriana Keeton, editor@4bca.com



Area roads were covered with a thin sheet of ice throughout Barry County when storms producing freezing rain moved through the area Sunday night. Jacqueline Murray snapped the above photo around 5 a.m. Monday morning on Gravel Street in Cassville.

Freezing rain moved into southwest Missouri Sunday evening, lasting throughout the night and into Monday morning.

With the below freezing temperatures, roads quickly iced over causing slide offs throughout the county.

Central Crossing Fire Protection District closed Highway 39 northbound traffic from the Highway 76 intersection up to Cato for a few hours on Monday morning due to several slide offs. According to Central Crossing Firefighter Scott Robertshaw, no injuries were reported in the handful of slide-offs they encountered.

The treacherous road conditions caused all area schools to either close or use AMI days on Monday, with only Southwest School remaining closed on Tuesday.

Roads began to melt as temperatures climbed above freezing by Monday afternoon on the main roads.

County Commission holds 2024 budget hearing

By Adriana Keeton, editor@4bca.com

The Barry County Commission held its 2023 budget hearing on Thursday, January 18, at the Barry County Courthouse.

The Barry County Commission proposed a budget of \$6,715,778.92 for 2024 with an estimated revenue projection of \$6,213,712.00 plus \$4,723,211.79 carried over from 2023, giving a total appropriation of \$10,936,923.79, an increase of \$2,245,182.36 from 2023 total proposed appropriations.

The commission approved a 4% COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) for all county employees.

The Barry County Commission proposed a law enforcement budget of \$4,224,454.00 for 2024 with an estimated revenue projection of \$3,180,250.00, plus \$1,255,691.91 carried over from 2023, giving a total appropriation of \$4,435,941.90. This is an increase of \$1,470,071.90 from the 2023 total appropriations.

Sara Moller joins Advertiser team

By Adriana Keeton, editor@4bca.com

Sara Moller joined the Barry County Advertiser team this month as a sales representative.

Sara was raised in Eagle Rock and attended Cassville Schools where she graduated in 2007. She has background sales with Lowe’s in Monett.

“I am excited to join the Advertiser team. I have already met so many new faces this month”, said Sara. “I look forward to branching out and meeting more. If you see me around, feel free to say hi. I will be visit-



Sara Moller and her husband Derrick are shown above with their sons, Brody and Bentley. Photo: Sara Moller

SEE MOLLER PG. 2

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## 2024 Personal Property and Business Assessment lists have been mailed

From Sherry Smith, Barry County Assessor

Sherry L. Smith, Barry County Assessor, has announced that the 2024 Personal Property and Business Assessment lists were mailed out on January 5, 2024.

If you received an assessment list, but have not yet either filed online using the “Online Filing Pin Number”, displayed on the list, or filled it out and returned it by mail or in person, please do so immediately to avoid a late assessment penalty.

If you owned personal property or business equipment on January 1, 2024, and did not receive an assessment list, or you’re a new resident to Barry County, please call the Assessor’s Personal Property office immediately at 417-847-2613 to request assistance in being properly assessed.

You can assess online, directly over the telephone with one of the office staff, or feel free to drop by the personal property office to assess in person.

One last friendly reminder, all personal and business equipment assessment lists must be postmarked by March 1, 2024, to avoid a late assessment penalty.

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## Galena man arrested on animal abuse charges

By Jason Wert, [jason@bransontrilakesnews.com](mailto:jason@bransontrilakesnews.com)

A Galena man is potentially facing a large number of criminal charges in connection with a raid by the Stone County Sheriff’s Office, related to an animal abuse investigation.

John Maxwell Griffiths is out of the Stone County Jail on \$10,000 bond after being charged with 29 counts of animal abuse, a class A misdemeanor. Stone County Prosecuting Attorney Wes Weber told the Branson Tri-Lakes News the investigation is ongoing so charges could change when the investigation is complete.

“Anybody with any information pertaining to this investigation is encouraged to contact the Stone County Sheriff’s Office,” Weber said.

The Stone County Sheriff’s Office said

A Galena man is facing charges after 55 dogs were found on his property without adequate shelter, food or water. There were also multiple animals found deceased on the property. Photo: Stone Count Sheriff’s Office

they were sent to a location off Camp Clark Hill Road in Gale-na after the Humane Society of Missouri’s Animal Cruelty Task Force received reports of animal abuse taking place. When a deputy arrived at the prop-

erty, he found dozens of animals in distress and called for multiple deputies to assist.

Further investigation found 55 dogs of all ages in pens, tied to trees, or tied to shelters exposed to the bitter cold. Most of the ani-

mals had no access to food and/or water.

The deputies also found the bodies of multiple animals, both dogs and goats, inside shelters, chained to trees, or in a burn pile.

SEE ABUSE PG. 9

### MOLLER FROM FRONT PAGE

ing local businesses over the next few months to introduce myself and share some of our upcoming advertising opportunities.”

Sara has been married to Derrick Moller for sixteen years and they have two boys, Brody, 14 and Bentley, 11. They currently reside in Cassville where Derrick has been employed with the Flat Creek Road District since the spring of 2023.

The Moller family are huge football fans. Both Brody and Bentley have been part of the local football programs for the last three years and you can find them under the Friday Night Lights cheering on the Wildcats during football season. You can also find Sara and

Derrick hitting balls at the Cassville Golf Course on occasion. Family is important so they spend a lot of time with their extended families in Purdy and Shell Knob as well.

“I love being a part of this community and it made sense to be part of the biggest community focused newspaper in the area,” Sara added. “To know that we currently deliver 13,500 weekly papers to Barry County residents and have a 7,000 member following on Facebook really shows the support this community has for each other and the importance of local news.”

Sara is available for all your advertising needs. You can reach her at the office at 417-847-4475, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 • VOLUME 58 - ISSUE 4

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Letter to the Editor Policy: Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome. They should be brief, no more than 350 words, and should include a mailing address and a daytime telephone number. They must be typed. Opinions may be edited for spelling, grammar, libel and slander. Letters relating to a political candidate or issue must be received at least two weeks before the election. Letters can be emailed to [editor@4bca.com](mailto:editor@4bca.com), or submitted by mail or in person. Mailed letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, Barry County Advertiser, PO Box 488, Cassville, MO 65625.



FAKE MONEY FROM FRONT PAGE

Hunter then said the man handed him a bank envelope with the cash payment.

“The money was banded in one \$10,000 and \$2,000 bundles.” Hunter added. “Every time I tried to count it he would distract me and I wasn’t wearing my glasses so I didn’t notice the money was counterfeit. He was good at what he was doing.”

The man left with the vehicle just before 9 a.m. and Hunter went to the bank to deposit the money.

Hunter stated the money passed the pen test at the bank, but the teller said that the money didn’t feel right while she was counting it. After examination, the teller noticed in small print on the bills “motion picture money”.

Hunter contacted the Barry County Sheriff’s Office immediately and posted the incident on his Facebook page while waiting for the arrival of a deputy. He stated that he received responses from individuals on Facebook saying they saw

the vehicle in Marionville, as well as on I-44 in Springfield.

“I have tried to call the cell phone and have messaged him on the Facebook account but have never received a reply,” Hunter said. “I want to thank Sergeant Wilson with the Sheriff’s office, she was super helpful and professional.” Hunter was able to file a claim with his insurance company.

Barry County Sheriff Danny Boyd stated a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) has been issued for the vehicle nationwide and it has been entered into NCIC (National Crime Information Center) as stolen. The money used in the purchase of the vehicle is being sent into the Secret Service to see if the numbers on the fake money have been used in other crimes.

If anyone has any information in this case, please contact the Barry County Sheriff’s Office at 417-847-3121. Callers can remain anonymous.

Mr. Wheeler to serve as Principal at Cassville Intermediate for the 24-25 school year

From Mindi Artherton, Cassville Schools



Current Cassville Primary and Intermediate School Assistant Principal Caleb Wheeler, will serve as Principal of Cassville Intermediate School beginning the 24-25 school year.

After 30 years in education, current Cassville Intermediate Principal, Mr. Jeff Swadley, will be retiring at the end of this academic year. The Board of Education has selected Mr. Caleb Wheeler, who is currently the assistant principal at Cassville Primary and Intermediate, to serve as the next principal for the intermediate building

beginning July 1 of this year.

Mr. Wheeler joined the Cassville R-IV administration team in 2022 and has demonstrated dedication and commitment to the success and well-being of students at Cassville R-IV.

“We are excited about Mr. Wheeler becoming the next Intermediate Principal,” said Dr. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville R-IV Superintendent. “His commitment to academics, building relationships, and unwavering passion for school improvement will make a positive impact for our Intermediate students and families.”

Mr. Wheeler is in his tenth year of education serving in multiple roles ranging from a classroom teacher and coach for the Webb City School District, as assistant principal at

Cassville and principal at Wheaton Elementary.

He has earned a Masters in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University and his undergraduate degree from Missouri Southern State University.

“Ever since I joined the Wildcat team I have been welcomed and embraced by a fantastic staff and community,” stated Wheeler. “Both Mrs. Gates and Mr. Swadley

have been incredible to work with and learn from this past school year and have greatly prepared me for this role. Mr. Swadley has left such a legacy at the intermediate and a strong foundation for me to take on this new position. I am excited to continue to work with such dedicated and caring staff!”

Wheeler and his wife, Maddie, have two children, Charlee and Forest.

Haven of the Ozarks: Pet of the Week



Frank has been in the shelter over 280 days and needs to find a home. Before arriving at the Haven, he had been shot in the face, but he is perfectly fine now. Frank is a sweet, mellow dog who would do well in any home.

He can start out a little nervous when he first meets you but has never shown an ounce of hostility towards anyone or anything! Frank loves to have his ears scratched, is house trained and great riding in the back of a car. Frank loves playing with his best buddy, Mike, who he arrived with, so we suspect he would do great with other dogs in the house.

We believe that Frank will adjust to any home, and home life quickly, although he would be happiest in a home with a big yard to run around in as that is one of his favorite activities!

All of our pets are fixed, up to date on their vaccinations, and microchipped. The Haven of the Ozarks is open from 9am-4pm, seven days a week. For more information, please email us at havenozarksanctuary@gmail.com, or give us a call at 417-835-3647.

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**Weekly Specials**

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**Tues:** Mexican chef salad or chicken tortilla soup, fudge cake

**Wed:** Chicken or shrimp alfredo, salad, garlic knot, coconut cream lush

**Thurs:** Meatloaf, Cracker Barrel potatoes, vegetable, roll, samoa dessert lasagna

**Fri:** Tomato soup, Whitley’s grilled cheese, butter pecan sheet cake

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**American Legion Irwin-Easley Post 118**

is producing Military Pavers for their Memorial Park as of Jan. 2024. A donation of \$150 for a 12x12 personalized paver which includes Name, Branch of Service, Tour/Campaigns, Medals Received, Dates of Service. The pavers are open to Veterans, Active Duty, and Soldiers passed.

We will also include Bricks at \$50 each for Civilians who passed and bricks will include names, hobbies, dates, and sayings.

All pavers ordered by April 15, 2024, will be displayed at the American Legion Memorial Park on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2024.

Contact Janet Neukirch to place your order at 417-858-8846.

*Funds collected go to the American Legion Post 118 to maintain the Memorial Park*



# 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. Contact Elaine Phaneuf, class@4bca.com or (417) 847-4475.

Notice:

**SeniorAge and the Cassville Senior Center** will be having a tax counseling program this year, starting in February, where volunteer tax preparers will assist seniors with their taxes and property tax credit. The program will start up in February and it is by appointment. Those needing an appointment can call the Cassville Senior Center at (417) 847-4510 or stop by the center at 1111 Fair St., Cassville.

**Patriots of SW MO** have meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 P.M. at the VFW in Shell Knob (on Hwy. 39). Everyone is welcome. To learn more and find out who this month's exciting speakers are, contact Jean Dodge at dodgejean13@gmail.com, or Diane Painter (417) 858-2100. (please no texts).

**Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) is Looking for Volunteers.** Training will be provided. Basic computer skills are necessary. If interested, contact Susan Hughes by emailing susan.hughes@senioragemol.org or call (417) 868-9524

**The Purdy Community Recycling Center,** located next to the main baseball field, is open Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M., and is currently accepting #1 and #2 plastic, cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, used motor oil and filters, and paper products with no food residue.

**The Wheaton Depot Museum** in Wheaton will be open Sundays from 1 to 5 P.M. Visitors are encouraged to check out the history of Wheaton and the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA). Phone numbers are posted in the window of the museum.

**Ozark Country Quilters** meets at Show Me Plaza, Hwy. 248, Cassville, every 3rd Monday for Open Sew; every 3rd Thursday for 'Work Shop'; and every 1st Tuesday for their business meeting. For more information, call (417) 342-1372.

**Seligman Chamber Event Center** has a country dance with bands every Saturday from 7 to 10 P.M. No alcohol allowed. Admission is \$10. Ages 18 and under are free. There is pot luck, 50/50 and door prizes. For information, (479) 903-3640.

**OATS Transit** offers regular transportation services for the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Please call

the local OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about services in your area. You can also visit our website at oatstransit.org.

**The Helping Hands Food Pantry,** 32685 Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock, services the citizens of Eagle Rock, Golden and Mano and is open from 9 to 11:45 A.M. Saturdays and Tuesdays, and 5 to 7 P.M. the first Thursday of the month. Call (417) 271-1301 for more information.

**Wheaton Church of Christ will have clothing available** the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. For information, or to make a donation, call (417) 652-3873 or (417) 669-6935.

**Soil Samples** need to be received at the MU B.C. Extension office by 12 P.M. Thursday. Call (417) 847-3161.

Friday Jan 26

**The Stella Senior Center,** 719 Carter St., Stella, has a dinner and dance every Friday night. The doors open at 5:30 P.M., with a meal at 6 P.M. The dance starts at 7 P.M. This week's band is Timberline Country Band. Cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are always available. Please call (417) 628-3314 or (417) 489-3661 for more information. The center is located at 719 Carter St. in Stella.

Saturday Jan 27

**Fundraiser Breakfast** will be served at Central Crossing Senior Center, 20801 YY-15, Shell Knob, from 8 to 10 A.M. The menu will include biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Free will donations will be used to help fund the senior center's salad bar.

**A Benefit Supper for the Gipson Family** will be held from 5 to 8 P.M. at the Eagle Rock Community Center, 27824 State Hwy. 86, Eagle Rock. Chili and soup are on the menu. For more information, see the advertisement on this page.

Wednesday Feb 14

**Cassville Area Coalition of Charities Lunch Meeting** will be held from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. at 404 State Hwy. 248, Cassville. All area non-profits, churches, recovery groups, and active community members are invited.

**South Barry County Ambulance District Meeting** will be held at the Washburn Fire Dept., State Hwy. 37, Washburn, at 6 P.M.

Monett Library Adult Programs

**Chair Yoga** - Mondays 1:30pm (except holidays)  
**Dulcimer Class** - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am  
**Crochet and Knitting Class with Verda** - Thursdays, 2pm (starting Jan. 18, 2024)  
**Let's Play Dominoes** - January 23, 2pm  
Monett Branch Library is located at 2200 Park St., Monett. Phone number is 417-235-7350

Cassville Branch Library Activities

**Thursday, Jan. 25:** 6pm: Kiss the Ground Documentary presented with Missouri Department of Natural resources - all ages  
**Friday, Jan. 26:** 6-8pm: Family Bingo (all ages)

School Menus: Jan. 29th to Feb. 2nd  
All meals served with milk and subject to change.

**Cassville R-IV High School:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, Go-Gurt, orange. L: burrito or hot dog, nachos, salad, fruit cocktail. Tues: b: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, cinnamon toast, orange. L: shrimp poppers or BBQ pork rib, tater tots, green beans, peaches. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or oatmeal, toast, yogurt cup, Mandarin oranges or cereal, Pop-Tart, fruit cocktail. L: taco or pizza, salad, corn, applesauce. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or nuggets, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, Nutri Grin Bar, pears. L: general chicken or chicken nuggets, rice, glazed carrots, egg roll, pineapple. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or cinnamon roll, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, banana muffin, applesauce. L: meatball sub or pork patty, Sun chips, broccoli, fruit cocktail.  
**Cassville R-IV Pri. Int. Mid.:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, Go-Gurt, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: grilled cheese or turkey sandwich, Sun Chips, carrot sticks, applesauce. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, toast, peaches. L: tangerine chicken or nuggets, rice, green beans, pineapple. Wed: B: biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, hashbrown, toast, pears or cereal, granola bar, applesauce. Wed: B: soft taco or crispito, corn, salad, sugar cookie, pears. Thurs: B: biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, Go-Gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. L: nacho supreme or quesadilla, mixed vegetables, refried beans, juice. Fri: B: biscuit & gravy or nuggets, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, Rice Krispies Treat, apple. L: chicken sandwich or burrito, nachos, broccoli, applesauce.  
**Purdy R-II Schools:** Mon: B: oatmeal, cinnamon toast, fruit. L: Southwest spaghetti, cooked carrots, fruit. Tues: B: biscuit & gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: pizza, salad, fruit, cookie. Wed: B: mini pancakes, syrup cup, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: Popcorn chicken, fries, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast tornado, fruit. L: Frito pie, corn, fruit, chocolate pudding. Fri: B: oatmeal round, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: bologna sandwich, chips, celery with peanut butter, fruit.

April 2, 2024, General Municipal  
Absentee Voting Begins  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Are you registered to vote in Barry County?

- Last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 6, 2024, for those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the April 2, 2024, General Municipal Election.
- You may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office; the Monett Chamber of Commerce; or the Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce.
- Please notify the Barry County Clerk if you have moved and have not updated your address or had a name change.
- Photo ID required to vote in April General Municipal Election.
- Absentee voting starts Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Two (2) week in-person, no excuse absentee voting begins Tuesday, March 19, 2024.
- If unable to vote in person, you may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625 or fax to: 417-847-5311. You will need to provide: name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four (4) digits of social security number, phone number, reason for voting absentee, and signature. If you live in the Shell Knob or Monett area, you can go by the Shell Knob Chamber or Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office for you. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information call: the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 opt: 3 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barrycountyclerk.com



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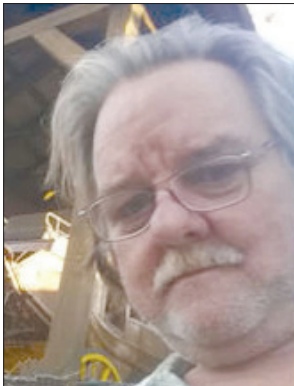


**WILLIA SUZANNE (TRIPLETT) WILLIAMS**  
 Willia Suzanne (Triplett) Williams, age 76, of Cassville, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2024. Suzanne (Suzy) was born on March 4, 1947, to Forrest and Jeanine (Lecaille) Triplett and raised in Hot Springs, Ark. Suzy met and married Donnie Williams in Bedford, Ind., in 1966.

Suzy graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1965 and attended Henderson University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She continued her education and received her master's degree from Missouri State University. Donnie and Suzy moved to Cassville in 1971 to raise their family. Suzy embarked on a career in education. She was a teacher at Southwest Schools in Washburn for 35 years. Being a teacher and working with students was one of her most beloved accomplishments. Even after her retirement, Suzy continued to substitute teach for many years. She loved seeing former students in the community and hearing about their lives and accomplishments. Suzy was an avid traveler, visiting all 50 states and 26 foreign countries. The American Southwest was her favorite, especially the Santa Fe and Taos areas. Suzy was a kind and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved history and sharing her knowledge with students and family. One of her biggest joys was being "grandmama" to her six grandchildren.

Left to remember and cherish her life are her husband of 57 years, Donnie Williams; son, Jeffrey Williams and wife, Laura, of Kansas City; daughter, Denise (Williams) Wiese and husband, Ben, of Louisburg, Kan.; and

six grandchildren, Logan, Zoe, Adeline, Etta, Violet, and Avett; three siblings, Sylvia Bryant and Sonya Triplett, of Hot Springs, Ark., and John Triplett of Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service on Saturday, February 3, 2024, 11 a.m., at St. Thomas à Becket Church in Cassville where Suzy was a founding member. A reception will immediately follow. Suzy was cremated at her request. In lieu of flowers, please donate towards a memorial bench in Suzy's name to be placed at Southwest Schools. Donations can be sent to Southwest Schools, 529 E. Pineville Road, Washburn, MO, 65772 or via venmo @WilliamsMemorial.



**DAVID ARTHUR TREAT**  
 David Arthur Treat, 62, of Cassville, died at his home on Saturday, January 13, 2024, unexpectedly after a brief illness.

He was born April 8, 1961, in Springdale, Arkansas, the son of Cecil and Chlo (Foster) Treat. On February 24, 1995, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, he was united in marriage to Lori Essary, who survives. Also surviving are his daughter, Samantha Treat Woods and granddaughter, Lilith Woods, both of Joplin; sister, Donna Treat Medders and husband, Howell Medders, of Fayetteville, Ark.; niece, Keisha Catron of Willard; and three nephews, Tanner Thompson, of Dallas, Corey Medders, of Charlottesville, Va., and Jon Medders, of Fayetteville.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Chelle Treat Catron.

While attending school in Springdale, he played football and played the tuba in the band. He graduated

OBITUARIES

from Northwest AR Vo-Tech with a CDL license. David drove semi-trucks for companies in Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri. Later, he owned a dump truck and backhoe and did landscaping in SW Missouri, as well as septic tanks.

David was a master gardener, producing bountiful vegetables every year, including heirloom varieties. He enjoyed fishing, reading, picking the guitar and spending time with his granddaughter, Lilith Woods, who was the apple of his eye. David was also very proud of his daughter, Samantha. He was of the Christian faith.

Go rest high on that mountain, David. You were loved and will be missed forever.

At David's request, there will be no services. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Contributions may be made to a scholarship fund for his granddaughter, Lilith Woods, in care of Fohn Funeral Home.

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**MARY LEE SISNEY**  
 Mary Lee Sisney 79, of Sedalia, died Monday, January 22, 2024, at her home.

Funeral services will be Friday, January 26, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. at McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia, with the Sisney Family

officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville. Visitation will be Friday from 9:00 A.M. until the time of the service at the funeral chapel. Memorials are suggested to Mt. Herman Baptist Church or the Harmony Baptist Association in care of the funeral chapel.

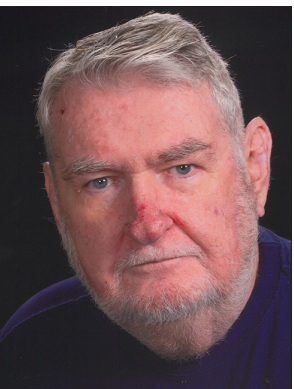
Born April 1, 1944, in Kansas City, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Lola McPhail Brite. On June 10, 1962 in Purdy, she married Rev. Robert D. Sisney, and he survives of the home.

Also surviving are four children, Brent Alan Sisney, of Monett, Brenda Kay Weber, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, Keith Duane Sisney, of Blue Springs, and Lee Edward Sisney, of Grain Valley; thirteen grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a sister, Sherry Walden, of Warrensburg; and a brother, Tom Glenn, of Smithton. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Karen Jane Sisney, and a sister, Becky Griffin.

Mrs. Sisney was a member and past pianist of the Mt. Herman Baptist Church near Sedalia. She had served as church pianist for multiple churches for over sixty years. She had moved to Sedalia in October 2010 from Slater.

**EMMA JUNE HICKS**  
 Emma June Hicks, 90, of Pierce City, passed away Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 2, 2024, at Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett. Visitation will be held from 6-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the funeral home.



**EDWARD MARTIN "ED" GALLAGHER**  
 Edward Martin "Ed" Gallagher, age 86, of Cassville, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024, at his home.

He was born July 8, 1937, in Abington, Pennsylvania, the son of Martin Edward and Helen Frances (McDonald) Gallagher. On December 3, 1960, in Orléans, France, he was united in marriage to Earlene Coulter, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Brian Patrick Gallagher and his wife, Valerie, of Washington, Virginia; five grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; one daughter, Brenda Senko; two sisters, Frances and Elaine; and one grandson, Brian Patrick Gallagher II.

Ed attended school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating from Catholic High School. He later attended California State University in Long Beach where he at-

tained a bachelor's degree in economics. Ed was employed by Riverside County Flood Control in Riverside, California, from where he retired in 1998. He loved traveling and going to museums. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Cassville.

Private services will be held at Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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**BETTY IMOGENE YORK**  
 Betty Imogene York, age 94, of Aurora, passed away at Aurora Nursing Center, on January 16, 2024. Daughter of John Ace and Alta (Brown) Smith, Betty was born July 8, 1929, in Salisaw, Oklahoma, and was united in marriage to Clifton Arley York on November 29, 1953.

To see full obituary, go to www.whitefuneralhome.org.

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MORGAN DAVID COUEY

Morgan David Couey, age 50, of Ridgeley, went to meet Jesus on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Son of Oliver and Patricia Couey, Morgan was born on December 17, 1973, in Monticello, Arkansas. He was a 1993 Wheaton High School graduate. On June 27, 1996, he married the love of his life, Juna Kay Phelps, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Many lasting memories were made throughout the years, they were always together, giving each

other a hard time but one thing that was for certain was the love they had for one another. Morgan had a huge heart and was always the first to help anyone out; 3131 was a lifeline for so many. He was a jack of all trades, holding various jobs from being that familiar smiling face as you walked into the Junction Quick Stop in Wheaton, a machinist, and being a Whiskey Barrel Maker. Morgan loved people, he enjoyed having get-togethers with family and friends, camping, kayaking, floating, back roading, 4-wheeling, and installing stereo equipment. He was a natural comedian, always had a joke to tell, making people laugh, and could brighten any serious situation. He was full of life, always happy, and everyone knew when "Couey" walked into a room. Morgan was

the life of the party and knew how to have a good time. He loved big and his family meant the world to him; Morgan was a devoted husband, father, and the best "Pops" around. He was one of a kind and has left a lasting impression on so many lives. Morgan was loved and will be forever missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Survivors include his loving wife, Juna Couey, of Ridgeley; three sons, Aaron Couey, Austin Couey, and Garrett Couey and his fiancé, Amanda, all of Ridgeley; two grandchildren, Paislee Brooklyn and Lane Jackston; his mother, Patricia Couey, of Fountain Hill, Arkansas; one brother, Quint Couey and his wife, Rhonda, of El Dorado, Arkansas; three brothers in-law, Jeremiah Birchfield, of Ridgeley, Chris Birchfield and Chris Lakey, both of Cassville; three sisters in-law, Jamie Fletcher and her husband, Jeff, of Holiday Island, Arkansas, Mary Birchfield, of Cassville, and Sara Luker and her husband, Shawn, of Mt. Vernon; his nieces and nephews, Colby Lakey and his wife, Sabrina, Brayden Stephens, Brianna Birchfield, Kaitlyn Birchfield, and Darren Birchfield; and his father-in-law, Lloyd Birchfield, of Cassville. Morgan was preceded in death by his father, Oliver Couey; mother in-law, Beverly Birchfield; and Granny, Evelyn May. A visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville, with cremation arrangements to follow. Service arrange-

ments are under the direction of the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville. his wife; and one son, Bradley Edward Herrin. Dwaine attended school in Pioneer, Oklahoma, graduating from Pioneer High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was employed by EFCO Corporation in Monett for many years. Dwaine then became a realtor selling real estate for 20 years and lastly, he worked for the United States Postal Service for 15 years from where he retired at the age of 84. During his entire working career, he also farmed raising cattle. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved to fish and hunt. Visitation was held from 2:00 until 4:00 P.M. Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of Dwaine.

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DWAINE ELDON HERRIN

Dwaine Eldon Herrin, age 90, of Marionville, passed away Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

He was born August 31, 1933, in Hennessy, Oklahoma, the son of Clarence Edward and Florence (Brown) Herrin. On October 7, 1955, in Wichita, Kansas, he was united in marriage to Jenive Irene "Jennie" McGrew, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Brent Eric Herrin and his wife, Cordelia, grandson, Eli Eldon, and granddaughter, Isabel Elizabeth, all of Cassville; brothers-in-law, J.R. McGrew, of Marionville, and Roy McGrew, of Crescent, Oklahoma; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, Clarence Edward Herrin, Jr. and

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ELIZABETH ROSE VERDE

Elizabeth Rose Verde, infant daughter of Nilo and Kirstie Verde, of Cassville, passed away Monday, January 15, 2024, at home surrounded by her family.

Services were held Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Santiago Aguilar conducted the services. Burial was at Clio Cemetery in Jenkins.

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JOEL MICHAEL CURREN

Joel Michael Curren, age 58, of Powell, died January 17, 2024, at Circle of Life Hospice care in Bentonville, Arkansas. He was born September 4, 1965, in Amarillo, Texas, the son of Gilbert and Martha Sue Curren.

The Curren Family moved to Bentonville in 1971. Joel was active in sports, playing football for the Tigers and was an outstanding medal and trophy winning swimmer for the Bentonville Swim Team. He graduated from Bentonville High School in 1984 and attended the University of Arkansas. His athleticism led to being a member of the Arkansas Razorback Cheerleading Team, an experience he really enjoyed.

Joel also enjoyed hunting and fishing and almost all things farm related. He and Tanya cherished the farm atmosphere and both were baptized in the cold and pristine waters of Mike's Creek flowing through the farm. Joel did many

things, including he and Tanya owned and operated BBQ Station in Cassville for the past 15 years. Their personalities, hard work and specialty of Texas style hickory smoked barbecue made for great success. Many in Bentonville have benefited from their catering here.

Joel was preceded in death by his grandparents and he is survived by his wonderful wife of 27 years, Tanya Curren; his parents, Gil and Sue Curren, of Bentonville, Ark.; one son, Ross Curren, of Bella Vista, Ark.; two daughters, Sydney Curren, of Fayetteville, Ark., and Madeline Curren, of the home; two brothers, Scott Curren and wife, Michelle, of Powell, and Dale Curren and his wife, Betty Jean, of Jane.

Visitation was held Monday at 10am until 11am at the Bentonville Church of Christ followed by a celebration of life service at 11am with Greg Ziegler, Walton Hook, Glen Warner, and Scott Curren.

Condolences to the family: [www.eptingfuneralhome.com](http://www.eptingfuneralhome.com).



TOMMIE RAY MCNABB

Tommie Ray McNabb, 73, of Cassville, passed away on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Tom was born on July 12, 1950, in Cassville, son of John and

OBITUARIES

Billie (Gregory) McNabb. He graduated from Exeter High School and worked for Miracle Recreation in Monett, retiring in 2014. He was affiliated member of the Church of God (Holiness) in Butterfield, being saved on January 11, 2024.

Tom was united in marriage to Lou Bennett on March 16, 1990, and she survives.

Tom is also survived by his son, Shane McNabb and wife, Tasha, of Cassville; five grandchildren, Tanner, Marti, McKenzie, Jaiden and Kaiden; two great-grandchildren, Aquaryiss and Azlynn; also survived by Robin King and husband, Mike, and Jackie Ball and husband, Derrick, and children, Maggie and Max Slutter; two brothers, Max McNabb and wife, Alice, and John McNabb and wife, Sheila; three sisters, Philis Younger, Nancy Hendrix and husband, Russell, and Vicky Pride.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Rex McNabb.

Tom will be cremated and no services are planned. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.



LARRY GLENN WALLACE

Larry Glenn Wallace, age 73, of Seligman,

passed away Sunday, January 14, 2024, at his home in Seligman.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, in Illinois.

A military interment will take place at a later date.

Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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KEVIN MICHAEL SCHREINER

Kevin Michael Schreiner, age 55, of Exeter, passed away Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at his home.

He was born July 4, 1968, in Monett, the son of Edgar Schreiner I and Della (Brown) Schreiner. On March 10, 1990, in Elsey, he was united in marriage to Bridget Berg, who survives. Also surviving are his parents; one son, Keith Schreiner and his wife, Emily, of Joplin; one daughter, Tina Mahmoud and her husband, Omar, of Bentonville, Arkansas; two brothers, Edgar Schreiner II and his

wife, Sandy, of Cassville, and Steven Schreiner, of Bolivar; one sister, Angela Schreiner, of Neosho; and five grandchildren, Piper, Kennadi, Mateo, Tahani and Liliana.

Kevin attended school in Cassville, graduating from Cassville High School in 1987. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church. Kevin was an over the road truck driver for 22 years from which he retired. He was currently employed with the Butterfield Road District as a heavy equipment operator.

Kevin enjoyed farming, hunting, driving semi-trucks and camping. He and Bridget were best friends and did everything together. They loved spending time with their family and friends. There was never a dull moment with Kevin around.

Services were held Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend Russell Bishop conducted the services. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

Contributions may be made to Victory Baptist Church, Haven Of The Ozarks or

Guardian Angel Basset Rescue in memory of Kevin.

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JAMES AVA "JIM" COX

James Ava "Jim" Cox, age 82, of Rocky Comfort, passed away Sunday, January 7, 2024.

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

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BRIAN ADAMS

Brian Adams, 39, of Verona, passed away on January 14, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

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## Enrollment now open for PreventT2 Monett, a year-long lifestyle change program

From Cox Monett  
PreventT2 Monett, a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognized  
lifestyle change program sponsored by Cox Monett and the Universi-  
ty of Missouri Extension, is now accepting participants. This year-long  
program provides a hands-on experience with nutrition education,  
physical activity, and stress management tools from a trained lifestyle  
coach and fitness instructor.  
It has been demonstrated that the CDC Diabetes Prevention Pro-  
gram delays or prevents type 2 diabetes. Individuals with a reduction of  
5-7 percent of body weight along with 150 minutes of physical activity  
per week had a 58 percent (71 percent for those over 60) lower risk of  
developing type 2 diabetes.  
There will be an informational meeting at Cox Monett in conference  
rooms 1 and 2 from 5 to 6 p.m. on March 11. The program is set to be-  
gin on March. 25.  
Please contact Bai Xiong at 417-635-4562 for more information or  
visit <https://www.partners.habitnu.com/coxhealth> to see if you qualify  
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# Illuminate opportunities at the 2024 Missouri Dairy Expo

From Reagan Bluel, Missouri Dairy Educational Director

In the chill of winter many dairy producers have their head down focused on getting the mandatory chores of milking and feeding complete.

On February 9, Missouri Dairy is eager to offer a chance to break up the stagnant rhythm and illuminate opportunities to improve profitability for the farm at the statewide Dairy Expo. This is the 4th annual event at the Oasis Hotel & Conference Center, in Springfield held in conjunction with Mis-

souri Dairy's annual meeting.

"We have a great line up of experts for this year's conference," said Reagan Bluel, Educational Director for Missouri Dairy. "With three concurrent breakout sessions, and numerous exhibitors we are confident everyone will find something of interest."

"There are a variety of ways dairymen can improve profitability on-farm, however that looks different for every operation," Bluel continued. "These are

topics I've seen make a difference."

Topics include: Dairy farm outlook and policy, Drought resistant forage systems, future cull cow markets, Sire selection, Successful farm succession and forward contracting.

Finally, we'll have the opportunity to learn directly from three Missouri dairymen about the value a farm consultant and/or nutritionist has had on their herd.

"This Expo will provide nuggets of information you can take

home and implement right away to make a difference on your operation," said Bluel. The educational sessions are in conjunction with Missouri Dairy's annual meeting.

Dairy producers attend FREE of charge, dairy supporters are asked to pay \$25.00 at the door. To learn more or preregister attendance to the 2024 Missouri Dairy Expo please visit MODairy.org or call (417) 772-4231.



The 4th annual Missouri Dairy Expo will be held in Springfield in conjunction with Missouri Dairy's annual meeting on February 9.

ABUSE FROM PG. 2

Causes of deaths have not been determined at this time.

The sheriff's office contacted the Missouri Humane Society to send in an emergency rescue team because of the amount of injured animals found at the site. A representative of MHS reached the site and immediately called for a full response team from St. Louis.

MHS stated on social media they had taken dozens of "severely malnourished" animals to their St. Louis shelter for emergency veterinary care.

"The fact that these animals have had to suffer and that so many animals died from living without food or shelter is devastating," HSMO President Kathy Warnick said in

a statement. "We appreciate the swift action and support of the Stone County authorities in making this rescue possible. Without immediate intervention, I don't know how many more of these animals would have died. Now that they are safe, we hope we can count on the community's support as we do everything in our power to care for these dogs and give them a second chance at a happier life."

MHS officials stated they found 15 deceased dogs in addition to the 55 live rescues.

If Griffiths is convicted on all counts currently against him, he could face a maximum of a year in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine on each count.

## MDC reports final deer harvest at record 326,026

From Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri's 2023-2024 deer-hunting season ended Jan. 15 with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reporting a preliminary record-setting total deer harvest for the season of 326,026. This year's new harvest record surpasses the one set in 2006 of 325,457.

Of the deer harvested, 147,705 were antlered bucks, 29,060 were button bucks, and 149,261 were does. Top harvest counties for the overall deer season were Franklin with 7,395, Howell with 6,346, and Texas with 6,181.

Hunters harvested 299,719 deer during the 2022-2023 deer hunting season with 140,735 being antlered bucks, 27,028 being button bucks, and 131,956 being does.



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