**NUMBER 12** 

Upcoming......4A

**VOLUME 56** 

CASSVILLE, MISSOURI 65625-0488

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

Obits..... 10-12A

Classified.....13-14A Auctions.....15A

#### Santa and Reindeer cleared by Missouri Director of Ag 1B

# Youngblood honored at retirement reception

Gary Youngblood, shown above left, with Representative Scott Cupps, was honored at a retirement reception on Monday,

Ezra Devore

Gary Youngblood is retiring after over a quartercentury in political service to his community, but decades were spent before that in local agriculture and the Cassville school system.

Born and raised in Jasper County, Gary Youngblood began work at MFA in 1970. After being promoted to his plant's manager, Youngblood was sent to manage a fertilizer plant in Exeter and sent to the Barry County area in 1978. Upon the closing of the Exeter plant, he was sent to Wheaton, and once that plant consolidated in 1984, by March of '85, Youngblood was working in the maintenance department at Cass-

Youngblood would spend

the better part of the next decade working in the Cassville school, even getting promoted to Director of Maintenance, until the mid-'90s, when a Circuit Clerk had advised Youngblood to run for County Clerk. In 1994, Youngblood was elected as Barry County's County Clerk and first walked into his new office in January of the following year.

"In the clerk's office, my goal was to do the best job I could and do what was required of me," Youngblood says. "I guess I did a good enough job that the people appreciated what I did and decided to let me do it some more," Youngblood chuckled, "and I can't thank the

See Youngblood 3A

#### December 19, for his service to Barry County. Harvick Farms educational programs bringing people back to nature while infiltrating food insecurity



Shown above, left to right, are Teresa Utter, Sam Harvick, Thomas Bird, Jeremiah Bird, Aiden Stanley, and Mason Stanley with Cub Scouts 76 on Tuesday, December 13, where they designed live wreaths at Harvick Farms.

Ezra DeVore

Lainey and Joseph Harvick, of Harvick Farms, are creating a place to "bring people back to nature through gardening," by offering classes in a variety of sustainability methods. Additionally, Lainey states that in this educational program,

she plans to "provide quality products and plants, infiltrate food insecurity, allow marketing of local farmers and business owners, and capitalize on agritourism." She predicts, "this all will make a direct impact on community

Harvick Farms reports

that their goal for ten education classes led by farmers and local business owners was greatly surpassed, with a total of 196 people attending 22 classes covering topics such as herbs as first aid, backyard mushrooms growing, beekeeping for beginners, landscaping 101, and

other related fields.

Lainey states that they plan to increase classes and attendance even further in 2023, as well as build a homestead hotspot and greenspace garden nursery, with 10% of produce grown therein do-

See Harvick 3A

#### Happy Holidays! 1300 Old Exeter Rd. **Cappy Harris Realtors** Cassville, Mo. 417-846-1144 "Always here for you" cappyharrisrealtors.com Call us to list today!! Licensed in Missouri & Arkansas

# **Cassville's Second** Act holds coat drive

Ezra DeVore

Cassville Second Act Manager Bobbi Scucchi of Washburn is spearheading an effort to ensure local children have coats for the upcoming and current winter season. In addition to the resources previously offered at the Second Act, the local nonprofit has reported 80 coats given to local children in need this holiday season.

Scucchi states that Second Act survives by its generous donations, and large quantities of sizeable boxes were donated, with the most significant contribution of 50 new coats from Freedom Bank.

"It's the community taking care of the community," she says. "I love Barry County for that reason. I want to give. I took it for 45 years. For 17 years, I've been loving this world and loving life, and I hope for another 17 in this place. I never even owned a home, and now I own the cutest little house in this county."

Scucchi celebrates nearly two decades of sobriety and says that giving means something special to her, with the nature of Second Act aimed at equipping those in need with affordable necessities. If someone comes to Second Act with nothing, recovering from losses as big as a home burning down or getting released from prison with no possessions to return to, the nonprofit gives the needing individuals bedding, kitchen items, clothing, and other necessities. She says this granting of foundational items would not be possible without donations from local citizens, amounting to five or more large bags

"I want to thank the community for donating; I want one for every community."

Each child is entitled to one coat and a free toy at the Cassville Second Act.

# Advertiser closed for upcoming holidays

The Advertiser will be closed on Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas Day. Deadline for display advertising will remain Friday, December 23, at 4 p.m.; classified ad deadline has been adjusted to Tuesday, December 27, at noon.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, in observance of New Year's Day. The deadline for display advertising will remain Friday, December 30, at 4 p.m.; classified deadline has been adjusted to Tuesday, January 3, at noon.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Advertiser



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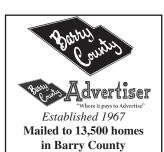
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#### **Youngblood From Front**

people enough for letting me do it. It's a challenging office, but I had great help - I have to credit my workers, especially my first Deputy Clerk, Gale Hasler. If it hadn't been for her, I don't know if I would have made it, and I mean that. She was a great asset."

Youngblood states that he attended a training day for new county clerks, hosted in Jefferson City, in December before he would take office - though he was quite intimidated at first. Without being completely aware, Youngblood had signed up to, among other responsibilities, ensure the exact taxable amount of every taxed entity in the county, as the County Clerk asserts each tax rate and assessed evaluation. Put simply, a decimal point moved incorrectly can cost a school, city, fire district, or any other taxable county entity a great deal of money, with the total amount of funds the department must account for and must have accurately assessed reaching over 600 million dollars.

"I went to a clerk's training in December in '94 after I got elected, in Jefferson City, and I didn't get a wink of sleep after I sat through that, or the first six months of the job." He says that the day-long barrage of deeply detailed tax information and the protocol was a daunting ordeal to memorize in one day; however, to add additional weight, the staff of the previous clerk had not been



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retained.

"I drove all the way back from Jeff City the day after I got out of that training, and I went to Emory Melton's office and said, 'Emory, are you sure I can run that County Clerk's job with the help being gone?' He said, 'Oh, you can do it, Gary.' I remember that vividly. And by the grace of God and my Deputy Clerk, we got it done, so I'm very thankful."

He says that among the greatest triumphs in his years as clerk were the successful elections he ran. Everything going exactly as planned is an event worthy of celebration, Youngblood explains, in such a rigorous and complex governmental position. Youngblood says that holding elections can prove to be a monumentally stressful endeavor but expresses that the team he built were "dedicated, good people, and I can't thank them enough," and they made it through each time.

After his 24 years in the County Clerk's office, Young-blood decided he would run for a position he, at that time,

knew the ins and outs of the Presiding Commissioner and would serve four years in that

"I knew what the commissioner's position entailed, and I had the desire to be a commissioner and was fortunate enough that the people elected me. I consider it an employee of the people; they're the ones paying my wages."

For the last several elections, Youngblood stated that he "really enjoyed his positions," but had retirement in his back pocket if the election went to another individual.

"I know I didn't make everybody happy all the time, but you have to do what's best for the county. Not what's best for me. With God's blessing, we did a good job."

When asked about his plans for retirement, Young-blood simply stated that he plans to continue his lifelong tradition of figuring it out as he goes along. "Just whatever retired people do," he laughed, "I've never been retired before."

#### **Harvick From Front**

nated to the food pantry to secure a stock of fresh, locally grown food.

Lainey states that in addition to educational ambitions, Harvick Farms strives to identify and prioritize elimination of obstacles preventing further success for area agricultural workers and owners, with a goal of igniting renewed desire for locally grown food, to therefore "encourage and foster a sustainable community where individual families can benefit. Rather than duplicating efforts, we will work together to share ideas and responsibilities to create a 'toolbox' that with a focus of marketing strategies."

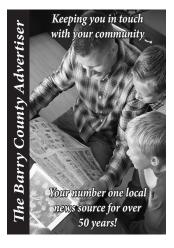
Harvick Farms has been involved in community events and fundraisers, but plans to cement this footing further, as the interpersonal bonds are what give Lainey some of the most satisfaction in her work.

"The most rewarding aspect of community involvement is seeing the enthusiasm and joy on a person's face when a connection is built. Doing good for others and the community provides joy for others and joy in my heart. Whether it's working with someone to grow a tomato plant for the first time, planting at the senior center to brighten someone's day, to creating a live wreath with kids and seeing their beautiful, cheery smiles when they finish their masterpiece. I know this is what God sent me to do: build connections and make a positive impact. We have been blessed to have a wonderful community that has continuously provided positivity and wants us to be successful. I believe our com-

munity has allowed us to be

in the great state we are currently in."

Lainey expresses a deep thank you to Cub Scout 76, stating pride in both the scouts and their families for their assistance and determination.









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**GENTLE WALK TO THE LAKE** This lake front property has a big deck that overlooks the lake. Walk out basement and covered patio. #60227749 \$189,900

CHARMING AND AFFORDABLE Ask about possible 5% down financing. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath has been gutted to the studs and remodeled. New roof, HVAC, water heater, paint, floors, appliances, etc.

Covered front deck. #60230185 \$87,50

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TWO ADJACENT BUILDING LOTS IN CASSVILLE Good building sites for a single home or possibly two. #60222772 \$29,900

UNRESTRICTED LOT NEAR THE LAKE Just under an acre m/l within walking distance to the lake.

#60205141 \$29,500 CAMPING OR BUILDING LOT Walk to Table Rock or a short drive to Roaring River. #60205227 \$19,500















# Community Calendar

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

#### **Notice:**

The Barry County Courthouse and Judicial Center will be closed Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, for Christmas.

<u>Cassville License Office</u> will be closed on December 23rd and 26, 2022.

<u>Capps Creek Road District bridge on Farm Road</u> <u>2040</u> (west of the Polanski Catholic Church) will be closed until further notice due to repairs.

<u>Farm Road 1162 off of F Highway will be closed until further notice for bridge repairs.</u>

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. OATS offices will be closed, and regular routes will not be running on Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023. You can also visit our website at oatstransit.org and view the local. OATS Transit is hiring drivers statewide in case you know of someone who would make a great driver, so we can continue serving our riders

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



AMERICAN FAMILY



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.

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. Significant support received through affiliation and purchasing power of Ozark Food Harvest, Springfield.

God's Closet in Eagle Rock is now open every Tuesday 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. They have lots of free clothing for those in need. Located on Hwy. 86 in Eagle Rock just past Mitchel Plaza and across from the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

<u>The Wheaton Depot Museum</u> in Wheaton will be open Saturdays from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. Visitors are encouraged to check out the history of Wheaton and the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad (M&NA).

<u>Southwest Missouri Coalition of Charities</u> provides a network where non profits can belong, share knowledge and support one another. The organization hosts meetings via Zoom. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

<u>Donations of new and gently used clothing</u> 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

<u>Soil samples</u> need to be received at the MU B.C. Extension office by 12 P.M. on Thursday. Shipments go out once a week on Friday. The fee for the soil sample test is \$20. Contact the Extension Office at (417) 847-3161 with any questions.

<u>Discovery Quilters</u> meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 9:30 A.M. at the Shell Knob Central Community United Methodist Church. New members are welcome.

<u>Harvick Farms</u> nursery of Cassville offers free gardening classes to the public. For information about upcoming classes, visit www.harvickfarms.com or their retail location near the Barry County Museum.

#### Saturday, December 31

A New Year's Dance will be hosted by Seligman Chamber of Commerce at the Seligman Event Center on Hwy. 37 just north of Seligman. It will start at 7 P.M. and go until midnight. The band will be Copper Creek, an excellent band from NW Arkansas. No alcohol allowed, and no smoking. Admission is \$10 per person, 18 and under are free. It will be fun for the entire family. 5000 square foot dance floor. Pot luck dinner and Chamber will be serving ham. There will be punch and apple cider and snacks during the evening. Door prizes on the hour. There will be a 50/50 drawing. Doors open at 5 P.M. if you want free dance lessons. For more information, call (417) 662-3612 or (479) 903-3640. The Chamber Event Center has a dance every Saturday night with live bands.

#### Saturday, January 21

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) local branch will be hosting a volunteer bed building event at the Cassville Crowder College Community building from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. SHP is a non profit charity that provides beds and bedding for local children who do not have their own bed and may be sleeping on the couch or floor. Volunteer bed builders will be required to fill out an indemnification form on site or by online at www.shpbeds.org before participating. Must be at least 12 years old. Those under 18 will need a parent present at the build. All building supplies will be provided by the SHP organization.

If you know of a child or children in need of a bed, visit www.shpbeds.org for information on how to apply.

#### **Monett Branch Library Programs**

Adult programs

Wednesdays, 12pm Quilting & More with Cheryl and Joni 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1pm Crochet Classes with Amber

December Programs for Children

Wednesdays, Story Time, 10:15am (December 28) Thursday, After School Kids Family Winter Movie, December 22, 2:30-5pm

For more information, call the Monett branch at 417-235-6646, or visit at 213 6th Street, Monett. For information online visit the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library website: blrlibrary.com

# MPD states no foul play in weekend death

After discovering the body of 62 year old female, Jeannie Lester, in Kelly Creek on Saturday afternoon, Monett Police have deduced that the cause of death was not foul play. Monett Police Lieutenant Camp states an autopsy is being performed, and there is no suspected public danger.

If you have any information about this case, you're urged to call the Monett Police Department Investigations Unit at (417)235-4241 or The Barry County Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 635-TIPS (8477).

#### CPD investigating arson fire

On Tuesday, December 6, 2022, Cassville Police Department officers responded to the District 44 Probation and Parole office located at 3200 County Farm Road, Suite B, in Cassville. It was discovered an unknown person(s) had attempted to set the building on fire during the overnight hours. Evidence was collected on the scene, but the person(s) responsible remain at large.

The Cassville Police Department is seeking any information the public may have regarding this crime. A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the responsible person(s).

Individuals with information as asked to contact the Barry Lawrence Crime Stoppers at 1-888-635-8477 or the Barry County Dispatch Center at 417-847-4911.





# Governor Parson Announces Vivek Malek as Missouri's Next State Treasurer

During a press conference at the State Capitol on December 20, Governor Mike Parson announced that he is appointing Vivek Malek as the next State Treasurer of the State of Missouri. Mr. Malek's appointment will fill the vacancy created by the election of Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick to the Office of Missouri State Auditor. Mr. Malek, 45, of Wildwood, is a practicing attorney and business owner. He owns and operates the Law Offices of Vivek Malek.

"Vivek's story is inspiring proof that the American Dream can and will live on for the next generation of Missourians," Governor Parson said. "President Reagan once said immigrants are one of the greatest sources of American greatness, and both Vivek and I agree. Through our shared values, Vivek helps legal immigrants embrace our nation and achieve their American Dream too. As a Republican, strong capitalist, and conservative Missourian, we know Vivek will be a principled leader who works hard every day to safeguard the people's money and bring opportunity to Missouri families and

their communities."

"It is the honor of my life to be able to serve as the next State Treasurer of the State of Missouri, and I promise to give the job and the people of Missouri my all and best," State Treasurer Designee Vivek Malek said. "I can attest that the American Dream is alive and well. Anyone who has forgotten need only realize his or her God given potential. Only in this great land of freedom and liberty does it not matter who your parents are or what you ethnicity is in determining your success. I look forward to getting to work and doing my part to help achieve an even better future for all Missourians."

Mr. Malek established his legal practice, Law Offices of Vivek Malek, in 2011. He has been practicing law since 2000 and has practiced law in the State of Missouri since 2006. Mr. Malek works extensively on legal immigration litigation and business immigration consulting. He is highly respected in legal and social matters by Missouri's diverse communities, including Bosnian, Hispanic, Asian, and African American Missourians.

Mr. Malek was recognized by the Missouri Senate (2015) and Missouri House (2007) for his service and contributions to Missouri communities. He was awarded the Minority Business Leader Award by the St. Louis Business Journal in 2010, earned the Up and Coming Lawyers Award by Missouri Lawyers Media in 2010, and was recognized as Top 30 Under 30 by Business Today magazine in 2007, among other awards and recognitions.

Mr. Malek holds a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from Mahrishi Dayanand University in Rohtak, India. Additionally, he holds a Master of Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and a Master of Laws from the University of Illinois College of Law in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

In 2020, Governor Parson appointed Mr. Malek to the Southeast Missouri State University Board of Governors, where he has worked to promote fiscal responsibility. He will resign his position on the Board of Governors prior to being sworn in as State

Mr. Malek has been married to his wife, Riju, for 18 years. They have three young children together and reside in Wildwood.

"Over the years, I have come to know Vivek as an accomplished attorney, successful business owner, proud husband and father, and someone who truly embodies the American Dream," Governor Parson said. "When Vivek came to this country with just \$300 in his pocket, he didn't look for handouts or make excuses. Instead, he respected every opportunity this state and nation provided. He worked hard, completed his education, and now owns and operates a successful legal practice that helps others achieve their own American Dream, and we are proud to appoint him as the next State Treasurer."

# **Haven of the Ozarks:** Pet of the Week



Meet Aquafina, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! This beautiful girl is about seven months old and has been waiting at the Haven to find her people for most of her short life. Even the nicest of shelters is no place for a kitty to grow up. She needs to know the love and attention that can only come from living in a real home. Please consider adding Aquafina to your family so she can start living the pampered life! We're open 9-4 each day or call 417-835-3647 for more information.





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60231757 80 ACRES M/L private with 4 BD 2 BA home with outbuildings, pond, 2 springs some

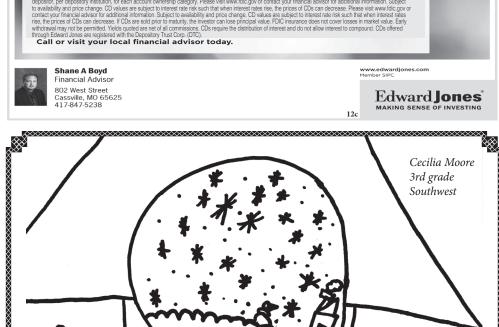
60233326 NEW CONSTRUCTION 3 BD 2 BA walking distance to the golf course and close to

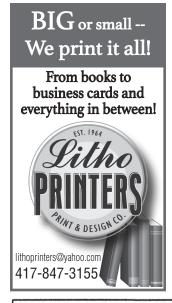
60230155 3 BD 2 BA HOME ON 12 ACRES home was recently renovated above ground pool,

60233182 HOBBY FARM with plenty of extras 2BD 1BA home close to the lake on 36 acres m/l \$399,000

60186974 BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME on this 1.17 m/l acres with a great view of the lake \$22,000

60215031 70 ACRES M/L build your dream home, pasture, timber, wet weather creek





#### **NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DATES**

The McDonald Road District will have one Commissioner available for election in the April 4, 2023, General Municipal Election.

Road Commissioner for a term of 3 (three) years The opening date for candidate filing is December

6, 2022, and the closing filing date is December 27,

Candidates may file for this office at the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, Cassville, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The office may be closed should inclement weather occur.

Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order in which they file.





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\$315,000

\$359,000

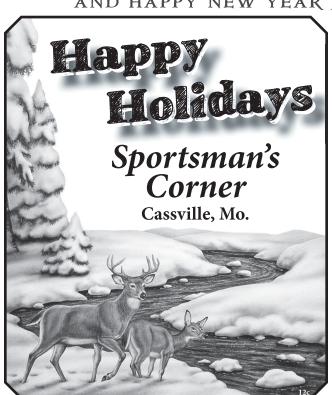
\$22,000

# Steinbach's to celebrate 33rd Anniversary



Ronald and Velvetta Steinbach will celebrate 33 years of marriage on December 22. The couple reside in Rocky Comfort. They have three children, Jerry Steinbach and his wife Jo, Brian Steinback and wife Marie, and Samantha Xiong and husband Char $lie.\ They\ have\ three\ grandchildren.$ 







#### December 26-30

Mon: Hope you had a Merry Christmas!

Tues: Chicken tortilla soup or Mexican chef salad, sopapilla cheesecake

Wed: White chicken chili, salad bar, pecan pie bread pudding

<u>Thurs:</u> Beef tips with noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, apple crisp

Fri: Loaded chicken salad on croissant, chips, pickle, red velvet cake

Curb side service & delivery to local businesses! Offering Party Trays



Tips for Being a Long-**Distance Caregiver** 

Dear Savvy Senior,

What tips do you recommend for long-distance caregivers? I help take care of my stubborn 86-year-old mother who still lives at home about 150 miles from me.

> Need Advice Dear Need,

Providing care and support for an aging parent who lives far away can present a variety challenges that can make the job difficult and

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

IN THE BARRY

COUNTY ADVERTISER

stressful. Here are some tips and resources that may help

#### Long-Distance Caregiving

When it comes to monitoring and caring for an aging parent from afar, you have a couple of options. You can hire a professional to oversee your mom's needs, or you can manage things yourself by building a support system, tapping into available resources, and utilizing technology devices that can help you keep tabs on her.

If your mom needs a lot of help, you should consider hiring a geriatric care manager who will give her a thorough assessment to identify her needs and will set up and manage all aspects of her care. But geriatric care managers are expensive typically charging between \$100 and \$250 per hour after an initial assessment of \$150 to \$750 and are not covered by Medicare.

To find a geriatric care manager in your mom's area, visit AgingLifeCare.org or

If, however, your mom only needs occasional help, or if you can't afford to use a care manager, here are some things you can do yourself to help her.

contact the nearest Area

Agency on Aging (call 800-

677-1116) to see if they have

a list of providers.

Create a care team: Put together a network of people (nearby friends or family, neighbors, clergy, etc.) who can check on your mom regularly, and who you can call on from time to time for occasional help. Also put together a list of reliable services you can call for household needs like lawn care, handyman services, plumber, etc.

Tap local resources: Most communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that can help seniors with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and more. Contact the nearby Area Aging Agency to find out what's available.

Use financial tools: If your mom needs help with her financial chores, arrange for direct deposit for her income sources, and set up automatic payments for her utilities and other routine bills. You can also set up her online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor her account anytime. Or, if you need help, hire a daily money manager (AADMM.com) to do it for you. They charge between \$25 and \$100 per hour.

Check essential documents: This is also a good time to make sure your mom has the following essential legal documents: a will; a living will and health-care proxy,

which allows you to make medical decisions on her behalf if she became incapacitated; and a durable power of attorney, which gives you similar legal authority for financial decisions, if needed.

If she doesn't have these documents prepared, now is the time to make them. And if they are prepared, make sure they're updated and know where they are located.

Hire in-home help: Depending on your mom's needs, you may need to hire a part-time home-care aide that can help with things like preparing meals, housekeeping or personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. To find someone, try websites like Care.com or CareLinx.com.

Utilize technology: To help you keep tabs on your mom from afar, there are various technologies that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems, video camera monitors, wearable activity trackers, and electronic pill boxes that can notify you if she has taken her medications. And to help you coordinate her care with members of her care team there are websites like LotsA-HelpingHands.com.

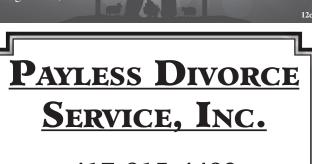
For more tips, call the National Institute on Aging at 800-222-2225 and order their free booklet "Long-Distance Caregiving: Twenty Questions and Answers."

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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### **NOTICE: CITY OF EXETER**

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# OZARKS HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Judith Lewallen

I guess the Triple Threat is a reality now. It's not too late for vaccines, for the flu and COVID, but no vaccine for the common cold. I have heard some reports that RSV cases have leveled off and may be declining. But the hospitals and emergency rooms are still getting bombarded with patients with respiratory symptoms. I have heard of patients waiting hours to be seen in the emergency room to be told the hospital has no beds available. I thought I would try to offer a little help. Sometimes it gets confusing when trying to decide whether you have COVID, the flu, a cold, or just allergies. Recently, I saw a similar chart and thought something like that might be helpful for others.

If any of these symptoms become severe, especially difficulty breathing, immediately call an ambulance or go to the nearest emergency room.

Symptoms	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES	COVID-19 (can range from mild to severe)
Fever	Rare	High (100 to 102F and last 3-4days)	Never	Common
Headache	Rare	Intense	Sometimes	Can be present
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual, often severe	Never	Can be present
Fatigue, Weakness	Mild	Intense, can last up to 2-3 weeks	Sometimes	Can be present
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual (starts early)	Never	Can be present
Stuffy/Runny Nose	Common	Sometimes	Common	Has been reported
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes	Usual	Has been reported
Sore Throat	Common	Common	Sometimes	Has been reported
Cough	Mild to Moderate	Common and can become severe	Sometimes	Common
Shortness of Breath	Rare	Rare	Rare, except for those with allergic asthma	In more serious in

Also, when treating these symptoms at home, be careful when giving medication with combinations of drugs so that you are not giving too much Tylenol (Acetaminophen). Tylenol overdoses can be deadly. Also, do not give Aspirin to children.

Judith Lewallen is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner with over 40 years experience in healthcare. She currently resides with her husband in Eagle Rock. Information contained in this column is for information purposes only. It is not intended to substitute professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Submit questions or topics for discussion to AnAppleaday68@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas!

#### Matthew 24:24 implies that "The Whole World Would Be Deceived Except For The Elect." Matthew 7:13-14 tells us that there is a

narrow gate and there will be

few who will find it. According to Scripture, the original language that everyone spoke to each other with before the people built the Tower Of Babble was the Hebrew language. Today, there are hundreds of foreign languages in the world. However, it is interesting that the word "alphabet" applies to every language. Do you suppose that it is just a small coincidence that the word "alphabet" comes from the

and the "bet"? Everyone on the earth communicates with each other through our languages. When the people built the Tower Of Babble, the Creator changed everyone's language. Please note that the word "babble" actually means "confusion".

first two letters of the Hebrew

alphabet, which is the "alpha"

According to folklore, the Tower Of Babble was built during the lifetime of "Eber," who was the seventh from Adam. In the Septuagint, the name is written as Heber/ Eber. The 13th-century Muslim historian Abu al-Fida relates a story noting that the patriarch Eber (the greatgrandson of Shem) and his family refused to help with the building of the Tower of

#### Letter to the Editor

Babel so his language was not confused when the tower was abandoned. Eber and his family alone retained the original human language. Therefore, the Hebrew language got its name from Eber.

The word "alpha" means first. The word "bet" means family. So that implies that the Hebrews are the "First family." Deductive reasoning would indicate that if you are not understanding the Hebrew language, then you have already been deceived.

The prevailing view is that the Hebrews had received their name from Eber while also pointing out that according to others, the name "Hebrew" also meant "those who cross over."

I believe that this means that we must comprehend certain Hebrew words and Hebrew names in order to be accounted as the children of

the Creator's family and be eligible to cross over or passover into the next life after

Question? What do you imagine that the Creator's true Hebrew name is?

Boyd B. McNiel Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Formerly of Cassville

#### Disclaimer:

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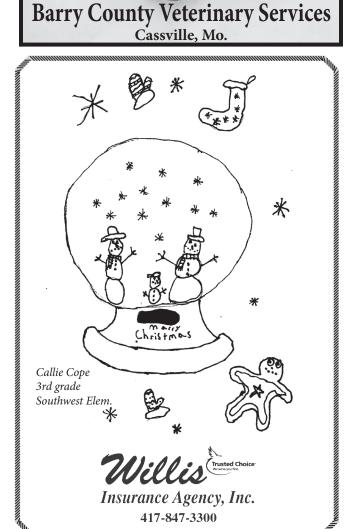
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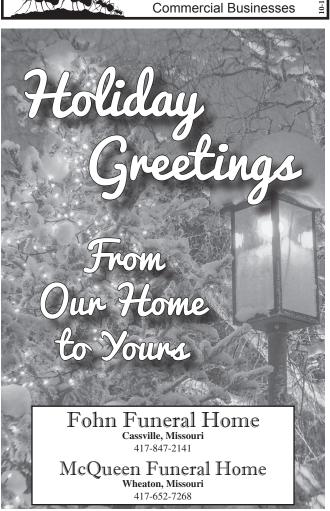


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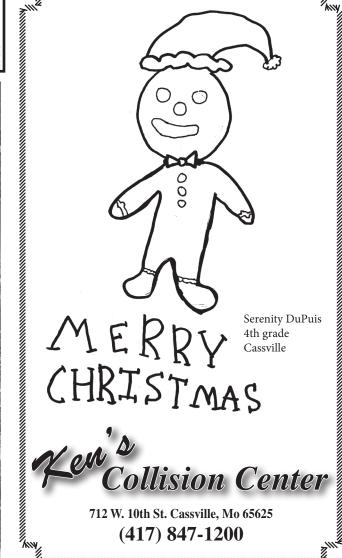
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# Cassville Senior Center feeds 162 at annual Christmas Lunch



Shown above, Tracy Lloyd makes her selection at the dessert table during Friday's lunch.

Adriana Kooton

The Cassville Senior Center, located at 111 Fair Street, held its annual Christmas lunch on Friday, December 16.

The United Methodist Church of Cassville sponsored the day's meal. The Wheelerville Gospel Band provided music.

According to Kristina Atwood, who has been the center lead for seven years, 162 meals were served to community members during the annual lunch.

The senior center, which works in partnership with Senior-Age, provides hot meals at the center and frozen home-delivered meals to area seniors. They also offer a variety of activities for the senior community, including dominoes, bingo, and craft classes.

Atwood's goal for the coming year is to continue to raise awareness to the services offered at the center, whether it is providing a meal or being a place to socialize.

Suppose your resolution for the coming year is to volunteer more in your community. In that case, the senior center currently needs volunteers to assist in the kitchen and front desk, as well as leading activity classes, such as crocheting and knitting.

For more information on services provided through the Cassville Senior Center or for questions regarding becoming a volunteer, call the center at 417-847-0131.

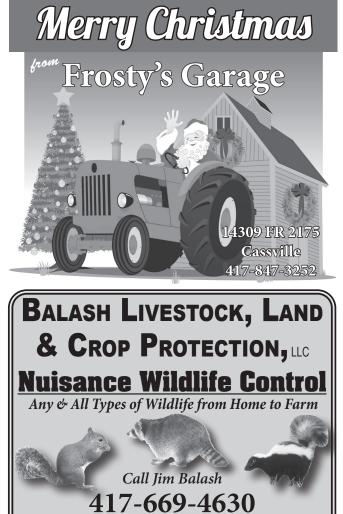
Center hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with lunch served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Shown above, kitchen volunteers Katie Boley and Jeannie Sartin serve Butch and Becky Henningson the roast beef lunch.







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# CHS Women's Basketball team holds skills camp



The Cassville High School Women's Basketball team, led by Coach Clayton Bagby, invited third-sixth grade students interested in playing basketball to attend a skills camp the first week of November. Nearly 50 aspiring ladycats participated in the camp. Security Bank provided wildcat t-shirts to participating athletes.

Sixth grade camp participants are pictured above, front row, left to right, are Riley Doucet, Addy Ramaeker, Lexie Meltabarger, Molly Cox, Raegan Doucet and Harlee Carter; back row, left to right, are President of Security Bank Jon Horner, Haeven Wiseman, Briley Artherton, Kynzleigh Scott and Coach Bagby.

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# MSU Alum Receives Distinguished Thesis Award



A recent Missouri State University computer science alum Anthony Harris (left) has been awarded a Distinguished Thesis Award from the university for his research on the relationship between reinforcement learning and video games.

From Cassville, Harris's research is the first to recognize improvements by using fine-grained, per-unit control as opposed to macro-level, per-team control.

He was advised by Dr. Siming Liu (right), associate professor of computer science at Missouri State.







# TERRY "T.R." ALAN ROLLER

Terry "T.R." Alan Roller, age 61, of Purdy, passed away on Monday, December 12, 2022, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. The son of William "Bill" and Evelyn "Peggy" (Miller) Roller, Terry was born on May 24, 1961, in Monett. He was a 1979 graduate of Purdy High School. On February 21, 1999, he was united in marriage to Misty Kresyman in Harrison, Arkansas, and they spent many wonderful years together.

Terry was a reputable American Kennel Club breeder, and his heeler dogs are known far and wide for their excellence. His dogs were a great source of joy in his life, and he would run them daily. Terry was an active member of the American Quarter Horse Association, and truly enjoyed time spent

working with his horses. He was a talented singer and spent time traveling regionally with the Gospel Echoes Quartet. Terry also hosted the Annual Booger Holler Buddy Squirrel Tournament in his hometown of Purdy.

Terry was a beloved friend to many, and his barn became a gathering place for those he was closest to. As many friends and interests as Terry had, his family was always his utmost priority and the pride of his life, and he loved being a husband, father and grandfather. Terry was a good, Christian man, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Misty Roller, of Purdy; his four children, Justin Roller and his wife, Jamie, of Purdy, Autumn King and her husband, Nathan, of Republic, Daniel Roller and Lauren Roller, both of the home; his mother, Peggy Roller, of Purdy; his grandchildren, Kynlee King and Treyson Roller; step-grandchildren, Harley Stephens and Bentley Stephens; one sister, Julia Mareth and her husband, Ed, of Monett; two brothers, Mike Roller and his wife, Kim, and Kevin Roller and his wife, Carol, all of Purdy; several nieces and nephews;

# **OBITUARIES**

and Alecia Marshall, of Purdy, who Terry thought as a second mother.

Terry was preceded in death by his father, William "Bill" Roller.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 17, 2022, at Arnhart Baptist Church in Purdy, with Pastor Jason Mackey officiating. Burial followed at Arnhart Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association in memory of Terry, and entrusted to the White Funeral Home, P.O. Box 890, Cassville, MO 65625.

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





#### **CLIFTON YODER**

Clifton Yoder, age 75, of Fairview, passed away Monday, December 12, 2022, at Cox Monett Hospital in Monett.

He was born September

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm

17, 1947 in Norfolk, Virginia, the son of Denver and Emma (Peachey) Yoder. On December 19, 1968, in Plain City, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Rosa Kurtz, who survives. Also surviving are three sons, Paul Yoder and his wife, Ann, of Hutchinson, Kansas, Loren Yoder and his wife, Kim, of Harrison, Arkansas, and Simon Yoder and his wife, Marilyn, of La Monte; six daughters, Joanna Yoder and her husband, Jonas, of Winchester, Tennessee, Pricilla Yoder and her husband, Jason, of Fairview, Liz Yoder and her husband, Marlin, of Greenville, South Carolina, Radiance Yoder, of Harrison, Arkansas, Esperanza Lucarelli and her husband, Nicholas, of Greenville, South Carolina, and Bethany Yoder, of Sarasota, Florida; five brothers, Millard Yoder and his wife, Mary, of Paint Lick, Kentucky, Donald Yoder and his wife, Mary, of Costa Rica, Homer Yoder and his wife, Marla, of Sparta, Tennessee, Denver Yoder, Jr. and his wife, Betty, of Mt. Perry, Ohio, and Calvin Yoder and his wife, Judith, of Soldotna, Alaska; four sisters, Ellen Kropf and her husband, Richard, of Liberty, Kentucky, Sharon Yoder, of Fredericktown, Ohio, Loretta Yoder, of Fredericktown, Ohio, and Hannah Yoder and her husband, Leonard, of Fredericktown, Ohio; twenty-five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Clifton owned and oper-

ated a dairy farm and also drove a truck. He enjoyed woodworking and landscaping in his spare time. Spending time with family, especially his grandchildren was very important to Clifton.

Services were held Friday, December 16, 2022, at Fairview Mennonite Church in Fairview. Burial was at Fairview Christian Fellowship Cemetery in Fairview.

Arrangements are under direction of McQueen Funeral Home in Wheaton.

### MCQUEEN FUNERAL HOME

WHEATON, MO. 417-652-7268 Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.



# DWIGHT EARL GLASGOW

Dwight Earl Glasgow, age 85, of Eagle Rock, passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at his home.

He was born June 19, 1937, in Columbus, Ohio, the son of Glen W. and Eunice (Hankins) Glasgow. On December 31, 1958, in Detroit, Michigan, he was united in marriage to Patricia Lee Burroughs, who survives. Also surviving are one son, Glen Glasgow, of East Dubuque, Illinois; one daughter, Peggy Carpenter and her husband, Gary, of Eagle Rock; eight grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; eight

great-great-grandchildren; and nine nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; stepmother, Isabelle Burnett; one brother, Walter J. Glasgow; and a great grandson, Lance Corporal Clayton L. Mais.

Dwight attended school in Taylor, Michigan. He was employed by Dana Corporation from where he retired after forty years as a welder, later becoming a supervisor and also teaching welding. After retiring, he opened a private consulting business, C.D. Difference. He moved to this area in 2008 coming from Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Dwight loved boating, fishing, camping and just being outdoors.

Services will be announced at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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#### GERALD DAVIS FAGAN

Gerald Davis Fagan (Dave), 76, of Rogers, Ark., passed away Saturday, December 17, 2022. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett. Visitation will begin prior to the service at 1 p.m.

#### KERENSA CARLEE EVANS

Kerensa Carlee Evans, age 57, of Cassville, passed away Nov. 10, 2022. Services were held Dec. 10, 2022.

Russell Bishop

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#### LETHA ALENE PETTY

Letha Alene Petty, age 91, of Washburn, passed away Thursday, December 15, 2022, at home.

She was born August 25, 1931, in Lookeba, Oklahoma, the daughter of Herbert and Paula (Mencke) Opitz. On February 24, 1950, in Pocahontas, Arkansas, she was united in marriage to Johnnie Lee Petty, who preceded her in death on September 24, 2001. Also preceding her in death were her parents; one sister, Bernice Gettys; and one grandson, Steven Lee Petty.

Surviving are three sons, Mike Petty and his wife, Connie, of Rogers, Arkansas, Martin Petty and his wife, Rebecca, of Jenks, Oklahoma, and Randy Petty and his wife, Linda, of Washburn; six granddaughters, Christine West, Cathlene Petty, Michelle Sharp, Vanessa Fox, Amy Greek, and Kayla Holmes; twelve great-grandchildren, Aleeya Standridge, Daishen Woods, Heavana Petty, Cooper Sharp, Josie Sharp, Rhiannon Fox, Major Fox, Sterling Fox, Tristan Greek, Jasmine Greek, Haven Holmes and Hazley Holmes; and one sister-in-law, Loretta

Letha graduated from high school in Lookeba,

Oklahoma, in 1949 in a class of three. In 1965, John and Letha moved their family from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Seligman, where they farmed and were known for the big garden that they raised. She was renowned for her skillet biscuits. Letha loved the thrill of mushroom hunting. She also loved to quilt, but what gave her the most pleasure was to spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of Corinth Baptist Church.

Services were held Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at Corinth Baptist Church in Cassville, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears conducted the services. Burial was at King Cemetery in Seligman.

Contributions may be made to Corinth Baptist Church in memory of Letha.

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#### LESLIE ALAN "LES" **MEYER**

Leslie Alan "Les" Meyer, age 78, of Exeter, passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at the Arkansas State

# BITUARIES

Veterans Home at Fayetteville in Fayetteville, Arkan-

He was born April 26, 1944, in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of Harry Francis and Lilian (Herbert) Meyer. On May 23, 1964, in Camp Bell, New York, he was united in marriage to Agatha Fay Chambers, who survives. Also surviving are two sons, Charles Meyer and his wife, Michelle, of Longmont, Colorado, and Larry Meyer and his wife, Brianna, of Exeter; one daughter, Mary Sims and her husband, Jessie, of Bennett, Colorado; grandchildren, Catherine Kho (John), Mikayla Meyer (Brandon Renfrow), Jessica Meyer (Brandon Sabin), Chad Meyer, Ryan Sims, Amanda Hathaway Meyer, Aimee Lansden, Kendall Lansden, and Briana Cunningham; and seven great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; two brothers, Harry Meyer and Robert Meyer; and one sister, Betty Thorne.

After high school, Les joined the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War, and later joined the United States Army Reserve. Upon returning home, he was employed by the New Mexico and watching baseball, especially the Baltimore Orioles and Colorado Rockies and going to flea markets. He was of the Catholic faith.

Private services will be Home in Cassville.

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Colorado State Highway Patrol for several years. He then worked at the United States Mint at Denver in Colorado as a police officer for twenty-seven years from where he retired. He had served as treasurer, sergeant at arms, vice president and president of the Colorado Fraternal Order of Police. Les was recognized as one of the top policemen in the United States by the Thousand Points of Light organization. Les moved to this area in 2021, coming from Bennett, Colorado. He was an avid collector of John Wayne memorabilia, coins and Civil War artifacts. Les enjoyed fishing,

held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral



private condolences.



#### LOIS ELLEN PETTY

Lois Ellen Petty, age 97, of Cassville, passed away Sunday, December 18, 2022, at her home.

She was born May 19, 1925, in Cassville, the daughter of Earl and Nora (Wiseley) Shore. On December 31, 1950, in Monett, she was united in marriage to Charles "Vern" Petty, who preceded her in death on July 6, 2019. Also preceding her in death were her parents; two brothers, Lavern Shore and Charles Shore; one sister, Helen Lenora Shore; and a half sister, Marzell Hall.

Surviving are two daughters, Sue Hudson and her husband, Tim, of Cassville, and Janice Love and her husband, Steve, of Cassville; one sister, Joan Harvey and her husband, Raymond, of Cassville; seven grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; and two great-greatgrandchildren.

Lois grew up and attended school in Cassville, graduating from Cassville High School in 1944. She was employed at the Variety Store and an insurance company in Cassville. The majority of her married life was spent as a homemaker. She enjoyed crocheting, sewing, scrap booking and researching family history. She was a member of Mill Street Church of Christ in Cassville.

Services were held Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Rick Hendrix conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Fair Haven Children's Home in memory of

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# **OBITUARIES**



#### JEANNIE GAYLE LESTER

Jeannie Gayle Lester, age 63, of Monett, passed away Saturday, December 17,

She was born July 10, 1959 in Oroville, California, the daughter of Doyle and Norma "Gayle" (Dotson) Russell.

Preceding her in death was her mother.

Surviving are her father; two sons, Tony Lester, of Joplin, and Bradley Lester and his wife, Shannon, of Monett; one brother, Danny Russell and his wife, Brenda, of Cassville; three sisters, Jeanette Doty and her husband, Rick, of Monett, Mary Griffis and her husband, Calvin, of Cassville, and Marie Wattman, of Powell; and two grandchildren, Harper Rae and Logan

Jeannie graduated from Cassville High School in 1977. She was a homemaker until her children were in middle school at which time she began working at the Cassville Elementary School as a nurses aid. She enjoyed playing the harmonica, doing good deeds for others and visiting with people. She was a member of Community Faith Chapel in Cassville.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Donnie Spears will conduct the services. Burial will be at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Cassville.

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

Contributions may be made to Blessing Heights Worship Center for Recovery Meeting in memory of Jean-

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#### BRETT JONATHON WALTON

Brett Jonathon Walton, 23, of Kansas City, passed away Saturday, December 17,

Funeral services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, at Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett. Visitation will begin at 6:00 p.m. prior to the service. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 29, at the Belton Cemetery, Belton.



#### MIRIAM C. JASCHKE

Miriam C. Jaschke, age 98, of Holiday Island, Arkansas, passed away Sunday, December 18, 2022, at Peachtree Village Assisted Living in Holiday Island, Arkansas.

Graveside services will be

held at 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Viney Creek Cemetery in Golden, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to Peachtree Village Activities Fund in memory of Miriam.

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#### SUSAN MARIEA GILLENWATER

Susan Mariea Gillenwater, age 71, of Eagle Rock, passed away Thursday, December 15, 2022, at her home.

Services will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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# Movies that are perfect for families this holiday season

Various traditions take center stage during the holiday season. One of those traditions may be sitting down and enjoying any of a number of timeless Christmas movies or even newer holiday films that are quickly becoming fa-

Film fans have their own ideas about the best films to watch during the holidays, but the following movies are some kids and adults can enjoy together.

· "The Polar Express" (2004): A young boy enjoys a magical adventure to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express train. He learns about the true spirit of the holidays and the value of bravery and friendship along the way.

· "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992): Charles Dickens' classic story about a bitter miser might be a little frightening for young children to enjoy in its more theatrical offerings. However, when the Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale, the story becomes much more family-friendly.

· "A Boy Called Christmas" (2021): Based on the book by Matt Haig, this movie is a reimagined take on Father Christmas. It focuses on Nikolas as he goes on an adventure to find a magical town called Elfhelm.

· "Jack Frost" (1998):

When a father dies in a car accident, he comes back to life as a snowman in his son's front yard. Jack learns to keep his promises and make things right with his son - things he wasn't capable of doing as a human.

· "Christmas with the Kranks" (2004): The Kranks decide to forgo thir annual Christmas party and plan a vacation since their daughter will be out of town. But when said daughter decides to come home after all, chaos sets in as the couple tries to figure out how to put together an extravaganza at the last minute.

· "Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" (1997): The Beast does not favor the holiday season, so Belle must change his mind on the matter in this animated Disney offering.

· "Elf" (2003): As a youngster, Buddy was magically transported to the North Pole and raised by Santa's elves. As an adult, he's determined to find his real dad in New York City and uncover a way to fit in.

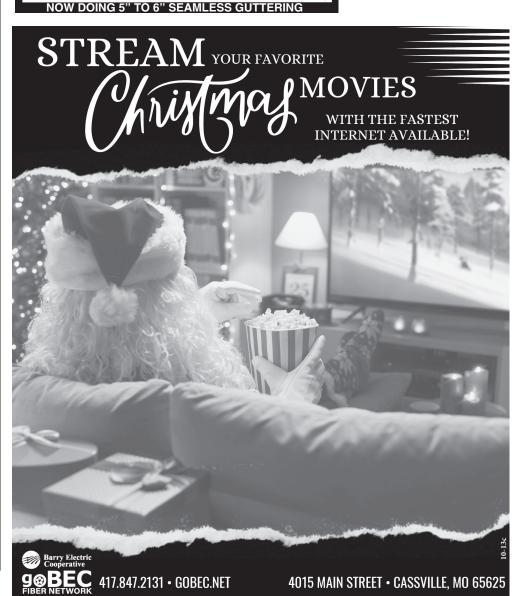
· "Santa Hunters" (2014): A young boy teams up with his sibling and cousins to try to capture new footage of Santa in action and prove that the man in red truly exists.

· "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (2018): This is a newer take on the classic Nutcracker tale. This adventure sees Clara defending the Land of Sweets from the evil Mother Ginger.

Holiday films enhance the celebratory nature of the season. Certain movies are tailor-made for families to watch together during this special time of year.







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Applicants must be self-motivated and capable of working with others, be able to multi-task as well as possess basic typing and computer skills. All applicants must have high school diploma or GED equivalent and be able to pass a background check and a drug test. Must be able to work nights and weekends. Starting salary \$30,000.

Barry County also provides a benefit package which includes paid employee health insurance, CERF Retirement Benefits, paid sick leave, 13 paid holidays and paid vacation leave after 1 year.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Applications are available 8am to 4pm at the Barry County Sheriff's Office Administration building at 505 East Street Cassville, Mo 65625 or you can print an application online at www.barrycoutnysheriff.com or you can call 417-847-6556 to request an application be mailed. Return all applications to Sheriff Danny Boyd.

> The Barry County Sheriff's Office is an **Equal Opportunity Employer**

#### CIVIL PROCESS CLERK

#### The Barry County Sheriff's Office

is currently accepting applications for a

#### Full-Time **Civil Process Clerk**

Applicants must be self-motivated and capable of working with others and directly with the public. Applicants must be able to multi-task as well as possess knowledge of basic computer programs, basic typing skills, answer phones and filing. All applicants must have a high school diploma or GED equivalent and be able to pass a

background check and a drug test. Starting salary will depend on experience. Barry County also provides a benefit package which includes paid employee health insurance, CERF Retirement Benefits, paid sick leave, 14 paid holidays and paid vacation leave after 1 year.

Applications are available 8am to 4pm at the Barry County Sheriff's Office administration building at 505 East Street Cassville, MO 65625 or you can call 417-847-6556 to request an application be sent to you. Return all applications to Sheriff Danny Boyd.

The Barry County Sheriff's Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### **NOTICE**

#### **Notice of Candidate Filing Dates**

The Wheaton Special #29 Road District will have one Commissioner available for election in the April 4, 2023 General Municipal Election.

Road Commissioner for a term of 3 (Three) years. The opening date for Candidate filing is December 6, 2022 and the closing date is December 27, 2022

Candidates may file for this office at the office of Joyce Ennis, Barry County Clerk, Cassville, between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00 pm. The office may be closed should inclement weather occur. Candidates will be listed on the ballot in the order in which they file.

# **Capitol Perspectives**

Performance Audits

The election of Republican Scott Fitzpatrick as Missouri State Auditor on a campaign to investigate public school curricula reminded me of prior state auditors who expanded the role of the auditor's office.

Elected in 1974, Democrat George Lehr was the first auditor I covered who fundamentally expanded the scope of the auditor's role.

Prior auditors saw their responsibility simply to make sure the financial books of agencies were balanced.

The first Missouri state auditor I covered, Haskell Holman in the 1960s, restricted himself to just a financial oversight role.

The limited role for the state auditor was affirmed by a 1974 state Supreme Court decision holding in a case involving access to tax records that "It is not the business of the Auditor to judge the performance of the Department

A year later, the court held it was not the "business of the state auditor to judge the performance of a governor."

That court decision cited a state Constitution provision that prohibits any stat law imposing on the auditor any "which is not "related to the supervising and auditing of the receipt and expenditure of public funds" along with other provisions making it clear the auditor's job is limited to financial accounting.

Of course, almost everything government does involves expending public funds and thus a legitmate topic for the state auditor.

Despite those decisions, George Lehr pursued what amounted to a "performance audit" approach that reviewed whether government agencies and officials effectively performed their duties beyond just balancing the

Lehr's audit demonstrated the lack of consistency in assessing property values among counties and even within counties.

Because his audit created a foundation for lawsuits by local property owners if the process was not fixed, Missouri's legislature passed an expensive reform of the entire assessment system to better assure conformity in property

Actually, that was not Lehr's goal.

He told me he thought that the cost to fix the local assessment unfairness his audit identified would be so expensive that legislators would abandon the property tax system and base local taxes on sales or income reported

It reminded me of my graduate government budgeting course instructor who described the property tax system as an expensive and antiquated process that emerged during the early years of our country when the only way to determine taxable wealth was land and livestock.

Lehr's idea to replace the property tax is still alive.

In 2022 and again for the 2023 legislative session, Sen. Rick Brattin, R-Harrisonville, has introduced legislation to replace the property tax with a sales tax on property sales.

In 2022 the bill went nowhere amid staff fiscal note questions as to how the sales tax on property sales could be implemented and how the revenue would be allocated to local governments.

As for Lehr's legacy, future auditors have embraced Lehr's "performance audit" approach including Tom Schweich, Clair McCaskill and Nicole Galloway.

In his 2010 inaugural address, Schweich proclaimed "Missouri's state auditor has a much more constitutional power than most auditors around the country. We do performance audits."

Subsequent audits by Lehr's successors have involved the security of public school digital records and reports on Sunshine Law violations for open meetings and records.

But I wonder what Democrat George Lehr and Repub-





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lican Tom Schweich, both deceased, would think about their office investigating local school teaching.

Phill Brooks has been a Missouri statehouse reporter since 1970, making him dean of the statehouse press corps. He is the statehouse correspondent for KMOX Radio, director of MDN and an emeritus faculty member of the Missouri School of Journalism. He has covered every governor since the late Warren Hearnes.

# Reduce losses, costs when feeding hay

Livestock producers have options for reducing hay waste and feeding costs while improving animal behavior and performance, says University of Missouri Extension specialist Charlie Ellis.

Farmers can choose from several methods to reduce waste based on their preferences, labor availability and climate, says Ellis.

Here are four basics from Ellis:

- Right size, right place. Choose the right size and type of feeder. Match the feeder size to the herd size. Place feed on a pad or elevated surface and in a welldrained area.
- Boot out the bullies. Cull aggressive animals that push out other animals and prevent them from getting their fair share.
- Don't let food go to waste. Make animals clean up most of the hay before making more available.
- Feed hav stored outside first. This reduces spoilage and improves palatability.

Ellis calls unrolling hay the "bed-and-breakfast" of the hay world. There are several advantages to unrolling hay across a large area instead of feeding at the bunk or ring, says Ellis. "Boss" cows and timid cows have equal access. This method also reduces hoof damage and compaction in the feeding area, can help overseed pastures with legumes and distributes nutrients back onto the ground.

Another option is to process bales. This encourages cows to eat low- to mediumquality forages. Processing allows mixing and dilution of forages of differing qualities, including high-nitrate forages.

However, bale processors have some drawbacks, says Ellis. Processors chop forages into smaller particles that dissolve easier in the rumen. This can leave cows feeling hungry and result in cows eating more food, which can mean higher feed costs. Also, processors cost \$20,000-\$25,000.

Different styles of bale feeders are more efficient than others. Feeder and stocking rates determine if cone or open feeders are right for each operation.

Ellis says cone feeders are the most efficient. Sheeted rings waste less than open rings, the most wasteful of feeder designs. Producers also can restrict time of access with feeders to improve body score counts, increase milk production and reduce hay waste. Finding the right feeder design improves feeder payback, Ellis says.

When limiting time for feeding, allow at least 30 inches of bunk space per cow when bunk feeding and provide one bale per 10 cows when ring feeding, he says. Divide cows into groups based on age and "pecking order." He also recommends feeding at the same time each

Free access encourages waste, Ellis says. Studies show that feeding daily instead reduces food costs and waste. Feed more often and waste less.

Choice of feeding ring also matters. There is less waste when feeding square bales in open rings rather than large bales in an open ring. Large round, unrolled bales fed in rings have 45% waste and are the least efficient, according to research done in 1973 at MU.

Considerations when buying hay:

- Test the hay to make sure it meets the nutritional needs of your herd.
- Know the hay's age, how it was stored and how it was wrapped.
  - Buy hay by the ton.

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# Prepare cattle for frigid temperatures

Extremely cold weather is forecast for the days before Christmas, putting cattle at risk. Temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit are predicted, with the wind chill factor much lower in parts of Missouri.

As temperatures drop, producers need to ensure their cattle are kept safe in the harsh weather, said University of Missouri Extension state beef nutritionist Eric Bailey.

When the temperature is below the lower critical temperature (LCT), a cow in adequate body condition with a heavy winter coat will use energy to maintain body temperature, Bailey said. When the wind chill dips below 19F, cattle need extra energy to keep warm. They will eat more and need higher-quality feed to compensate for the

"If cattle are still grazing stockpiled tall fescue, producers should consider feeding 0.5% of their body weight per day in supplement to provide extra energy during the extreme cold," he said. "For a 1,200-pound beef cow, that's 6 pounds of supplement each day. If feeding hay, put out

higher-quality-than-average hay, and consider feeding the same amount of supplement as mentioned previously."

Providing bedding or a dry place for cattle to lie down is very important in cold weather. Bulls can sustain long-term damage to fertility if forced to lie on frozen ground. Giving cattle a place to get out of the wind can also help them stay warm.

Lastly, Bailey said to keep waterers thawed as best you can. This can be difficult, especially in extreme temperatures. Mature beef cattle require up to 30 gallons of water per day.

Bailey said following these guidelines will help ensure the safety of cattle so they can continue to produce high-quality beef.



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MO

# Give the gift of life during the Miracle of Giving Blood Drive

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO), the sole supplier of blood, platelets, and plasma to patients at 44 area healthcare facilities, is asking all eligible blood donors to give ahead of the holidays during the 28th annual Miracle of Giving Blood Drive. The blood

drive will be held on two critical days – December 23 and December 30 – at all CBCO donor centers throughout the region.

Successful donors will receive a long-sleeve T-shirt, a "Miracle of Giving" campfire mug and a \$10.00 Casey's gas gift card. In addition,

participants will also be automatically entered to win a \$1000.00 gas gift card to help fuel holiday travels, courtesy of Youngblood Auto Group.

During the holidays, blood donation rates can fall short of local hospital needs. "Taking the time to donate blood before the holidays can mean so much to a sick or injured area hospital patient," CBCO Media Relations Representative Michelle Teter said. "The miracle of the holiday season lies in the gifts we give to others. Donate blood and give the gift of life. It is a gift that will last well beyond the holidays."

The Miracle of Giving holiday blood drive is only available at Community Blood Center of the Ozarks Donor Centers. All CBCO donor centers will be closed on December 24 and 31, except for the Springfield Donor Center, which is open for apheresis donation by appointment only.

On behalf of local hospital patients, CBCO thanks blood donors from across the region for giving life to your community.

To help avoid wait times, appointments are strongly encouraged. Donors can schedule an appointment at https://www.cbco.org/mira-



# Merry Christmas and Rappy New Year!

It was a very successful year for Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service Inc and our buyers and sellers. Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service Inc was a multi million dollar Real Estate Seller, selling Real Estate at auction in the 90% range of all real estate offered at auction. We specialize in Real Estate, Personal Property, Lake Property, Boat Slips and more. We are a full service auction company with professional auctioneers, ring men, cashiers, clerks and set up crew. We have a vast knowledge

in most all areas. Our professional staff is waiting to help you with your next transition in life, whether it be a life estate that needs to be settled, job relocation, downsizing, farm dispersal or whatever you need, we are here to help. From the crew at Stumpff's Realty & Auction Service Inc, we want to praise God and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# MDC reports three elk harvested

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that Missouri hunters harvested one bull elk during the archery portion of the 2022 elk-hunting season, Oct. 15-23, and two bull elk during the firearms portion, Dec. 10-18.

The three Missouri hunters were each selected for one of five elk permits issued in 2022 through a random drawing of 9,684 applicants.

Elk are a native species in Missouri but were extirpated in the state in the late 1800s due to unregulated hunting. Missouri's first elk hunt in 2020 came after years of restoration efforts by MDC, numerous partners including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and many supporters including local communities and area landowners.





#### Santa and Reindeer cleared by Mo. Director of Ag for Christmas Eve Deliveries

Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn and Missouri State Veterinarian Dr. Steve Strubberg approved livestock movement papers for nine reindeer.

Mr. Santa Claus from The North Pole applied for the permit this week, providing proof of the healthy herd through a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection signed by licensed veterinarian Dr. Hermey Elf.

Team leader, Rudolph, underwent additional testing to prove he's the most famous reindeer of all.

Although mischievous,

Mr. Claus will be coordinating his deliveries to nice boys and girls with his scout elves sitting atop many Missouri shelves.

"Santa and his elves have worked hard to provide the perfect gifts for children across Missouri this year," said Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn. "I'm happy our team can assist in making sure all the presents are able to be delivered by healthy reindeer."

The permit approves Mr. Claus, his sleigh and nine reindeer for flight starting the night before Christmas,

with a few exceptions for a healthy ration of Missouri early deliveries. a healthy ration of Missouri grass hay. We encourage Mis-

"The MDA team strives to enable timely movement of healthy animals across Missouri and beyond," said Dr. Steve Strubberg. "Our team of veterinarians also recommends the reindeer eat

a healthy ration of Missouri grass hay. We encourage Missouri farmers and ranchers to make hay available for Santa's reindeer, in addition to milk and cookies for Santa."

Reindeer approved for flight: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph.

Missouri agriculture is a \$93.7 billion industry and remains the top economic driver in the Show Me State.

To learn more, visit Agriculture.Mo.Gov.











# The Joy of Hearing

Christmas-time at a busy Shopping Center. Shoppers bustling along, trying to find that perfect gift for Christmas. In the midst of the crowd, a small boy is attempting to sell his homemade Christmas ornaments to help out his struggling family." Get your ornaments here; perfect for your family tree", he shouts! No one hears. He turns up the volume on his radio; still, no one hears. He drops a quarter on the tile; people stop, looking for the coin.

God came into a busy world, people scurrying in every direction. God speaks to them; no one hears. An Angel Choir announces His coming; again, no one hears. The Babe was born in Bethlehem; no one noticed. We do have a hearing problem!

We "hear" selectively. Mom can yell: "Clean up your room" and no one hears her. Mom can whisper: "Pizza's ready" and the kids come running. We "hear" what we want to hear.

We "hear" God selectively. "God is love; God loves you." We hear that. "Love your neighbor as much as God loves you." We don't hear that at all. God says: "I will forgive all your sins." Yes, we hear that. We fail to hear, "IF you forgive the sins of others."

We "hear" what fits in with our prejudices. I was

talking with a man about two other men in our community; one of the men he liked --- the other man he disliked. My friend "heard" only good about the man he liked; he "heard" only the negative about the man he disliked. Both men, incidently, were good Christian men.

Sometimes we don't "hear" at all. Noises. Other voices. Many things interfere with our hearing. At times, we have a bad connection, or a loose connection, and we cannot "hear." Sometimes we don't want to "hear", and we turn people off. We also turn God off. At times, we do "hear", but we don't understand what is being said.

Christmas is all about "hearing." God has spoken to us through nature, through the law and the prophets, through our hymns and prayers, through people and events. We have not

heard Him. Now, God has shared His divine thoughts and dreams with us in Jesus Christ, God's WORD-madeflesh! In Christ, God tells us all we need to know about Himself. In Christ, God tells us all we need to know about life and living. In Christ, God tells us all we need to know about relating to Him, and how we are to relate to others.

Christmas is all about "hearing!" Listen to what God is saying! Listen to what your family and friends are saying. Listen to what the poor and needy and suffering are saying. Don't turn a deaf ear to God, or to any one. Listen! And respond in love. Lord, make us good "listeners".

Dr. Don Kuehle United Methodist, Retired Jackson, Missouri

# A Poem: Christmas List

I wrote this poem December 8, 2019. I was struggling with my health and finances and just couldn't seem to find my Christmas spirit. Thank God that even though things have been rough on so many, am finally experiencing more Christmas spirit in my heart this year than I have in ages. Holidays are difficult for many people. If you notice someone struggling, please reach out. You'll be blessed. Christmas around the corner The stores are filled with glee, the shoppers have their baskets full...everyone but

The trees are trimmed with Christmas garb, the stockings by the fire....but if I told you I was full on board, you know I'd be a liar.

We put the tree up in the

We put the tree up in the den, The branches still sit bare.

I've tried to use my Christmas feels, But I find they just aren't there!

I lack the inspiration

I cannot budge an inch!
I hate to think I just may be
The real time Christmas

Grinch!
So, Santa if you're listening
I really need a favor
Please send an early Christ-

mas gift I need it soon, not later! Send me Christmas spirit, Please leave some in my

I only have a few more days To force myself to start! Please show me inner kindness

Sprinkle in some happy cheer

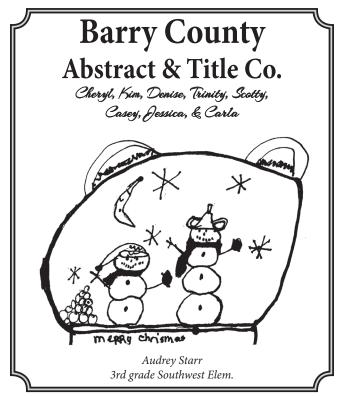
Remind me of the holidays We had in yesteryears. Echo children's laughter With every sparkly touch I know it seems a lot to ask But I miss that sound so much!

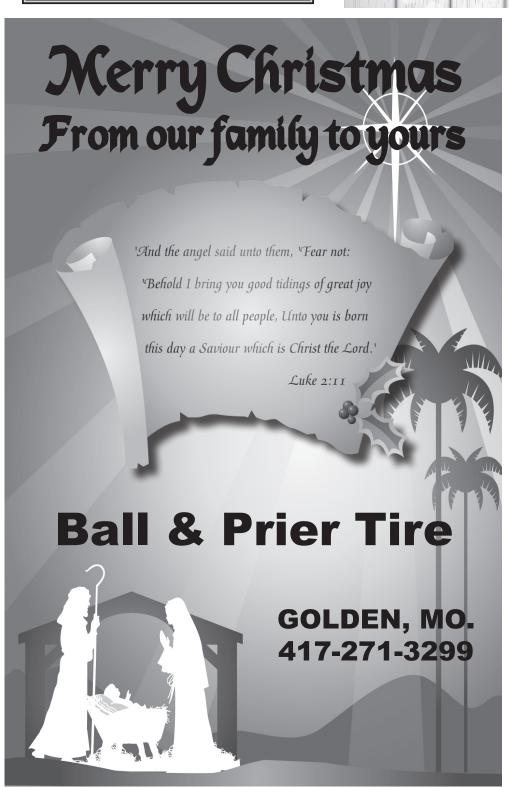
And Santa, while you're at it, If you could see the way Please help me share the magic

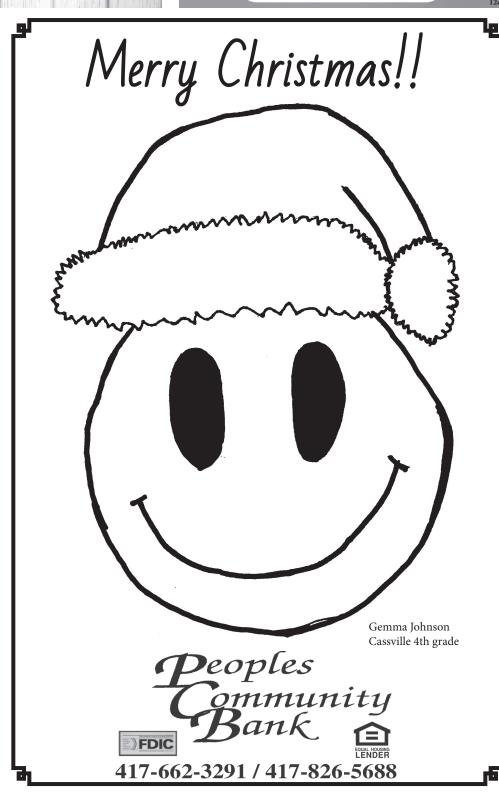
With someone else today! *Joyce Dykes* 











# Not Your Average Cookie... For Santa

Pumpkin Cookie with Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting

til the cream cheese/butter

and sugar are incorporated

(about 30 seconds). Stop the

mixer and scrape down the

sides of the bowl and then

increase the speed to medi-

um-high and mix for another

30-45 seconds so the frosting

the frosting-making process

where you get to taste your

icing. You are tasting to de-

termine taste (does it need

more vanilla?) and consis-

tency (is it too thin or too

thick?) (Two Sisters note

about cream cheese frost-

ing. It is a thin frosting. It

will never be a frosting that is

pipeable or will crust up like

buttercream. The first thing

you should do before using

the frosting is put it in the re-

frigerator for an hour or so,

that will help the butter and

cream cheese firm up. An-

other thing to try if the frost-

ing is too thin is to add EI-

THER 1/2 cup of powdered

sugar or 1 tablespoon of corn starch. Mix again and see if

This recipe can be found

scrafting.com/pumpkin-

spice-cookies/#mv-creation-

https://www.twosister-

Tanner Foster \* Galena, MO

the consistency is better.

This is the fun part of

gets light and fluffy.

#### **Pumpkin Cookies**

Ingredients

1/2 cup Butter (Sweet Cream

- 1 cup Granulated Sugar
- 1 cup Canned Pumpkin 2 Large Eggs
- 4 teaspoons Baking Powder
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- 2 1/2 teaspoon Cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon Nutmeg 1/4 teaspoon Ginger
- 2 cups All-Purpose Flour 1 Cup Chopped Walnuts or
- Pecans (optional)
- 1 batch of The Best Cream Cheese Frosting (see recipe below)

Instructions

In a mixer cream the butter and sugar until light and

Add eggs and pumpkin and mix well.

Sift flour, baking powder, salt and spices together and fold into cookie batter.

Mix until well blended.

Drop a spoonful of the cookie batter onto a cookie sheet and flatten slightly with a spoon.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for approximately 12 minutes.

Allow to cool.

Frost with The Best Cream Cheese Frosting or Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting.

Sprinkle cinnamon over the frosting.

#### The Best Cream Cheese **Frosting**

Ingredients

1/2 cup Butter, slightly softened

- 8 oz. Cream Cheese (soft-
- 1 pound Powdered Sugar (or 4 cups)
- 3 teaspoons Vanilla Extract Instructions

Add the butter, cream cheese, and vanilla extract to a mixing bowl. The butter and the cream cheese should be "slightly softened" which means it is still cold but has been out of the refrigerator for 30-60 minutes.

Mix the cream cheese, butter, and vanilla together on medium speed until thoroughly combined (about 2 minutes.) You want to fully cream the ingredients together so their flavors meld together. Use a spatula to scrape the mixture down from the sides of the bowl before moving on to the next step.

In a separate bowl, use a food scale to measure 1 Pound of Powdered Sugar. If you don't have a food scale, measure 4 cups instead.

Add the Powdered Sugar into the mixing bowl.

Start your mixer (or electric beater) on the lowest setting and keep it on low un-

# "The 12 Days of Christmas"

Christmas carols can be heard far and wide from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Day. "The 12 Days of Christmas" is one of the most recognizable carols, and for good reason, as the popular song can trace its history back several centuries. Researchers have traced the earliest printed version of the poem on which the song is based all the way back to 1780. That's three years before the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the American Revolutionary War. The song has long been suspected to have been a way for Catholics in Britain to teach their children the catechism, as the 1700s was a controversial period for Catholicism in the country. However, no documentary evidence exists in support of that theory, and many historians feel it is inaccurate. Others indicate that, while 1780 is likely the first time the poem was printed, the poem is likely much older than that, with origins potentially in France or Scotland. What is known is that the version many people recognize today, namely in song form, can be traced to the early twentieth century, when English singer and composer Frederic Austin first popularized the melody for the song. Austin performed that version of the song beginning in 1905, and it was first published in 1909.

<u>Payless Auto Salvage</u>

will be closed **Christmas Eve through** Monday, December 26

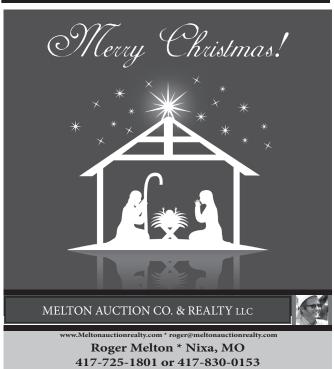
We will also be closed New Year's Eve

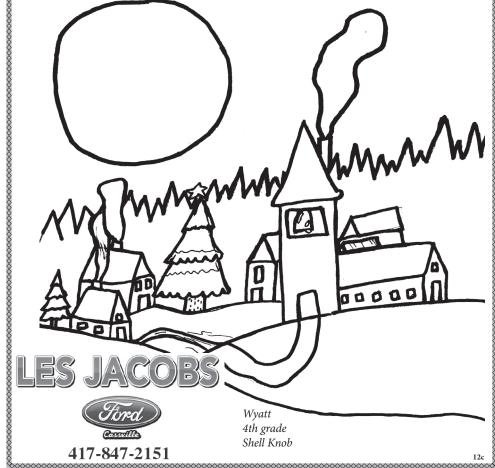


One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly. Andy Rooney











Brad Cole \* Nixa, MO

417-840-2950



# "Santa Claus is anyone who loves another and seeks to make them happy; who gives himself by thought or word or deed in every gift that he bestows." **Edwin Osgood Grover**

# Last minute "Santa's Helpers" generously adopt remaining RRHR angels

Kay McCullah, along with Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Four Seasons Real Estate, Tiffany Miner, Tayler McCullah, Sandy Fitzpatrick and friends Terri Chadd, Michelle Mosley, Rita Hlasney, Becky Eis and Paula Prior generously adopted the remaining seventeen angels on the Roaring River Health and Rehab angel tree at the Advertiser.

The group will also provide hot chocolate and snacks for RRHR employees who will be working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Shown at right are Kay McCullah and Advertiser Ad

Hilary, Tammy, & Macky







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#### **MECHANIC ON DUTY!**





# Freedom Bank Christmas Open House Luncheon held in Cassville



Elizabeth Lunsford and Krystal Love served desserts at the Christmas luncheon.

Freedom Bank, in Cassville, held their Christmas Open House Luncheon from 11am to 1pm on Friday, December 16, and hosted many local attendants serving a large array of traditional meals, sides, and desserts.

Shown above, left to right, are Elise Lindley, Andria Blankenship, and Ryan Gregory serving















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



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# Frankincense and myrrh: Ancient scents of the season



The demand for frankincense oil remains high, making it a \$7 billion industry. Shown are resin of frankincense (left) and myrrh (right) trees. Two of the three gifts of the Wise Men – frankincense and myrrh – remain in high demand more than 5,000 years after gaining popularity in religious rituals, says University of Missouri Extension horticulturist Michele Warmund.

Ancient Egyptians used myrrh to embalm corpses and Romans burned it as a type of incense at funeral pyres. Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman societies burned frankincense or myrrh incense during rituals.

The resins became expensive due to the tolls, taxes and labor costs incurred

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Christmas Eve through

Monday, December 26

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Cassville, Mo.

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when transporting them across treacherous routes to markets. They were so valuable that authorities stripsearched laborers who processed frankincense daily to prevent pilfering, says Warmund.

The woodsy, earthy fragrance of frankincense and the warm, spicy aromas of myrrh still hold a place in the modern-day world. Today, resins and oils from frankincense and myrrh trees are used in perfumes, cosmetics, aromatherapy and medicines. The demand for frankincense oil remains high, especially in China, making it a \$7 billion industry.

Frankincense resin comes from woody species in the Boswellia genus and grows in arid climates, such as Ethiopia and Somalia in eastern Africa and Oman and Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula.

Closer to home, Boswellia sacra trees grow in warm, arid regions of the United States. This frankincense species is a small, slow-growing tree or large shrub that reaches a height of 16-20 feet. It thrives in well-drained, sandy or rocky calcareous soil. Sparse compound leaves grow on scrubby branches, and trunks have papery, peeling bark. In spring, trees produce showy cream-col-

ored flowers with five petals with red centers.

Most frankincense trees start producing resin at about 8-10 years of age. Cuts in trunks cause sap to ooze from as droplets or "tears." The oozing sap hardens into resin, which is scraped from the trunk. To prevent damage, trees are scored fewer than 13 times per year. In Somaliland, it is illegal to overharvest trees, but in other countries trees are unprotected. Some Boswellia trees are threatened by exploitation, and they are vulnerable to livestock grazing and infestations of long-horned beetles.

Myrrh resin comes mostly from Commiphora myrrha and other species of this genus native to Ethiopia, Kenya, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Somalia. Commiphora myrrha is a small tree that grows 9-13 feet tall. This species has grayish-green trifoliate leaves, long spines on its branches and papery bark on its trunk. Trees favor

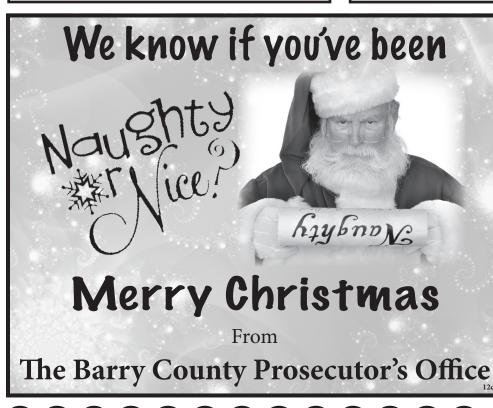
shallow soil over limestone. Like Boswellia, the bark of Commiphora trees is scored to produce resinous myrrh, which exudes from the inci-

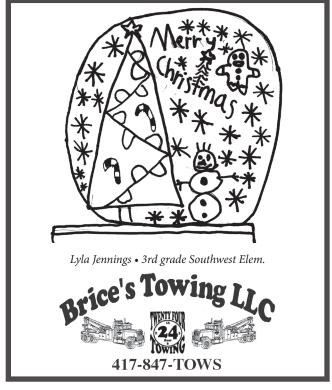
Seeds and plants of frankincense and myrrh are in short supply in the United States. However, nurseries that specialize in desert plants sell some species of Boswellia and Commiphora.

To germinate seeds, lightly cover with about ¼ inch of pulverized limestone in a warm area. Water seeds daily using a fogging nozzle. Germination usually takes about three weeks, but fogging should continue until the seedlings are about 8 inches tall. Plants can also be propagated by cuttings.

Even though frankincense and myrrh trees are unsuitable for Missouri's climate, don't despair, says Warmund. Many oils, incense and perfumes that diffuse the enticing, mystical aromas of these species are readily available.



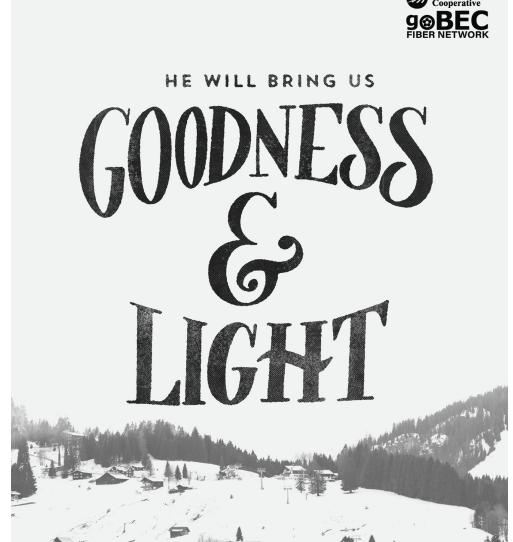




"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14

Use Cassville Masonic Lodge 18th & Main St. for your next meeting or event. For availability and fees Contact: Kevin Lingle 417-846-6709





# Mistletoe: Menacing plant with an intriguing past

Of all the plants used in holiday decor, few match mistletoe's interesting history. And few equal its potential for harm

An evergreen plant with white berries, mistletoe is quite toxic, said David Trinklein, horticulture state specialist for University of Missouri Extension.

American mistletoe (Phoradendron leucarpum) contains a toxic protein in its leaves and branches. However, mistletoe harvested in the U.S. isn't as toxic as European mistletoe (Viscum album), Trinklein said. The latter contains a mixture of toxic proteins in all parts of the plant, including its berries.

Unfortunately, mistletoe isn't usually labeled "American" or "European," and only a trained botanist would be able to identify the difference, he said. In either case, if the plant accidentally is ingested it would be wise to seek immediate medical at-

Trinklein said the safest choice would be to use artificial mistletoe made from fabric or plastic.

Mistletoe is a hemiparasite, which means it derives some of its food from its host-most often a treewhile carrying on photosynthesis to make the remainder of its food, he said

mysterious Mistletoe's powers go back to ancient

So, how did a toxic, hemiparasitic plant like mistletoe become a part of Christmas? "From the standpoint of human usage, mistletoe has a long and interesting history dating back to ancient times," Trinklein said.

"The use of mistletoe around the holidays dates back to pre-Christian times, when it was used by Druids in rituals associated with the winter solstice," he said. "After being harvested by Druid priests with a golden sickle, people placed it over their door as a means of warding off evil in the coming year."

A cure for war on the battlefield and at home

Where did kissing under the mistletoe begin?

"Various theories exist," Trinklein said. "In Scandinavia, it was considered a plant of peace under which enemies could declare a truce. Accordingly, mistletoe offered a way for warring spouses to kiss and make up. Each time a kiss was exchanged under the mistletoe, a berry had to be plucked. Once all the berries were gone, the plant lost its magic."

'Dung on a twig' in a for-

What about the name? The word mistletoe, comes from two Anglo-Saxon words that, literally interpreted, mean "dung on a twig," Trinklein said. This less than romantic name originated after people observed that mistletoe tended to take root on tree limbs where birds left their droppings.

Many might consider stealing a kiss under mistletoe to be socially and hygienically questionable. "Omitting it from holiday décor probably would be prudent," he said.

But for those who insist on following tradition, give real mistletoe the heave-hoho-ho and use artificial mistletoe instead.

# Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

St. Nicklaus was a real person who left surprise gifts in peoples' shoes. The spirit of this love, generosity, giving continued on in his name. Including this with Christmas is a perfect pairing as Christ asks us to be loving, generous, and giving. But the perfect response to the Santa issue, for me, is the 1897 letter from the editor, Francis P. Church, in the New York Sun, answering the question of an 8 yr. old Virginia, who's friends told her there was no Santa, "Is there a Santa Claus?":

Dear Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as

measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole

of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus coming down, but what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but there is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The most real things in the

world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in this world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle to see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the unified strength of all the strongest men that every lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Krista Alden

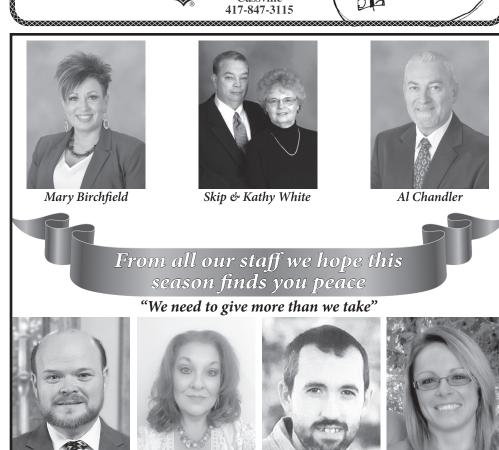
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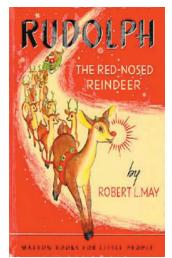
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# You Know?



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer first appeared in a booklet written by Robert L. May, in 1939, and published by the Montgomery Ward department store.

R

While May was pondering how best to craft a Christmas story about a reindeer, while staring out his office window in downtown Chicago, a thick fog from Lake Michigan blocked his view—giving him a flash of inspiration. "Suddenly I had it!" he recalled. "A nose! A bright red nose that would shine through fog like a spotlight."



# MAS WORD SEA

Ε R S L S R Ε Τ Ι C Ι Ε Ε Н M N Ε Н S Ι 0 S J Y В Ι Ι G U Ι S U Ι C J D G Н В

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

#### **WORDS**

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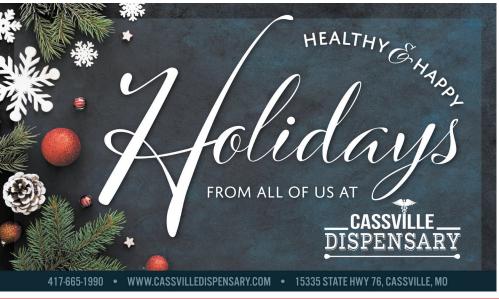
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