

## Purdy High School Crowns Homecoming Royalty



Purdy High School held its annual Basketball Homecoming on Tuesday, January 18. This year's theme was Homecoming Olympics. Seniors Katrina Lee and Jesus Aldava were crowned 2022 Homecoming Queen and Mr. Tip Off at a special coronation ceremony held between basketball games. The royal court is pictured from left: Flower Girl Abigail Terry; Sophomores Ruby Knight and Jeremiah Williams; Juniors Taryn Orwig and Bosten Goetz; Queen Katrina Lee and Mr. Tip Off Jesus Aldava, Seniors; Freshmen Leanna Moore and Teagan Manwarren and Crown Bearer Charleigh Jo Brown.

## Lady Wildcat Wrestlers Win Big In Big 8



The Lady Wildcat wrestlers competed in the Women's Big 8 Wrestling Tournament on Wednesday, January 19 at Monett High School.

Front, left to right: Haley Morse (third place), Annie Moore (Champion), Hailey Roark (Champion), and Taylor Glidewell (third place). Back, left to right: Coach N. Fortner, Scotlyn Richardson, Kailey Artherton (Champion), Kelsey Harris (Champion), Faith James (Champion), Coach Parsons, and Coach Glidewell.

## Southwest Student Earns Full Ride At Mizzou



Above, Lacey Reeves works diligently on the MU Extension Annual Report for 2021.

Ezra DeVore

"In eighth grade, I wanted to try taking a class on Journalism," began Lacey Reeves, current University of Missouri student. While taking classes on transitioning into high school, Reeves became intrigued by journalism, and threw a Google search at the idea. Looking into schools for professional journalism, she discovered a local college high on every list: the University of Missouri. "I thought to myself," she continued, "how have I never heard of this school before?"

Soon after, Reeves discovered that on September 8, 1908, the University of Missouri opened its doors as first real Journalism school in America, only second-opened in the world; first being the Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme in Paris, France, founded 9 years prior. While reading of the university's hand-on approach to gaining real-world experience, she realized this could be the path her study takes.

After speaking with her teachers about the idea, Reeves was told of the opportunity that would make it all possible: the Missouri Land Grant, "which sparked my interest," she said, "I heard the words '100% of financial needs met,' but I was torn. 'Do I want to stay here, where I love? Or do I want to go somewhere further away to have a better opportunity?' A truly ancient question, yet she soon found her answer.

This particular land grant covers tuition, and was meant to provide the opportunity for education to those financially unable to accommodate their stay, otherwise. The requirements are based on the ability of the student's family to offer financial contribution to their child's educational expenses, and if the family's ability falls below a certain number, the student is approved. Coming from rural Missouri, one does not expect to attend the first journalism school in the country. Dreading being turned down, Reeves was hesitant to be certain - but soon enough, she found out she met the requirements.

"And that was the first half of the puzzle," Reeves explained, "the second half would be getting into the Mizzou Honors College. If I got into that, it would cover my room and board, meal plans, books, parking pass, down to the littlest things." If accepted for both of these grants, Reeves would not have to pay a cent to attend the university.

Automatic entry to the college is a 24 on the ACT, so she set out to getting her score as high as possible to ensure entry, and financial coverage. Reeves would go on to complete the test a total of four times, and dissatisfied with an already-acceptance-worthy score of 26, she decided to undertake serious study to earn entry into the honors program she sought. She researched practice tests online, scoured the ACT book in the Barry County Library, and completed math tests everyday after school.

On her fifth completion of the ACT, Reeves scored a 28 - enough to enter. "The minute I opened that honors acceptance letter, I just looked at my parents and said, 'I'm going to college for free.' I couldn't believe it," Reeves said. "I had never been that far north by myself, or lived that far away, ever. It was very weird. When I brought up the grant at school, my friends started looking into Mizzou."

Her freshman year was paid for, of course, however sophomore year brought trouble in the form of improperly filed documentation. Reeves explained that due to an error in financial data, she received a letter saying she no longer qualified for her grant. "I saw other people transferring or leaving, I didn't want to be that person." Reeves then filed a Special Circumstances FAFSA, unsure if it would solve the issue, but remaining hopeful.

Luck, it seems, was on her side, though. "The day before my sophomore move in, I get an email: 'Your case has been selected, you are eligible for the Missouri Land Grant Honors.' I had spent that whole summer worrying and worrying, and it had finally come to that day where I'd chosen to continue without the grant. But I was eligible. And I got to go to college my sophomore year free."

Unfortunately, the honors program offering full financial coverage for all non-tuition costs has ended - but will cover students before the Class of 2025. Beyond that, the additional costs will need to be covered by scholarships or other funds.

But for one lucky student, it all worked.

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Obits .....	10-11, 16 A	The Barry County Advertiser is also available online. See our complete newspaper, weekly stories and classifieds online today!	
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# Pros and Cons: Buying Hay vs. Applying Fertilizer

Increases in fertilizer prices add to the cost of growing forage for grazing. This leads farmers to ask if they should buy hay or fertilizer, says University of Missouri Extension nutrient management specialist John Lory.

Comparing the benefits of buying hay vs. applying fertilizer for better yields is complicated, but it is crucial to the bottom line, says Lory.

A fair comparison looks at the costs of hay vs. fertilizer, whether the farmer can use the grown forage or purchased hay, and the nutrient efficiency of the grown forage vs. purchased feed.

Studies at the MU Forage Systems Research Center in Linneus and MU Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon give some insight, he says.

MU researchers fund that 50 pounds per acre of nitrogen boosted spring pasture yield an average of 1,100 pounds per acre. With nitrogen fertilizer prices near \$1 per pound, the cost of that feed is 5 cents per pound.

What is the cost based on utilization rate?

Lory explains that cattle only eat part of the forage available to them, leaving

the rest to waste. High prices make it critical to manage pastures for high forage utilization rates.

Research shows that cattle eat about 60% of available forage in highly efficient spring grazing systems, but rates typically dip below 50%. That means that cows waste about half of the fertilized forage. At 50% use, the actual cost of consumed forage doubles, says Lory. If nitrogen fertilizer is \$1 per pound, cost of consumed feed is 10 cents per pound. Many farmers can buy hay for less than that now.

Forage use for purchased feed usually runs higher than that for grazing, says Lory. Hay utilization rates can reach 80% but most often are closer to 65%. If hay is \$80 per ton, the cost per pound is 4 cents. However, at 65% utilization, the cost per pound of feed eaten goes to 6 cents.

“These examples show how purchased feed has the potential to be an economically competitive approach compared to buying fertilizer when prices are high,” says Lory.

Hay: Feed and fertilizer  
The fertilizer value of hay can offset cost.

“When you bring hay or other supplemental feed onto your farm, you are buying feed and fertilizer at the same time,” says Lory. “A ton of fescue hay contains nearly 100 pounds of fertilizer nutrients. If spread strategically on your farm, these nutrients provide fertilizer value to offset the cost of the hay.”

Beef cows typically excrete most of the nutrients they eat. To get the most value from hay, move the hay and cows to pastures that need fertilizer. Unroll hay bales, move hay rings or use some type of bale-graze system to spread across pastures. All of the excreted phosphate, potassium, sulfur and micronutrients in the hay is available to the pasture as fertilizer, but only about 25% of the nitrogen is available. The rest is lost or tied up in the soil organic matter. So, a ton of hay with 12.5% protein provides about 10 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer, 12 pounds of phosphate and 35 pounds of potash.

The fertilizer value of hay is usually a little over a penny per pound, or slightly more than \$20 per ton. Recently, nitrogen prices rose to nearly \$1 per pound, and phosphate

and potash prices more than doubled. This increases the fertilizer value of hay to more than 2.5 cents per pound.

In pastures, nutrients brought onto the farms as feed or fertilizer recycle and improve yields. When winter feeding hay, the hay’s fertilizer will increase spring pasture growth. When properly managed, about 5 tons of feed on a pasture with a total nitrogen fertilizer value of 50 pounds can provide an additional 1,000 pounds or more of quality spring forage growth.

Fertilizer value also can influence hay purchase de-

cisions, says Lory. Buying high-quality hay increases the fertilizer value of the hay. With current costs, a ton of hay may have \$20 more fertilizer value than poor-quality hay, making the higher-quality hay the more economical feed, even if it costs more up front.

Hay: Predictable feed at a known price with fertilizer value

“Buying hay instead of fertilizer can provide a predictable feed supply to supplement spring pasture growth at a known price,” says Lory. “High utilization can be assured through judicious

feeding practices, and unneeded hay can be stored if not used. With high prices, the fertilizer value of the hay has more than doubled, currently around 2 ½ cents per pound of forage or \$50 per ton, offsetting a significant fraction of cost of hay. The fertilizer value of the hay also will boost spring forage growth.”

No matter how you meet your herd forage needs, he adds, high prices require you to maximize forage utilization, both when feeding hay and managing pastures.

## Haven of the Ozarks raises over \$7,000 during fundraiser

Ezra DeVore

A local fundraiser from Haven of the Ozarks Animal Sanctuary raised over \$7,000 in honor of Betty White’s love for animals, spearheaded by the generosity of local community members. “The inspiration for the fundraiser was from a viral social media post with this idea that started the day Betty White passed away. We knew right away that we also wanted to participate,” states Jen Silverberg, Treasurer for Haven of the Ozarks.

“We didn’t set up our fundraiser until closer to her ac-

tual birthday, so our original goal was only \$1,000 with the thinking that so many other rescues are also doing the same fundraiser that we may not get as many donations. We were blown away with the outpouring and generosity of our supporters and met that goal within 24 hours, so we increased it to \$5,000.”

“We raised just a little over that on Facebook,” Silverburg continued, “and then we also received a little over \$2,000 more through Paypal donations, plus a few people made donations of items like

dog food and even a Kuranda bed. So our final total was just over \$7,000! I would love to see this become a yearly event in honor of Betty White’s love for animals.”

Haven of the Ozarks continually expressed their gratitude for the community’s acceptance of the cause, stating on Facebook: “I’m sure Betty White could’ve never dreamed of such an honor and is smiling along with all of our friends at the Rainbow Bridge.”

# Share The Love Contest!

The Barry County Advertiser, in collaboration with Tomblin’s Jewelry and Gifts and Carey’s Cassville Florist, in Cassville, would like to announce the “Share the Love” contest. In next week’s issue, February 2, 2022, twelve cu-

pids will be hidden throughout the issue. Find all twelve and submit their locations to be entered into a drawing for a prize valued at \$50-\$75.00. Deadline for submissions will be 5 p.m. on February 8, 2022. You can email your findings to editor@4bca.com, drop them off at 904 West St, in Cassville, or you can mail them to P.O. Box 488, Cassville, MO 65625. Please include your telephone number, so we can contact you. HAPPY HUNTING!!!

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Melton Publications, Inc.

Publisher

Matthew Willis

Manager

Ezra DeVore

Editor

editor@4bca.com

ezradevore1965@gmail.com

Renée Bear

Advertising Design

ads@4bca.com

Elaine Phaneuf

Classified Ads

Reception/Community News

class@4bca.com

Adriana Keeton

Ad Sales

sales@4bca.com

904 West Street

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Thurs: Chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert

Fri: Steak stir fry, fried rice, egg roll, dessert

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# Community Calendar

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

## Notice:

**OATS Transit Offices** will be closed and regular routes will not be running on February 21, 2022, for President's Day. Please keep this in mind as you schedule trips near this holiday.

**Emerald Beach Drive off Farm Road 2260 will be closed until further notice for bridge repair.**

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

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

**Discovery Quilters** 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.

**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.

**The Wheaton Depot Museum in Wheaton** will be open on 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). More information about the Wheaton Historical Society and Wheaton Depot Museum can be found on their Facebook page and website [www.wheaton-historical-society-and-depot.com](http://www.wheaton-historical-society-and-depot.com). The administrators can also be reached by email, [wheatondepotmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:wheatondepotmuseum@gmail.com).

**OATS Transit is open for regular transportation service**, however, face masks are required on the bus due to COVID-19. Please call the OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about service in your area. Visit their website at [www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org) and click on the bus schedules tab for your county to see the full schedule. OATS Transit is available to the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. They also contract with a number of agencies.

**Southwest Missouri Coalition of Charities** 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.

**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.

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

## Jan 27th

**93rd Annual Barry County Soils & Crops Conference** will begin with a meal at 6 P.M. at First Christian Church, 905 Old Exeter Road, Cassville. Pre-registration is required along with a \$5 fee. Register by phone by calling Barry County Extension Office (417) 847-3161.

## Jan 28th

**Music** will be held at Clio this evening.  
**The Stella Sr Center will host a Dinner and Dance** on Friday evening. The doors will open at 6 P.M., with the center serving a meal. The dance will start at 7 P.M. with The Timberline Country Band playing. The cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are always available. No alcohol is allowed. This is a good place to bring your family. Please call (417) 628-3314 or (617) 640-6742 for information.

## Jan 29th

**A Job Fair** is being hosted at Emory Melton Inn & Conference Center, Roaring River State Park, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. For more information, see the help wanted ad in the classified section and the display ad on page 5A.

## Feb 3rd

**There will be a Barry County Fair board meeting** held in the Cassville High School Agriculture Building at 6:30 P.M. This meeting is open to anyone interested in planning or supporting the Barry County Fair. For more details, please consult the Barry County Fair Facebook page or contact Jimmy Hinson or Jordan Ellis at (417) 847-3137.

## Feb 5th

**SKITS Community Theater** will be hosting auditions for their upcoming play "Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen" at 10 A.M. at Central Crossing Senior Center, 20801 YY 15 Road, Shell Knob. For more information, see the advertisement on page 9A.

## Feb 6th

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



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**School Menus: Jan 31 - Feb 4**  
**All meals served with milk and subject to change.**  
  
**Cassville R-IV High School:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or breakfast pizza, hashbrown, pears or cereal, granola bar, orange. L: chicken nuggets or cheeseburger, mac & cheese, corn, yougurt cup, peaches or salad meal. Tuesday to Friday to be announced.  
**Cassville R-IV PR-IN-Middle:** Mon: B: biscuit & gravy or french toast, sausage patty, orange or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: pork choppette or country steak, corn, potatoes, gravy, juice. Tuesday to Friday to be announced.  
**Purdy R-II Schools:** Mon: B: breakfast burrito, salsa, fruit. L: tangerine chicken, brown rice, vegetables, fruit. Tues: B: wg biscuit, gravy, sausage, fruit. L: baked pasta, ww breadstick, romaine salad, tomato, ranch dressing, fruit. Wed: B: french toast sticks, syrup, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: chicken nugget, potato wedges, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast pizza, fruit. L: taco salad, corn, fruit. Fri: B: chocolate chip muffin, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: chicken patty sandwich, Sunchips, baked beans, baby carrots, fruit.  
**Southwest Schools:** Mon: B: breakfast sausage pizza, pears, juice. L: taco salad, diced tomatoes, lettuce, cheese, fiesta corn, rosy applesauce. Tuesday to Friday to be announced.

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Barry County 2022 Budget

	2021 Actual	2021 Approved	2022 Request	2022 Approved
County Departments				
County Commission	399,451.93	457,694.00	466,517.44	466,517.44
County Clerk	75,974.04	76,824.00	78,949.10	78,949.10
Elections	39,034.55	46,287.00	88,627.19	88,627.19
Building & Grounds	234,322.09	213,283.00	246,658.00	246,658.00
Employee Benefits	527,619.81	620,556.00	631,617.00	631,617.00
Treasurer	49,654.24	49,825.00	57,158.90	57,158.90
Collector	123,496.23	119,960.52	123,659.08	123,659.08
Recorder	72,283.16	72,395.00	75,158.90	75,158.90
Circuit Clerk	12,327.58	22,500.00	24,500.00	24,500.00
Circuit Court Admin.	6,398.96	8,156.00	8,255.00	8,255.00
Capital Projects	29,705.49	300,000.00	465,000.00	465,000.00
Total	1570268.08	1987480.52	2266100.61	2266100.61
Other General County Government				
Insurance(prop/liab.bonds)	193,562.56	150,000.00	215,000.00	215,000.00
Publications	6,570.32	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Rents and Leases	40,400.77	40,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Monett TIF	87,333.17	83,000.00	87,000.00	87,000.00
Miscellaneous	105,080.05	65,000.00	110,000.00	110,000.00
University Extension	29,889.68	35,200.00	35,200.00	35,200.00
Public Administrator	76,735.98	82,655.00	91,116.90	91,116.90
Office Supplies	83,013.73	81,450.00	122,020.00	122,020.00
Total	622,586.26	547,305.00	711,336.90	711,336.90
Public Safety				
Sheriff	759,229.40	983,148.89	1,048,597.42	1,048,597.42
Jail	535,514.70	616,651.20	698,980.88	698,980.88
Prosecuting Attorney	397,825.18	423,214.48	431,510.98	431,510.98
Juvenile Office	136,765.12	142,222.00	157,699.48	157,699.48
Coroner	37,204.01	37,586.00	40,878.72	40,878.72
Emergency Management	20,965.56	21,550.00	25,330.00	25,330.00
Total	1887503.97	2224372.57	2402997.48	2,402,997.48
Total all Departments	4,080,358	4759158.09	5380434.99	5380434.99
Emergency Fund		1,000,000.00	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Budget	4,080,358	5759158.09	6380434.99	6380434.99

The Barry County Commission proposes a budget of \$6,380,434.99 for 2022. Estimated revenue projection is \$5,002,325.00 plus \$2,112,158.02 carried over from 2021 giving a total appropriation of \$7,114,483.02. The Commission approved a 4% cost of living raise for county employees and a 2% cost of living raise for office holders.

Ezra DeVore

According to Joyce Ennis, Clerk of County Commission, the \$105,080.05 spent under Miscellaneous was primarily used to fund the sending of rebate checks in June of 2021, which acted as refunds for an accidental over-taxation. Ennis commented on the incident in June of 2021: “Certification errors of the 2020 tax levies for Barry-Lawrence Ambulance District and Barry County Developmentally Disabled were discovered. Tax payers were over-taxed for these two entities.”

The substantial increase from \$29,705 in 2021, to \$465,000 in 2022, under Capital Projects is a result of the county purchasing land for a new jail, as well as roof maintenance for the courthouse itself.

Purdy Elementary  
2nd quarter honor roll

Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton is pleased to announce the second quarter honor roll recipients.

**Third Grade “A”:** Madison Robbins, Alejandro Rivera, Abby Nickol, Sophee Hawkins, Maggie Haskins, Gabriel Garcia, Violet Adams, Sebastian Hutchens, Charlie Cornelius, Joel Craig, Piper Helus, Emily Henderson, Jamison Hilburn, Jessie Long, Brynlee Moller.

**Third Grade “B”:** Ivan Lomeli, Leo Alvarez, Jaylee Campbell, Aidan Conner, William Alvarez, Jordan Conner, Jackson Freeman, Yere-lin Juarez, Abbagail Keener, Jasmin Pastor-Gomez, Nelly Hernandez Ramirez, Axel Tello.

**Fourth Grade “A”:** Saul Castaneda, Dulce Elias, Yemelyn Elias-Reyes, Emma Graham, Uriel Ochoa, Bryson Terry, Brinlee Vineyard, Josie Brown, Grant Cairus, Roman Earnhart, Raylan Grant, Audie Hutson, Braeden Leahy, Hunter Nickol, Ayleen Rodriguez, Jaelynn Webb.

**Fourth Grade “B”:** Roberto Becerra, Lilly Franklin, Ayari Garcia, Nadalie Kukovich, Audie Rickson,

Nickle's Flooring

We invite you to walk all over us.

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Eagles Lodge  
Fundraiser

Ezra DeVore

Eagles Lodge held a fundraiser for a member in poor health on January 23, with all funds going to their medical bills. Held on National Pie Day, the betting’s main event was the Pie in the Face portion: whoever bid the highest on the auctioned pie, got to put the pie in someone’s face. A total of \$480 was raised, with three people got pies in their faces: President of Eagles Lodge Steve Kahler, second was President of the Auxiliary Sue Swihart, and lastly, Vice-President Jim Johnson.

Kahler states he wishes to “make this an annual fundraiser on January 23 of every year. The charities will change,” he began, “but we are a philanthropic organization. Our motto is ‘People helping people.’ We’ve been ranked number one in the state for giving money to children’s charities, and the second in the county. In respect to the individual, their name and medical history are kept private.

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4 BR, 2 BA W/ FENCED BACKYARD New central HVAC, flooring and paint. Open floor plan. Circle drive. #60207792 **\$182,900**

SPACIOUS 3 BR, 2 BA HOME ON A CORNER LOT Just remodeled! Primary suite with full bath. New deck. Should qualify for 100% financing. #60207404 **\$139,900**

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CAMPING OR BUILDING LOT Walk to Table Rock or a short drive to Roaring River. #60205227 **\$24,500**

WOODED OZARKS HUNTING GROUND 80 acres m/l borders National Forest on 2 sides. Wet weather creek. Very secluded! #60202600 **PENDING \$160,000**

FOUR BEDROOM IN QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD Remodeled home with a covered patio in back. #60200354 **\$149,900**

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

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Roaring River State Park



# MU Extension guide for farm families

A new University of Missouri Extension publication and related online tool can guide farmers through the difficult task of keeping the farm running when the owner or key decision-maker cannot.

When someone becomes ill or incapacitated, family members often struggle with finding key information, says MU Extension agricultural business and policy specialist Mary Sobba.

“Short-Term Operating Plan for Farms and Ranches” (MU Extension publication M202) gives guidelines for operation of the farm for two weeks to six months.

“Locating key information can be stressful and time-consuming,” says Sobba. “This plan will help reduce stress and save time.”


The free guide, which is available as a fillable, printable PDF, breaks down key information into categories – general, livestock, crop, horticulture, woodlands/timber, equipment, etc. Sobba recommends a yearly review and update of information.

Sobba and MU Extension county engagement specialists Joni Harper, Catherine Neuner and Kyle Whitaker wrote the guide. They also worked with a team at the University of Minnesota


to incorporate the content into AgPlan, a free online tool to create customized business plans. The AgPlan website lets users store their password-protected data and share it with selected individuals.

People can use the guide, the website or both. Some people may choose to start with a paper copy to gather the data then enter it into the website to share with other family members, Sobba says.

Sobba reminds users that the plan does not take the place of legal and professional advice.



Barry County, Missouri  
Health Department and  
Office of Emergency Management  
Joint Situation Update – 01.12.2022



Dissemination Status: Public Release Approved


(New information is in RED)

## Current Situation

Location	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Vaccine Doses Administered
Worldwide <small>(CSSE-John Hopkins 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	314,019,135	5,507,370	9,512,598,096
United States <small>(CSSE-John Hopkins 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	62,315,164	842,322	518,810,544

Location	Tests	Vaccinations Initiated	Percentage Population	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Missouri <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	8,716,474	3,778,133	61.6% <small>(72.6% 18 yrs. and over)</small>	908,625	13,488
Barry County <small>(BCHD 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	48,737	16,185	45.2%	5,511	91
Lawrence County <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	59,224	16,686	43.5%	4,628	112
Stone County <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	31,699	14,458	45.2%	3,826	91
McDonald County <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	21,268	8,396	36.8%	3,130	55
Newton County <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>	45,020	17,139	33.6%	7,109	135
Benton County, AR <small>(AR – DOH 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>				50,709	703
Carroll County, AR <small>(AR – DOH 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>				4,854	83


MO Cases and Deaths by Age Range <small>(MO-DHSS 01.12.2022 0900 hrs.)</small>					
Age Range	Number of Cases	Deaths	Age Range	Number of Cases	Deaths
0-4	24,038	1	45-49	62,041	289
5-9	28,721	0	50-54	62,406	465
10-14	41,114	2	55-59	62,825	725
15-17	34,902	5	60-64	55,496	1,117
18-24	110,288	27	65-69	42,375	1,378
25-29	79,448	40	70-74	33,608	1,762
30-34	75,568	59	75-79	23,757	1,811
35-39	71,213	103	80+	35,182	5,532
40-44	65,342	169	Unknown	301	3
Total Cases	530,634	406		377,991	13,082



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## Vaccines offered

The Barry County Health Department is offering free vaccines, with Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J available. This applies only to the Cassville location, located at 65 Main Street Cassville, MO 65625. Walk-ins are accepted Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.


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Your electric meter is a necessary part of the system after all, reading your meter tells you how much electricity you're using. But while looking at it is encouraged, opening or tampering with it is not.

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60189951 - 157 ACRES M/L with National Forest joining property. On paved road. Plenty of wildlife and timber. \$392,500

60197814 - THIS HOME HAS BEEN A RENTAL for several years. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Buyer needs to do own diligence. Some bedrooms do not conform to M/LA rules. They have no closets. This property is very close to downtown, hospital, and restaurants. \$150,000

60152935 - WELCOME TO ONE OF THE BEST LAKE FRONT LOTS on Table Rock Lake. This lot provides a gentle walk-down to the lake AND your TWO boat slips in a private dock. A well and a septic tank are already in place and ready for you to build your lake-front dream home. Call to see it today. \$175,000

60132905 - PRICE REDUCED! Super business opportunity to own the well-known Rib restaurant in Cassville. Located enroute to both Roaring River State

Park and Table Rock Lake. The restaurant seats 150+ people, and the bar area seats 50+ people. Priced below appraised value; the best part? Most all equipment is there and ready for YOUR grand opening. \$210,000

60203449 - BRING YOUR HORSE AND CHICKENS, this home is sitting on 4.4+ acres off the main highway. Enjoy the country living with the convenience of Monett and Neosho less than 30 minutes away. This home has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a large kitchen, dining area and large living room. \$210,000

60204172 - 2 BEDROOMS, 1 BATH HOME. Great rental house. \$70,000

60190088 - NICE SMALL ACREAGE on paved highway. Great property to build home on and have land for livestock or hunting. No mobile homes or modulars. Lot #2 will give easement to lot #3 for entry from Hwy. W. 12 acres m/l. Can be split to buyer's needs. Could be 9, 18 or 36 acres m/l. Call listing agent for different splits. \$79,900

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# Omicron Variant’s High Rate of Infection

While the omicron variant continues to infect people around the world, researchers at the University of Missouri have identified the highly prevalent, specific mutations that are causing the omicron variant’s high rate of infection.

The findings help explain how the new variant can escape pre-existing antibodies present in the human body, either from vaccination or naturally from a recent COVID-19 infection.

“We know that viruses evolve over time and acquire mutations, so when we first heard of the new omicron variant, we wanted to identify the mutations specific to this variant,” said Kamendra Singh, a professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, assistant director of the MU Molecular Interactions Core and Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center principal investigator.

Singh collaborated with Saathvik Kannan, a student at Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri, and Austin Spratt, an undergraduate student at MU, and Sid Byraredy of the University of Nebraska Medical Center,

to analyze protein sequences of omicron samples from around the world, including South Africa, Botswana and the United States. The team identified 46 highly prevalent mutations specific to omicron, including several located in the region of the virus’ spike protein where antibodies bind to the virus in order to prevent infection.

“The purpose of antibodies is to recognize the virus and stop the binding, which prevents infection,” Singh said. “However, we found many of the mutations in the omicron variant are located right where the antibodies are supposed to bind, so we are showing how the virus continues to evolve in a way that it can potentially escape or evade the existing antibodies, and therefore continue to infect so many people.”

As antiviral treatments for individuals infected with COVID-19 continue to be developed, Singh explained that having a better understanding of how the virus is evolving will help ensure future antiviral treatments will be targeted toward the specific parts of the virus to produce the most effective

outcomes.

In a recent trip to his native India, Singh met with Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi, to discuss the launch of CoroQuil-Zn, a supplement that can be taken while infected with COVID-19 to help reduce one’s viral load. The supplement, which Singh helped to develop, is now being used by patients in Tamil Nadu, a state in India. The manufacturer will soon seek FDA approval for its distribution in the United States.

“The first step toward solving a problem is getting a better understanding of the specific problem in the first place,” Singh said. “It feels good to be contributing to research that is helping out with the pandemic situation,

which has obviously been affecting people all over the world.”

“Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant: Unique features and their impact on pre-existing antibodies” was recently published in Journal of Autoimmunity. Funding for the study was provided by the Bond Life Sciences Center, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska. Siddappa Byraredy of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Hitendra Chand of Florida International University and Kalicharan Sharma of Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University were co-authors on the study.

# Eagle Sighting



Jeff Munday Photographed eagle photos from RRSP. Taken on January 16, in zone one at RRSP, across from the CCC Lodge around 4:30pm.

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## Commission Agrees on Redistricting Map

The House Citizens Redistricting Commission voted and passed a bipartisan redistricting map Wednesday afternoon. Both the Democrat and Republican commissioners worked together over the last six months to achieve fair and representative maps.

“We are encouraged by the bipartisan work this commission has completed. Today, we voted on a plan unanimously – that means 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats voted on the same map. When these commissions were announced, few people expected an agreement, let alone a positive outcome. As Democrats, we stood strong on our values of transparency and public input from the beginning. To see an agreement come together means that public input wasn’t wasted and that two sides were able to connect for the future of Missouri,” said House Commission Co-Chair Keena Smith.

“Today is a good example of teamwork - we can cooperate. We never were looking for a Democratic lean or bias. We fought for fair maps across the state, not just in the districts we are ‘concerned’ with. While many states are gerrymandering competitive districts out of existence, this commission created more competitive districts, giving Missouri voters an increased say in their future. We are proud of the bipartisan agreements specifically for Jackson, Clay, Greene, Boone and St. Louis counties,” said Missouri Democratic Party Executive Director Randy Dunn.

When comparing the 2018/2020 outcomes with the now passed House Commission map, estimates show possible gains for Democrats in 2022 with proper representation.

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## CHS Speech and Debate Big 8 Conference Champs



Cassville High School Speech and Debate students competed in the Big 8 Conference Tournament and won Conference Champs on Friday, January 21 at Seneca High School.

Front row, left to right: Addy Sherfy, Audrey Gautney, Kalia Miller, Treva Samuel, Dalva Le Gac, Tierany Sloan and Langston Mitchell. Back row, left to right: Leah Beach, Holly Sherfy, Taylor McCorkle, Avery Chappell, Josh Case, Suzi Perez, Audrey Gosvener, Jillian LeCompte, Samantha Sparkman, and Eli Pickett.

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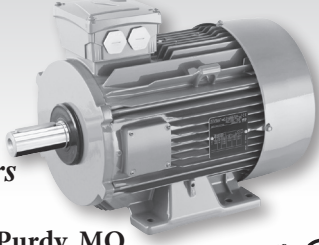
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### Ronald McDonald House Share a Heart

Development Coordinator of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ozarks, Inc., Katie Serangeli, released the following statement:

We are very excited to present our 29th Annual Share a Heart Campaign benefiting Springfield's two Ronald McDonald House programs. In a typical year, our Houses help over 800 families of seriously-ill or injured children stay close to the care and resources they need, and we have served nearly 14,700 families since our first Ronald McDonald House opened in 1988.

our efforts with coverage. The attached information outlines the Campaign. If you would like the opportunity to meet one of our families, please see the included contact list.

The 35-day Campaign will begin on Tuesday, January 25th.

## Arning Companies donates to Backpack Program



Pictured left to right is Ryan Stockton, Arning Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville R-IV Superintendent; and Rachael Freeman, Arning Marketing Manager.

Employees at Arning Companies have made a donation of \$500 to the Backpack Program at Eunice Thomas Elementary. Arning team members are given the opportunity to "dress-down" on Fridays by contributing to the Casual Friday for Charity (CFFC) fund. Employees then select a local organization to donate funds raised through the CFFC program. The Bright Futures Backpack Program provides nonperishable food items to children in the district that may need food assistance over the weekend. Bright Futures, established at Cassville Schools in 2011, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing community members together to focus on the success of children.



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## Desy Harmon

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Purdy Elementary Character Medalists



Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton is pleased to announce the Responsibility Character Education Medalists. This year's winners are pictured from Left. First Row: Adaline Long, Abby Terry and Charleigh Brown. Second Row: Cassandra Villa, Mandy Lee, Lucy Doty, Sabrina Rueda and Paul Bawithawng. Third Row: Sophee Hawkins, Brynlee Moller, Grant Cairus and Dulce Elias. Fourth Row: Elementary Counselor Gary Jurgensen, Raylan Patton, Sophie Tyson, Zuly Villa, Erynn Cunningham, Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton and Abby Jansen.



Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton is pleased to announce the Generosity Character Education Medalists. This year's winners are pictured from Left. Front Row: Jaydon Juarez, Colt Thorpe, Arabella Rivera, Genesis Ramos, Ayden Garcia and Aubrey Schoon. Middle Row: Joel Craig, Leo Alvarez, Bryson Terry and Roman Earnhart. Back Row: Purdy Elementary Counselor Gary Jurgensen, Dalton Redshaw, Ashley Paxtor, Hayden Patton, Conner Holloway and Purdy Elementary Principal Julie Dalton. Absent for the photo, but receiving Generosity medals were Mercedes Alvarez, Kinleigh Rock and Athena Corso.

Exeter Elementary Character Kids



These students were recognized for honesty in the classroom. January Character Kids for Exeter Elementary School are: First row, left to right: Ainsley Bowman, Kinsley Bowman, Zoey Richmond, Addi Higgs, Emma Higgs, Allie Stephens, Sky Cha and Kaiden Jordan. Second Row: Troy Rice, Ruth Jones, Jaydin Bogle, Jacob Stevenson, Gabrielle Studdard and Blakely Boker Johnson.

Purdy Wellness Break

Ezra DeVore

Purdy schools undertook a wellness break from Thursday, January 13 - Monday, January 17, "due to the current COVID-19 impact on the faculty/students of the Purdy R-II School District," Purdy Superintendent Travis Graham began in his letter to parents. Fourteen students and four staff members had tested positive for the virus, coupled with eighteen students and two staff members gone, due to experiencing household contact with individuals who had tested posi-

tive.

"While students are out on student wellness break, we encourage parents/guardians to limit travel and large gatherings to allow for the dissipation of the COVID-19 impact. Additionally, please monitor your/your students' health and wellness and should you feel ill and/or develop symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider."

The students, though not instructed via in-person class, continued instruction over the long weekend. Stu-

dents were provided with AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction), recovering their lost class time. These AMI included worksheet packets for those third grade and below, with students from fourth to sixth receiving assignments through worksheets and Google Classroom, and students from seventh to twelfth grade utilized Google Meet in tandem with Google Classroom. This work was graded, and attendance was taken.

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JOLLY ROGER

&

The Pirate Queen

Time: Saturday, February 5th, 10a.m.

Location: 20801 UY 15 RD, Shell Knob

Comedy with minimum 20 actors

Auditions will be held Saturday February 5th at 10 a.m. at Central Crossing Senior Center at 20801 UY 15 RD in Shell Knob. If for some reason you would like to audition at an alternate time prior to this date, please contact Patty Ellison at 414-379-9445.

SKITS





**MELANIE LYNN HOOTEN**  
Melanie Lynn Hooten, age 41, of Cassville, passed away Thursday, January 20, 2022, at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas.  
She was born March 8, 1980, in McPherson, Kansas, the daughter of Michael and Kathryn (Holloway) Boone.  
Surviving are two sons, Andrew Hooten, of Cassville, and Isaac Hooten, of Cassville; her father, Michael Boone, of Shell Knob; one brother, Kyle Boone and his wife, Angie, of Bonner Springs, Kansas; two nieces, Sophia and Audrey; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family.  
Preceding her in death was her mother, Kathryn

Boone.  
Melanie graduated from De Soto High School in De Soto, Kansas. She later attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, where she attained her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Upon graduating, she moved to Fort Worth, Texas, working there for two years before relocating to Houston, Texas. She moved to this area in 2017 and became employed by the Southwest R-V School District in Washburn from 2019 until 2021 when she began teaching fifth grade at Monett Intermediate School. Family was very important to Melanie and her passion was her children's activities and spending time with them. She loved the Lord and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Cassville.  
Memorial services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, February 12, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Cassville. Pastor James Weaver will conduct the services. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.  
Contributions may be made to First Baptist Church Youth Group in memory of

OBITUARIES

Melanie.  
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**JACKIE FRANCIS "JACK" PURDOM**  
Jackie Francis "Jack" Purdom, 89, of Monett, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.



**BETH ANN GARNER**  
Beth Ann Garner, age 50 of Cassville, passed away Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at her home.  
Beth was born March 30, 1971, in Indio, California, the daughter of Wesley and Patsy (Mahaffey) Garner. She is survived by one daughter, Olivia Marie Garner; her mother, Patsy Garner; two brothers, Billie Garner and his wife, Cynthia, of Cass-

ville, and Charles Garner and his wife, Kimberly, of Cassville; one niece, Dorene Garner; and one nephew, Wesley Garner.  
She was preceded in death by her father, Wesley Garner, and grandparents, Lowell and Theresa Mahaffey and Floyd and Goldie Garner.  
Beth graduated from Cassville High School before attending Oklahoma State University, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree and then later earning an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing at Crowder College. She was working as an R.N. at Northwest Regional Hospital in Springdale, Arkansas. Beth was saved and baptized while attending Gunter Church. She was currently a member of Cassville United Methodist Church.

Services were Saturday, January 22, 2022, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jeff Fugitt and Reverend Jerry Nickle conducted the services. Burial as at Russell Cemetery in Butterfield.  
Memorials in memory of Beth may be made to Haven of the Ozarks or Cassville United Methodist Church Mission Trip Fund.  
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**RUBY FAYE LEAMON**  
Ruby Faye Leamon, age 88, of Aurora, peacefully passed away into the arms of Jesus after a valiant fight with cancer on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at her daughter and son-in-law's house in Fulton.  
She was born March 4, 1933, in Purdy, the daughter of Troy and Julia (Clevenger) Myers. On June 21, 1952, in Bentonville, Arkansas, she was united in marriage to Calvin D. Leamon, who preceded her in death on June 9, 2009. Also preceding her in death were her parents and one daughter, Rebecca Harrel.  
Surviving are one son, Faron Leamon and his wife, Debby, of Springfield; one daughter, Connie Green and her husband, Rob, of Fulton; one brother, Karl Myers and his wife, Pat, of Billings; one sister, Geneva Stephenson, of Monett; eight grandchildren, Christopher, Carrie, Adam, Jodi, Ronnie, Kia, Joshua and Gregory; and six great-grandchildren.

Ruby grew up and received her education in Purdy, graduating from Purdy High School in 1952. After her marriage to Calvin, they resided in Aurora. Some of her hobbies were yard work, gardening, tending her flowers, sewing, knitting and studying her Bible. She loved her weekly lunch outings with her sister, Geneva, and brother, Karl, when her health permitted. She also enjoyed taking road trips and singing gospel songs with Geneva. She attended the Marionville Church of the Nazarene for many years, loved her church family and studying her Sunday school lessons.  
Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday, January 28, 2022, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Reverend John Conn will conduct the services. Burial will be at Log Church Memorial Gardens in Butterfield.  
The family will receive friends from 1:00 until 2:00 P.M. Friday at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.  
Contributions may be made to Hospice Compassus in Columbia, Missouri in memory of Ruby.  
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The Family of

*Beth Garner*

would like to thank Todd McCoy and staff of Fohn Funeral Home who were so kind and supportive during this difficult time, Cassville United Methodist Church, Jerry Nickle and Jeff Fugitt for the service, Micah Boise and Drake Thomas for the music, Arkansas Nurses' Association Honor Guard for the memorial presentation, and to all who called, brought food, sent flowers, and shared memories.  
Your kindness was very much appreciated.

**Olivia Garner**  
**Patsy Garner, Billie and Cynthia Garner, Charles, Kimberly, Dorene, and Wesley Garner**

17pd

*McDowell Community Church*  
Non-Denominational Church

**Service Times:**  
Sunday School ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study/Youth ..... 7:00 p.m.

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Job 42:1-2**

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**FEB 3:** Roast turkey with gravy, sweet potato casserole, Italian veggies, hot roll, pumpkin cake

**FEB 4:** Chicken or beef tacos, Spanish rice, pico de gallo, chips, apple cinnamon ca

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**MARJORIE LOIS GATTEN**

Marjorie Lois Gatten, age 67, of Eagle Rock, passed away Saturday, January 22, 2022, at her home.

She was born November 16, 1954, in San Francisco, California, the daughter of Walter and Shirley (Donovan) Engle. On October 16, 1982, in Branson, she was united in marriage to Paul Gatten, who survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Christina Gatten, of Kansas City, and Venessa Richardson and her husband, Christopher, of Buckner; two brothers, Walter Engle, of Bakersfield, California, and Keith Engle, of Toledo, Oregon; and two grandchildren, Elvis Richardson and Lerran Richardson.

Preceding her in death were her parents; one brother, Christopher Engle; and one sister, Sue Ann Hagmann.

Marjorie graduated from Park Hill High School in Kansas City and later attended Park College in Parkville. After getting married and starting her family, she moved to this area in 2011. She loved to go eagle watching, going on car rides and reading. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Shell Knob.

Services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, January 27, 2022, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Shell Knob. Father William Hodgson will conduct the services.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 A.M. until service time Thursday at

Holy Family Catholic Church in Shell Knob.

Contributions may be made to Holy Family Catholic Church in memory of Marjorie.

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

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**CHARLES PRATT**

Charles Pratt, age 84, of Purdy, passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022, at Mercy Hospital in Cassville. Mr. Pratt, son of John Wesley and Ida Minnie (Jones) Pratt, was born on March 22, 1937, in Granby. He was drafted into the United States Army where he served his country proudly. On June 7, 1966, he was united in marriage to Charlett Terry in Grandview; she preceded him in death on November 14, 2014. Charles enjoyed hunting, fishing, and watching westerns.

Survivors include one daughter, Shelley Newby and her husband, Darwin, of Purdy; special family members, Terre and Vonda Brown, of Purdy; three brothers-in-law, Ronnie Smith and his wife, Laura, of Sarcoxie, Frank Smith and his wife, Jamie, of Cassville, and Fred Smith and his wife, Annette, of Wentworth; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, Charles was preceded in death by three brothers, Gerald Pratt, James Pratt, and Johnny Pratt; three

sisters, Martha Richardson, Geraldine Smith, and Pauline Caywood; one brother-in-law, Willard Terry; and one sister-in-law, Martha Guthrie.

No services are scheduled at this time.

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

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**JAMES "JIM" OPAL DOSSETT**

James "Jim" Opal Dossett, age 65, of Cassville, passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022, after battling a lengthy illness. Mr. Dossett, son of Bobby and Ester (Painter) Dossett, was born on January 3, 1957, in Terrell, Texas.

Mr. Dossett was a plumber by trade who owned and operated his own business for several years. He was an avid sportsman, enjoying trout fishing, archery and hunting. Jim even dabbled in photography, snapping pictures and documenting things for posterity sake.

Survivors include two sons, Terrell James Dossett, of Aurora, and Brent Matthew Dossett, of Seattle, Washington; one grandson, Mason James Dossett, of Aurora; one brother, Wesley Harrison, of Stockton; one sister, Bobby Branham, of Ridgley; and several nieces

and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Jim was preceded in death by one sister, Honey Marie Singletary.

No services are scheduled at this time. A private family burial will be held later this spring at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

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

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**MELISSA ANN BARNETT**

Melissa Ann Barnett, 50, of Washburn, passed away January 21, 2022, in Springfield.

She was born August 27, 1971, in Rogers, Arkansas, to Carl Wayne Rigsbee and Louise West Rigsbee. She married Curtis Barnett December 30, 1988. Melissa worked for Outdoor Cap as a machine operator for 13 years. She loved to play Bingo, the singer "Jelly Roll", was very outspoken, loved her grandkids, and family dinners. She is preceded in death by her father, Carl Wayne Rigsbee; in-laws, Martin Shaw Barnett and Betty Ellen Fortney Barnett; paternal grandparents, Logan and Louvina Rigsbee; maternal grandpa, Richard West; two sister-in-laws, Tracy Christine Elder and Terry Ann Skelton; and a nephew, Ethan Samuel Riggs.

Survivors are her husband of 33 years, Curtis Barnett, of the home; five children Amanda Barnett, of Siloam Springs, Ark., Jessica Halter, of Branson, Latasha Barnett, of Washburn, Curtis Barnett (Jessica), of Garfield, Ark., and Stormie Jett (Dalton), of Joplin; three sisters, Connie Easter (Terry), of Rogers, Ark., Dorothy Mack (Greg), of Rogers, Ark., and Judy Rigsbee, of Rogers, Ark.; eleven grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is set for 5:00 p.m. Thursday, February 3, 2022, at Christ of the World, 1221 E New Hope in Rogers, Ark. Arrangements are by Sisco Funeral Home in Pea Ridge.

Online condolences may be made at [siscofuneral-home.net](http://siscofuneral-home.net).



**KARLA SUE LAKEY**

Karla Sue Lakey, age 64, of Washburn, passed away at her home on Saturday, January 22, 2022. The daughter of Carl Shipley and Christine Naomie (Armstrong) Schell, Karla was born on November 1, 1957, in Springfield. She was a 1975 Washburn High School graduate. On December 7, 1973, Karla was united in marriage to Frederick Lakey and unto this union four children were born; he preceded her in death on March 4, 2009.

Karla had a huge heart and was a loving mother who always put her children first as well as many others. She liked to be on the go and lived her life to the fullest. Karla and her significant oth-

er, Joe, were inseparable and spent countless hours together making memories that would last a lifetime. Some of her favorite pastimes included going to the casino, enjoying the outdoors, and spending time with her family and friends. Karla will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

Survivors include her significant other, Joe Rivera, of Washburn; two daughters, Stacey Lakey, of Washburn, and Amanda Martinez and her husband, Ramon, of West Fork, Arkansas; ten grandchildren, Brittany Johnson, Nick Pirri, Eric Pirri, Marcus Lakey, Allison Serrano, Matthew Serrano, Cruz Marquez, Lucas Paulsen, Liliana Mosqueda, and Carly Martinez; five great-grandchildren; one brother, Carl Schell, Jr., of Cassville; two sisters, Coeta Stephens and Frankie Evans, both of Washburn; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Karla was preceded in death by two daughters, Angel Lakey and Heather Lakey; one great-granddaughter; one sister, Sandy Phillips; and one brother-in-law, Larry Stephens.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville, with Pastor Glenn Erwin officiating; cremation arrangements to follow. A private family burial will be held at Washburn Prairie at a later date.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

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

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Missouri Residents Spend the  
12th Least on Groceries

The current run of inflation in the U.S. economy is putting pressure on household finances nationwide. The second half of 2021 saw several consecutive months of higher than usual price increases, reaching an overall 6.8% rate of inflation from November 2020 to November 2021. Wages have also grown in recent months but not at a rate fast enough to keep up with inflation, which is squeezing families' budgets in key spending categories like housing, energy, transportation, and food.

Groceries are among the areas where inflation has challenged household spending this year. According to recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, food at home cost 6.4% more in 2021 than 2020, the highest year-over-year increase since the Great Recession. Prices for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs alone increased by 12.8% over that span.

Continued supply chain challenges are a primary driver of the recent price increases. Many suppliers and distributors have struggled with labor shortages and increased transportation costs, which has made it more challenging to get food products on grocery store shelves. Inconsistent supply has meant greater costs for stores and ultimately for consumers, and as current conditions persist into 2022, a scarcity of certain products could continue to push prices higher.

Inflation in the cost of groceries has been especially challenging for U.S. households because consumers have also been buying more groceries in general during the COVID-19 pandemic. With more establishments closed or operating at limited capacity due to the pandemic, consumers were more likely to eat at home. As a result, spending on groceries increased by 11.2% in 2020 while food services and accommodations saw a 20.5% drop. Because food is a necessity, households were unable to avoid this increase in spending, in contrast to other categories like transportation services and energy that have seen large price increases during the pandemic but also significant drops in consumer expenditures.

Spending on groceries does vary from location to location. Different regions may have greater costs for food supply and distribution, real estate, or labor that grocers pass on to consumers. In dollars per capita, residents of New England—which is not a major agricultural producer and has high costs—lead all regions in grocery spending at \$4,061. But as a percentage of total consumer spending, the Southeast (8.7%), Rocky Mountain (8.6%), and Southwest (8.3%) have the highest levels of spending on groceries, which in part reflects lower incomes in these regions. Many of the states where residents spend the most on groceries are found in these regions as a result.

The data used in this analysis is from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. To determine the states where residents are spending the most on groceries, researchers at Filterbuy calculated annual grocery spending as a share of total spending for U.S. households. In the event of a tie, the state with the higher per capita annual grocery spending was ranked higher.

The analysis found that per capita annual grocery spending in Missouri amounts to \$3,136, compared to the national average of \$3,480. Missouri residents allocate 7.8% of all household spending on groceries. Out of all U.S. states, residents of Missouri spend the 12th least on groceries. Here is a summary of the data for Missouri:

Grocery spending as a share of total: 7.8%

Per capita annual grocery spending: \$3,136

Per capita annual total spending: \$39,999

Percentage change in grocery spending (2019–2020): +10.2%

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

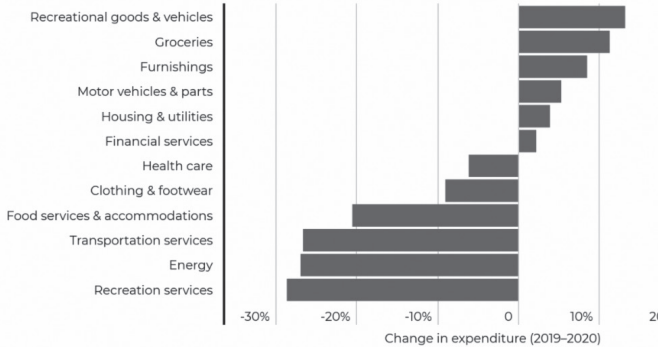
Grocery spending as a share of total: 8.2%

Per capita annual grocery spending: \$3,480

Per capita annual total spending: \$42,635

Percentage change in grocery spending (2019–2020): +11.2%

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on Filterbuy's website: <https://filterbuy.com/resources/cost-of-groceries-by-state/>



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis's Personal Consumption Expenditures

Spending on recreational goods, groceries & home furnishings spiked during 2020.

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**FRANCIS “LEON” HILTON**  
Francis “Leon” Hilton passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

**DONNA LOUISE GADBERRY**  
Donna Louise Gadberry, 87, of Athens, Alabama, passed away on Monday

**OBITUARIES**  
morning, January 10, 2022. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.



Debra Blankenship and her husband, Pat, of Jenkins; one stepdaughter, Rebecca Sherman, of Holiday Island, Arkansas; one brother, Gerald Adams, of Kernville, California; eighteen grandchildren; twenty-six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Neoma moved from Oklahoma to California at a young age, moving to this area in 1966. She was employed by Laz-Boy in Neosho and later by FASCO Industries in Cassville. She enjoyed being a homemaker and spending time with her family. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Exeter.

in Exeter in memory of Neoma.

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

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME**  
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16-21c

**NEOMA RUTH (BITTLE) SHERMAN**  
Neoma Ruth (Bittle) Sherman, age 89, of Exeter, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022, at Cassville Health-care and Rehabilitation in Cassville.

She was born March 25, 1932, at Wewoka, Oklahoma,

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Surviving are three sons, Richard Bittle and his wife, Diane, of Reeds Spring, Ronnie Bittle and his wife, Jayne, of Neosho, and Lyle Bittle, of Exeter; two daughters, Phyllis Easley and her husband, Edwin, of Cassville, and

Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Pastor Jerry Yarnall will conduct the services. Burial will be at Maplewood Cemetery in Exeter.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 A.M. until service time at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

Contributions may be made to First Baptist Church

**JOYCELENE ALICIA “LISA” SWIGER**  
Joycelene Alicia “Lisa” Swiger, age 63, of Shell Knob, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022, at Mercy Hospital Springfield in Springfield.

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

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

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**Monday, Feb. 7, 2022 • 10:00 AM**  
**LOCATION:** Cassville, MO. From Cassville, go south on Hwy. 76, 2 miles then continue on Hwy. 112 south 2 miles. Turn west on Hwy. AA, auction on left. (13587 State Hwy. AA, Cassville, MO)  
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**Estate of John “Bo” James**



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