

Upcoming.....4A	Classified.....12-13A	SKITS seeking actors 5A • From Farm to Forest 6A
Obits..... 10-11A	Auctions.....14A	

## County Commission holds 2023 budget hearing

*Adriana Keeton*

The Barry County Commission held its 2023 budget hearing on Thursday, January 19. Those present during the hearing were Presiding Commissioner Steve Blankenship, Northern Commissioner Gary Schad, Southern Commissioner Gene Roberts, County Clerk Joyce Ennis, Deputy Clerk Kimi Deal, Barry County Sheriff Danny Boyd, Barry County Treasurer Gretta Tripp, Recorder of Deeds Danielle Still, County Collector Skyler Bowman, Public Administrator Sam Madsen, and Barry County Assessor Sherry Smith.

The Barry County Commission proposed a budget of \$5,607,607.44 for 2023 with an estimated revenue projection of \$5,710,275.00 plus \$2,981,466.43 carried over from 2022, giving a total appropriation of \$8,691,741.43. The estimated revenue breakdown is \$4,100,000.00 in sales tax, \$825,775.00 in fees for service, and \$784,500.00 in other revenues.

The commission approved an 8% COLA for county employees and a 2% COLA for office holders.

With the passing of the 1/2 cent Law Enforcement Tax Sheriff and Jail, costs are no longer taken from the general revenue funds. The Barry County Commission proposes a budget of \$2,739,170.00 for 2023 with an estimated revenue projection of \$2,752,500.00, plus \$213,370.80 carried over from 2022, giving a total appropriation of \$2,965,870.80.

According to County Commission Clerk Joyce Ennis, some funds from the capital projects, which is the largest approved allocation with \$2,010,000.00 of the general revenue, will be used to make repairs to the Records office and the Extension office from water damage sustained last year and to fix lighting in the south hall of the Courthouse.

The prosecuting attorney's office will see an appropriation increase this year, with an approved budget of \$494,735.67. According to Ennis, additional funding for the prosecutor's office will be used to add an assistant prosecuting attorney.

## Fire damages Cub Cafe in Monett



Just before 6 a.m. on Thursday, January 19, Monett Rural Fire District was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at the Cubs Cafe on Highway 37, south of Monett. Monett Rural responded with E-1211 & E-1231 with seven personnel. Auto aid from Monett City Fire Department with E-1121 with four personnel and Purdy Fire E-11 with four personnel.

Upon arrival, the crews had flames coming through the vent system on the rear of the structure. Flames were also visible through the front of the building from the kitchen area.

At that time crews made an interior attack through the front of the building to knock down the flames. A second crew went to the roof to attack the fire coming from the vent system. The fire was contained within 30 minutes of the first arriving units.

The majority of the damage was contained to the kitchen area of the building. Photo: Monett Rural Fire District

## Cox Monett Hospital appoints new nursing leader



*Heidi Clark is the new Administrative DON at Cox Monett.*

Heidi Clark, a seasoned nursing executive, has been named the new administrative director of nursing at Cox Monett Hospital.

Clark, who has been employed with CoxHealth for 18 years, began her career in Monett as a house supervisor and was later named nursing manager of the emergency department.

Clark agreed to take the top nursing position at Cox Barton County Hospital in Lamar in 2021. She returned to Cox Monett in the fall of last year to serve as the facility's interim nursing director.

"We are excited that Heidi has brought her passion for quality rural health care home," says Andrea McKay, president of Cox Monett. "She is a dynamic leader who excels at building relationships and fostering a culture of clinical excellence to ensure safe, patient-centered care continues to be delivered at one of the best critical access hospitals in the nation."

Clark will be responsible for the leadership of all nursing functions across the hospital.

Last year, Cox Monett received a 5-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This is the highest possible achievement in CMS's overall quality ratings. This rating put Cox Monett among the top performers of the 4,500 hospitals surveyed nationwide.

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# Central Crossing FPD releases 2022 call report

According to Central Crossing Fire Protection District's 2022 call report, the year ended with 978 calls for service within the district.

This represents about a 14% increase versus last year. 56% of the incidents (549) were rescue and medical related; 27% (263) were good intent calls to include controlled burns, smoke detectors & such; 7% (69) were actual working fires to include structure and brush type fires; 5% (50) were hazardous condition incidents with no fire; 3% (27) of the calls were service calls; and 2% (18) were false alarms & false calls.

July was the busiest month with 107 calls. The busiest time of the day for emergency incidents is between 9-10 a.m., with 67% of our calls happening during the daytime hours. 40% of our calls in 2022 overlapped with sometimes three or four incidents occurring at the same time.

## Letter to the Editor

This letter is in response to David Luebbering from last week regarding the lack of action or accountability from our county prosecutor, Amy Boxx. I will never in my life forget the three brutally slain dogs back in March of 2018 which belonged to the Johnson family in Eagle

Rock. They were tortured and killed through gunfire, allegedly by a neighbor. It was also said to be witnessed by another neighbor. Not only were these Johnson's family pets, but they were also their personal property. Charges were filed by our (then) Sheriff Davis and ignored by Boxx. She refused to speak to the family but was under continued pressure, and after a month, she finally made a statement, but no charges.

The voters in our county must be quite pleased with the repeated and growing crime in our county, many times by the same persons. I say this because she continues to be voted for - unopposed - by a landslide. As long as the voters continue to do this, it will continue to signal to anyone in the county who might be interested in unseating her that the voters do approve of her job performance. The same logic goes for all the other county offices' that go unopposed each election cycle, but the voters overwhelmingly vote "yes" to each one. But don't feel alone, David. I, too, am having a similar problem with our district representative, Scott Cupps. He made a

statement to a group of people, including myself, that he would not approve any funding for Governor Parsons' vaccination lottery. I have reached out to him through e-mail three times now regarding that funding and got no response the first time. The second attempt yielded a promise that he would be informed of my question, and this last time I was ignored again. I am still looking for a response from him. After all, he was reelected this last November - unopposed - with 453 more votes than Ms. Boxx.

Titus Trotter  
 Rural Cassville

# Cassville Fire holds annual appreciation dinner



Shown above, left to right, are firefighter Devin Smith, Mercy EMS Supervisor Valerie Wilson, Fire Chief Millard Andrews and Training Officer Travis Littler. Captain Brad Harvey and Firefighter Kory Harvey are absent from the photo. Photo courtesy of Cassville Fire Protection District.

Cassville Fire Protection District held their annual appreciation dinner on the evening of January 20.

In 2022, Cassville firefighters responded to 45 structure fires, eleven vehicle fires, 33 brush/grass fires, 78 motor vehicle accidents (three requiring patients to be cut from the vehicle) along with various other calls for service.

One of the calls responded to was a cardiac arrest that resulted in the patient getting pulse back and was able to walk out of the hospital a short time later.

Captain Brad Harvey, Training Officer Travis Littler, Firefighter Kory Harvey, and Firefighter Devin Smith were recognized with a Zoll Clinical Save Award presented by Mercy Emergency Medical Services. Quick actions by both Cassville Missouri Police Department and Cassville fire first responders allowed for quick CPR and quick defibrillation, resulting in saving a life.

Dinner for the evening was catered by Prime Cut, in Monett, and games and activities were played.

**Disclaimer:**

The editor of the Barry County Advertiser reserves the right to edit or withhold from publication any letter for any reason whatsoever. Letters to the Editor reflect the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the Barry County Advertiser or its staff. Email your letters to [editor@4bca.com](mailto:editor@4bca.com). Please limit your submission to 400 words or less and include your city and a phone number with your submission.



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# Community Calendar

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

## Notice:

**Sherry L. Smith Barry County Assessor has announced that the 2023 Personal Property and Business Assessment lists were mailed out on January 4, 2023.** If you received an assessment list, but have not yet either filed online using the “Online Filing Pin Number”, displayed on the list, or filled it out and returned it by mail or in person, please do so immediately to avoid a late assessment penalty. If you owned personal property or business equipment on January 1, 2023, and did not receive an assessment list, or you are a new resident to Barry County, please call the Assessor’s Personal Property office immediately at 417-847-2613, to request assistance in being properly assessed. You can assess online, directly over the telephone with one of the office staff, or feel free to drop by the personal property office to assess in person. All personal and business equipment assessment lists must be postmarked by March 31, 2023, to avoid a late assessment penalty.

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

**Farm Road 1162 off of F Highway will be closed until further notice for bridge repairs.**

**OATS Transit** offers regular transportation services for the rural general public of any age, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Please call the local OATS Transit office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287 to schedule a ride or find out about services in your area. You can also visit our website at oatstransit.org 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.

**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.

**Harvick Farms** nursery of Cassville offers free gardening classes to the public. For information about upcoming classes, visit [www.harvickfarms.com](http://www.harvickfarms.com) or their retail location near the Barry County Museum.

**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.

**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 Mitchell Plaza and across from the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

**The Wheaton Depot Museum** 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).

**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.

**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.

**Soil samples** 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 by cash or personal check. No credit or debit cards accepted. Contact the Extension Office at (417) 847-3161 with any questions.

## Friday, January 27

**Music** will be held at the Clio Community Building located on Hwy. 39, south of Jct. 248, beginning at 6 P.M.

## Saturday, January 28

**Firehouse Fundraiser Breakfast** will be served from 7 to 10 A.M. at the Eagle Rock, Golden, Mano Station, 30625 Hwy. 86. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 under 10. All proceeds benefit the station and the efforts of our volunteer firefighters. This event can be enjoyed the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month.

**School Menus: Jan. 30-Feb. 3**  
*All meals served with milk and subject to change.*  
**Cassville R-IV High School: Mon: B:** biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, go-gurt, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, pineapple. **L:** burrito or hot dog, nachos, salad, carrots, apple. **Tues: B:** biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, hashbrown, applesauce or cereal, cinnamon toast, orange. **L:** chicken & noodles or country steak, potatoes, broccoli & cheese, juice. **Wed: B:** biscuit & gravy or oatmeal/toast, yogurt cup, mandarin oranges or cereal, Pop-tart, orange. **L:** soft taco or pizza, salad, corn, applesauce. **Thurs: B:** biscuit & gravy or nuggets, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, Nutri-grain bar, pears. **L:** general chicken or chicken nuggets, rice, glazed carrots, fortune cookie, pineapple. **Fri: B:** biscuit & gravy or cinnamon bun, go-gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, banana muffin, applesauce. **L:** meatball sub or pork patty, Sun Chips, broccoli, fruit cocktail.  
**Cassville R-IV Pri. Int. Mid.: Mon: B:** biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, go-gurt, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. **L:** grilled cheese or turkey sandwich, Sun Chips, carrot sticks, applesauce. **Tues: B:** biscuit & gravy or breakfast burrito, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, toast, peaches. **L:** tangerine chicken or chicken nuggets, rice, green beans, fortune cookie, pineapple. **Wed: B:** biscuit & gravy or scrambled eggs, hashbrown/toast, pears or cereal, granola bar, applesauce. **L:** soft taco or crispito, corn, salad, cookie, pears. **Thurs: B:** biscuit & gravy or pancake on stick, go-gurt, fruit cocktail or cereal, blueberry muffin, orange. **L:** nacho supreme or quesadilla, mixed vegetables, refried beans, juice. **Fri: B:** biscuit & gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, Rice Krispy treat, apple. **L:** chicken sandwich or burrito, nachos, broccoli, applesauce.  
**Purdy R-II Schools: Mon: B:** scrambled eggs, toast, fruit. **L:** cashew chicken, rice, broccoli & cauliflower, fruit. **Tues: B:** wg biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. **L:** chili, crackers, cheese stick, fruit. **Wed: B:** not available. **L:** not available. **Thurs: B:** not available. **L:** not available. **Fri: B:** not available. **L:** not available.

## OATS Transit Southwest Region Announce Fare Increase

OATS Transit’s Southwest Region is announcing a fare increase that will take effect in February 2023 as part of its efforts to help offset increased operating cost. The fares are necessary to maintain current levels of service and will directly impact the company’s operating budget. The new fares will be as follows:

- New Fares (one-way)
- In-town: \$2.00
  - In-county: \$3.00
  - Adjacent County: \$4.00
  - Long-Distance (3 or more counties): \$6.00
  - En-route stop: \$1.00 each stop
- Seniors age 60+ and individuals with disabilities age 18-59 riding under AAA contract do not have a set fare, but are asked to contribute a minimum amount for their rides.
- The increases will affect the counties of Barry, Barton, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Ozark, Polk, Stone, Taney, Webster, and Wright Counties. Schedules are located online at [www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org); click on the bus schedules tab, then the county you live in. Area residents wanting to schedule rides should call the local office at 417-887-9272 or 800-770-6287.

Starting in February, Southwest Region drivers will no longer handle cash payments from riders. Instead, riders can add funds to their account in advance, and fares will be withdrawn each time a rider rides. Riders can call 888-975-6287 to add funds to their account, which requires a minimum of \$10 each time. Riders can also send personal check, money order, or cashier’s check prior to riding the bus by mail to: OATS Transit, 2909 N. Martin Ave, Springfield, MO 65803.

OATS, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit corporation providing specialized transportation for rural residents of any age, seniors and individuals with disabilities in 87 Missouri counties. OATS Transit is the largest and most unique transportation provider of its kind in the country. For more information about OATS Transit, please visit [www.oatstransit.org](http://www.oatstransit.org), and follow us at [www.facebook.com/oatstransit](https://www.facebook.com/oatstransit).

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Cassville Chamber holds ribbon cutting



The Cassville Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at 417 Aesthetics Botox and Beyond Medical Spa on Thursday, January 19. Shown above are owners Kaleigh and TJ Simmons with friends and Cassville Chamber members.

SKITS seeking actors for Spring play

Craig Burford  
 The SKITS (Shell Knob In The Spotlight) community theater group announces auditions for the spring play "Mission Possible" on February 11 at the Shell Knob Community Senior Center at 10 a.m. This hysterical play continues the tradition of classic comedy presentations with a funny and captivating spoof on all our favorite television and film spies. Engaging characters such as agent Maxwell Sharpe, the girl from A.U.N.T, agent 98.6, and the debonaire James Blonde are just a few of the 21 roles needed for this ambitiously funny "in-spy-ring" stage production. In addition to some of the major roles, there are numerous more minor and intermediate roles that are available to virtually every actor, from the newbie to the more experienced performer. As always, SKITS is pleased to have new people try out for our presentations. And with so many roles available, we encourage everyone to come to our auditions. Experience is not necessary, just the desire to have fun, performing for the enjoyment of our audience. So do not hesitate! Your mission, should you undertake it, is to make the polar plunge and come to the auditions. Again, auditions for the SKITS spring play "Mission Possible" is Saturday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the Shell Knob Senior Center at 15YY. The show dates are April 28-30. If you need more information or would like to audition but require a different time, please call Cade Keeton, our director, at 903-818-5318. For more information on SKITS visit https://shellknobspotlight.com/home

Friends of the NRA hosting event in Monett

Adriana Keeton  
 The local chapter of The Friends of the NRA will be holding a fundraiser event at the Casino in the Park, Monett, on Saturday, February 18, beginning at 5 p.m. The fundraiser event will include a prime rib dinner with chances to win guns and gun-related items. Gun raffles will consist of fifteen 20/30 drawings that are all guns. A 20/30 drawing will sell 30 tickets for \$20.00 each, and once the 30 tickets are sold, there will be a drawing, and those 30 will get a chance to pick one gun out of the remaining ones. There will also be different table raffles, a silent auctions and the event will conclude with a live auction. The Friends of the NRA is a separate entity from the NRA. They provide local events where the money raised stays local to provide grants to schools and local organizations that give shooting education, safety training, and money for resources for schools to prevent shootings. This year, they will select grants for more than six local schools and organizations on January 28 and many more across the state. For more information on this event, visit https://www.friendsofnra.org/events/event-details?eventId=59560 or www.friendsofthenra.org.
 Use Cassville Masonic Lodge 18th & Main St. for your next meeting or event. For availability and fees Contact: Kevin Lingle 417-846-6709

Absentee voting to begin February 21

Voting will begin Tuesday, February 21, 2023 for April General Municipal elections.
 • Are you registered to vote in Barry County?
 • Last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 8, 2023 for those who are not current registered voters of Barry County and who wish to vote in the April 4, 2023, General Municipal Election.
 • You may register to vote at the County Clerk's Office; the Monett Chamber of Commerce; or the Shell Knob Chamber of Commerce.
 • Please notify us if you have moved and have not updated your address or had a name change.
 • Photo ID required to vote in April General Municipal Election.
 • Absentee voting starts Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Barry County Clerk's Office in Cassville, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 • Two (2) week in-person, no excuse absentee voting begins Tuesday, March 21, 2023.
 • If unable to vote in person, you may send a written request to the office of: Joyce Ennis, 700 Main St. Suite 2, Cassville, MO 65625 or fax to: 417-847-5311. We will need: name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, last four (4) digits of social security number, phone number, reason for voting absentee, and signature. If you live in the Shell Knob or Monett area, you can go by the Shell Knob Chamber or Monett Chamber Office and fill out the absentee application. They will fax it to the Barry County Clerk's office for you. Absentee applications are also available at sos.mo.gov. For more information call: the Barry County Clerk's Office at 417-847-2561 opt: 3 or email jennis@barrycountyclerk.com or ajohnson@barry-countyclerk.com

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Liberty Thought of the Week

From Farm to Forest: the Story of An American Tree-Lover

*Paul Hamby*

How easy should it be to change the Missouri constitution?

Ballot measures that passed have a mixed history. Some were good and some were very bad with unintended consequences. Ballot measures are direct democracy where the people vote to change our laws.

In 2022, Amendment 3 added 39 new pages into the Missouri constitution to legalize marijuana. Amendment 3 was a very poorly written bill. Now our state and county courts have to try to interpret vague or completely missing language on how to handle releasing citizens with marijuana convictions. The problem with a constitutional amendment like Amendment 3 is that most voters made a decision based on biased or misleading ads and one short paragraph on the ballot. Thirty nine pages of legalese summarized in one paragraph!

"Setting aside whether you were in favor or opposed to recreational marijuana legalization, Amendment 3 is bad policy," State Rep John Voss said. "Because the amendment changes the Missouri constitution."

Rep. Jamie Burger echoed Voss' views. "It's virtually impossible to change this now that it's part of the (state

constitution," said Burger, saying Amendment 3 represents policy that should have been addressed by state legislators. (Voss and Burger quoted from SE Missourian Newspaper)

Missouri is a Representative Republic, we elect representatives and senators to deal with difficult and complicated issues.

Amendment 3 passed with the majority of votes cast in only 16 political subdivisions (a small percent of the 114 counties or 163 house districts) The new laws, taxes and mandates were added to our Missouri constitution - untouchable by legislators.

More than 100 amendments have been added to our constitution since its adoption in 1945.

"I think much of the constitutional initiative petition is abused by out-of-state money investors where people have no economic ties to Missouri, or they don't live here, or their families aren't here," Missouri House Speaker Dean Plocher said. "I think Missouri voters need to have more transparency about what is being brought to them when they vote for it in the constitution." (AP)

How do we establish a fair standard for adopting changes to the Missouri Constitution – one that retains the people's ability to

rein in government -- while also preventing the Constitution from being a dumping ground for special interests?

One solution would be to add a provision to the current requirement for a simple majority vote for a ballot question for a constitutional amendment. Using the Missouri House as an example, since 82 state reps (of 163) must approve a bill in the legislature, adding the requirement of a concurrent majority of House districts to the already simple majority vote would ensure that a true majority of the state's interest is achieved. That is called Concurrent Majority Ratification (CMR).

CMR would require that two conditions be met before a proposed amendment is ratified or adopted: (1) a 50% + 1 vote statewide (2) a majority in at least 82 Missouri House districts.

Under CMR, the 2010 puppy mill bill would have failed, the 2022 Amendment 3 legalizing marijuana would have failed, but the 1992 term limits bill for Missouri legislators would still have passed. It's a higher standard that is fair. Missouri HJR 30, sponsored by state rep Ed Lewis of Moberly and SJR33 from Senator Mike Moon puts CMR on the ballot for voters to decide. HJR30 is in committee this week in Jefferson City. You can read the bills and contact your legislators at [house.mo.gov](http://house.mo.gov). or [senate.mo.gov](http://senate.mo.gov)

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*Our mailing address is: Liberty Thought of the Week*

*2402 SW Waterstreet rd*

*Maysville, MO 64469*



Barry County native Scott Leaman (above, left) has been named 2023 Kansas NWTF Conservation Officer of the Year.

*Ezra DeVore*

Though now overseeing the southeast corner of Kansas as a Game Warden, Scott Leaman was raised in Jenkins.

"I see myself as carrying on a tradition," he says. "My dad and I hunted and fished together, and I get to see that same bonding in other families."

Officer Leaman acts as law enforcement of government-protected land, protecting it in the past from many cases of illegal hunting and harvesting.

Leaman's love of nature began early in life - spending much of his childhood and teenage years canoeing Flat Creek with friends or enjoying the Barry County outdoors. Growing up on a farm near Jenkins also instilled a general reverence for the out-

doors and wildlife. In school, officers from Roaring River would host school programs on nature and conservation's value, which interested the young Scott Leaman greatly. "I thought it would be a good job," he says.

Leaman graduated from Cassville High School in 1989 and worked at Justin Boots in Cassville for several years. During this time, Leaman earned a two-year degree in Environmental Science from the Neosho Crowder campus.

He says his father's career as a factory worker taught him great respect for his father's job and other production work, though when his father advised Scott to pursue his own dreams, he felt a strong sense to do so. Leaman quit his job to attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, earning a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology. "I wanted to move to the mountains," he laughed, "and I knew they had a top-notch

resource degree program at Colorado State."

Leaman says he chose his line of work carefully, following his passions. "Law enforcement has always been important to me, so now I can do law enforcement and protect nature."

Leaman worked as a park ranger for the state of Colorado for some time but always hoped to return close to home. At the time of his graduation, Missouri was not hiring professionals in his field, leading Leaman to apply for his current location in Riverton, Kansas, and get the position.

"My greatest reward is protecting the natural resources and our hunting and fishing heritage," he concludes.

Leaman has worked with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for sixteen years and has been honored by the National Wild Turkey Federation as Conservation Officer of the Year for 2023.

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# Haven of the Ozarks: Pet of the Week



Meet Brodi, the Haven of the Ozarks Pet of the Week! Brodi is a sweet and handsome boy. He might be a little shy at first but once he gets to know you and make friends he loves to cuddle and be pet. Brodi is about 65lbs and a husky mix who came to us as a stray six months ago. He enjoys going out on his regular walks with the volunteers. He would do best having a meet and greet with any future pets and would ideally be in a home with older children that can be patient with him while he adjusts. We're open 9-4 every day or call 417-835-3647 for more information.

# 94th annual Soils and Crops Conference

Livestock producers can learn about three important agricultural topics at the 94th annual Barry County Soils and Crops Conference, 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, in Cassville. University of Missouri Extension agricultural business specialist Jennifer Lutes will present an economic overview of multi-species grazing. Drought-induced pasture reset will be taught by MU Extension agronomist Tim Schnakenberg. MU Extension ag business specialist Wes Tucker will explain how current land values affect succession plans and fairness among heirs. "This long-running conference continues to equip livestock producers to better manage their operations and provide quality meat products for consumers," Schnakenberg said. The event, at First Christian Church, 905 Old Exeter Road, will start with a catered meal by John Sullivan. For details and registration, visit [www.cvent.com/d/vlq27n/4W](http://www.cvent.com/d/vlq27n/4W) or call 417-847-3161.

# Stock Market Insights

By Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®  
<https://www.facebook.com/Dr.RichardBaker>  
 Founder & Executive Wealth Advisor at Steadfast Wealth Management

**Overdone**  
 I'm not saying my wife was a bad cook when we first married, but I am still gun-shy about ordering blackened chicken. She's a great cook now, but in 1996 we became very familiar with the word "overdone."  
 The earnings reporting season has begun; this is when publicly traded companies report their earnings over the last three months. Analysts aren't expecting a lot of good news this time, but I wonder if the pessimism about 2023 earnings is overdone.  
 Companies are still struggling with slower global growth, increased expenses from inflation (bought any eggs lately?), ongoing supply chain issues, a too-strong U.S. dollar, the Ukraine war, and China being China. These things are the reasons analysts are pessimistic about the 2023 earnings.  
 LPL Research thinks this year's earnings won't be as terrible as many predict. Here are some reasons why they believe it might not be as drastic as some fear:  
 • China's reopening will help fix the supply chain shortening the time to ship products to stores.  
 • Companies have had plenty of time to prepare if a recession happens this year.  
 • Business expenses are improving due to decreasing energy prices and slowing wage increases.

Hopefully, they are right, and market negativity is overdone. If so, earnings over the next year will beat the pessimistic forecasts making for a good year for stocks by year-end.  
 With my wife's cooking, I learned quickly to keep my opinions to myself and let the situation work itself out, which it did. I think the same is true for earnings this year. But, again, the situation will work itself out. These companies are smart and have a lot of time to prepare.  
 Have a blessed week!  
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# Ray family announce 100th birthday celebration



Tessie (Reed) Ray, of Cato, will celebrate her 100th birthday with family and friends on Saturday, January 28, from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Barn at Bear Ridge, 24074 State Highway 76, just east of Cassville.  
 Tessie was born in January 1923, one of nine children: three brothers and five sisters. She has lived in the Barry County area all of her 100 years.  
 Tessie is blessed with ten children, 19 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, who visit her often and love her dearly.  
 Tessie married the late Lavern Ray on May 24, 1941. They were married for 74 years, most of which was spent on the farm they purchased in 1952.  
 The family invites those who know and love Tessie to celebrate this incredible milestone in her life for being a wonderful mother and grandmother and for the love she has given to her family and many others through the years.

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## MSU releases Fall 2022 Dean’s List

Each semester, students at Missouri State University who attain academic excellence are named to the dean's list.

For undergraduate students, criteria include enrollment in at least 12 credit hours during the fall semester and at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.00 scale).

More than 5,000 students were named to the fall 2022 dean's list. These local students made the list:

Stephanie Alejo, Monett  
Ashley Batson, Monett  
Gabrielle Boettler, Verona  
Matthew Bonass, Shell Knob  
Jayden Bowman, Cassville  
Jarrett Brattin, Exeter  
Calista Burns, Exeter  
Sarah Burton, Exeter  
Christian Canales, Monett  
Josilyne Creason, Cassville  
Karmen DePriest, Monett  
Carmen Fillinger, Monett  
Michael Foster, Purdy  
Selena Hang, Purdy  
Clara Hermansen, Cassville  
Cole Jackson, Cassville  
Rachel Lacey, Exeter  
Clara Lindsay, Monett  
Christina Marlowe, Cass-

ville  
Melissa Martinez, Cassville  
Natalie McNeill, Cassville  
Marcia Morgan, Cassville  
Lindsey Murphy, Verona  
Shayne Peters, Golden  
Adrian Pham, Monett  
Andy Pham, Monett  
Chloe Roller, Cassville  
Luis Salas, Monett  
Makenzie Stephens, Exeter  
Caleb Tucker, Exeter  
Cameron Weston, Exeter  
Josh Wilkins, Cassville  
Celeste Wilmot, Cassville  
Grace Wormington, Monett  
England Yarbrow, Monett  
Hallie Fratus, Cassville  
Alyson Massardo, Monett  
Gavin Moore, Cassville  
Kyle Pham, Monett  
Ashlyn Pulliam, Washburn  
Amy Reeves, Washburn  
Brenna Watson, Monett  
Stefy Avila, Aurora  
Carson Barr, Aurora  
Betime Begzati, Aurora  
Race Bremer, Monett  
Ian Brown, Verona  
Addy Burton, Monett  
Rachel Callison, Verona  
Sam Cope, Verona  
Kensie Darst, Aurora  
Brysten Duncan, Pierce City

Andrew Edwards, Aurora  
Kaylin Francisco, Aurora  
Mackenzie Funcannon, Aurora  
Megan Gearhart, Verona  
Bella Gertiser, Verona  
Garrett Gunter, Monett  
Blake Hamelink, Aurora  
April Head, Aurora  
Samantha Holt, Monett  
Bella Maggio, Aurora  
Erin McCaffrey, Monett  
Alexis McCaslin, Aurora  
Emily Moore, Aurora  
Michael Myers, Monett  
Riley Pope, Aurora  
Joseph Rickman, Aurora  
Caitlin Roberts, Aurora  
Kailey Ryan, Aurora  
Leslie Salas, Aurora  
Luke Shoemaker, Verona  
Shubu Shrestha, Monett  
Maddy Swearingen, Aurora  
Melissa Tate, Aurora  
Benjamin Verstraete, Monett  
Makenna Besett, Aurora  
Arti Osmani, Aurora  
Alex Phelps, Aurora  
Chloe Swadley, Aurora  
Bucky Harrell, Rocky Comfort  
Charles Moore, Rocky Comfort  
Khloee Lathrum, Shell Knob

## Cassville Intermediate December students of the month

Character word: Determination



Third grade students, shown above, front row, left to right, are Jensen Nichols, Bently Barber, Holden Kelley, Landon Edwards, Shalee Lowe and Anna Adams; back row, left to right, are Elizabeth Whitesides, Kaizen Haney, Paityn Mildfeldt, Maggie Miller, Luke Darbro, Anderson Vinson-Davis, Dalayne Magat and Noah Persons. Harper Hollingsworth is absent from the photo.



Fourth grade students, shown above, front row, left to right, are Colton Johnson, Liam Adams, Emily Smith, Sunny Burns, Easton Glidewell, Bill Davis and Kayriah Cloud; back row, left to right, are Brantley Robbins, Jackson Trent, Isabell Huffman, Jackson Freeman, Gunnar Remenar, Alyssa Cotton, Mason Stanley and Madelyn Phillips.



Fifth grade students, shown above, front row, left to right, are Ben Stanley, Liam Harvey, Jakobey Wilerbruier, Lynkin Carter, Jolene Stone and Garrett Matthew; back row, left to right, are Alex Chase, Jackson Mitchell, Rozalynn Lingo, Chloe Gaches, Garron Tanner, Kobhe Ware, Lola Clark, Preston Krull and Miles Connolley. Kylie Strahan, Ryan Meredith and Charles Parker are absent from the photo.

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# CHS announces Tip-Off Candidates



Shown above, front row, left to right, are freshman candidate Emma Pryor; senior candidates Annie Moore, Kristen Stough and Marianne McCrackin; junior candidate Emerson Grossman; and sophomore candidate Monica Houskeeper. Back row, left to right, are freshman candidate Tyson Bohmke; senior candidates Keaton Shellenberger, Peter Littlefield and Caleb Leach; and Sophomore candidate Dustin Simon. Junior candidate Cosmo Rhoads is absent from the photo.

Cassville High School has announced their 2023 Tip-off candidates. The Tip-off and Winter Sports assembly will be held in the high school gym on January 31 at 2 p.m. Tip-off King and Queen will be crowned prior to the Varsity basketball game on January 31.

Freshman candidate Emma Pryor is the daughter of Shawn and Emily Pryor, of Cassville. She is involved in volleyball, FCA, FFA and club volleyball. Freshman candidate Tyson Bohmke is the son of Eric and Tiffany Bohmke, of Cassville. He is involved in FCA, FCCLA, FFA, football, basketball, baseball, pickle ball and New Site Baptist Church.

Sophomore candidate Monica Housekeeper is the daughter of Ted Housekeeper. She is involved in Band and JAG. Sophomore candidate Dustin Simon is the son of Amanda Simon, of Monett. He is involved in TSA/ESports.

Junior candidate Emerson Grossman is the daughter of Randy and Melanie Grossman, of Cassville. She is involved in FBLA, Interact Club, Student Council, volleyball and soccer. Junior candidate Cosmo Rhoads is the son of Dustin Rhoads, of Cassville. He is involved in FBLA, Student Council, Interact Club, soccer and basketball.

Senior candidate Marianne McCrackin is the daughter of Jennifer and Todd McCrackin, of Cassville. She is involved in FBLA, NHS, Student Council, basketball and track and field. Senior candidate Annie Moore is the daughter of Kerry and Donna Moore, of Cassville. She is involved in FCCLA, FBLA, FCA, NHS, Speech and Debate, track, soccer, wrestling and cross country. Senior candidate Kristen Stough is the daughter of Kandice and Joel Stough, of Cassville. She is involved in band, SADD, FCCLA, volleyball and NSHSS. Senior candidate Keaton Shellenberger is the son of Kelly and Shellenberger and Josh Beeson, of Cassville. He is involved in football, baseball, track, FBLA, FCCLA and NHS. Senior candidate Peter Littlefield is the son of John and Sheila Littlefield, of Exeter. He is involved in FFA, Interact Club, SADD, NHS, Soccer, football, basketball and track. Senior candidate Caleb Leach is the son of Brian and Christina Leach, of Cassville. He is involved in cross country, basketball, track and field, FFA, NHS, Student Council and FBLA.

# Crowder Fall 2022 Dean's list announced

Crowder College had 667 students earn dean's list recognition for their academic achievement in the fall 2022 semester.

To earn dean's list honors a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average and take at least 12 college credit hours during the semester.

Crowder College has six convenient locations for students to attend classes: Neosho, Cassville, Joplin Advance Training and Technology Center, McDonald County, Nevada, and Webb City. Students may take classes to prepare for the workforce or transfer to a university with certificate and Associate of Art degrees offered.

Local students earning Fall 2022 Dean's list honors are listed by hometown:

- Butterfield- Mayra Serrano and Silvia Serrano
- Cassville- Jasmine Brown, Windy Dunfee, Evan Foulke, Reese Heiden, Kellan Jack, Carley Klewer, Elise Lindley, Jacob Martinez-Maldonado, Ingrid McGinnis, Riley Morris, Adrienne Quiros, Drake Reed, Ella Reuter, Dezirae Sizemore, Drew Speakman, Jordyn Stafford, Donal Wilmot, and Alexis Yockey
- Eagle Rock- Jesse Roberts
- Exeter- Abbey Bowling, Abbi Caddell, Daisy Carter, Ashley England, Hailey Mattingly, Lori McNeill, and Jacob Smith
- Fairview- Maranda Gunter, Brandon Vue, Brayden Daniel, Jaylen Evans, and Monica Hinojosa
- Monett- Lindsey Butler, Quynh My Cai, Tiffany Cantwell, Priscilla Cruz, Faith Drewianka, Jennifer Hurst, Kaia Johnson, Ashton Medlin, Kendra Nungaray, Naiam Perez, Bu Reh, Joseph Salesky, Gaspar Sanchez, Kassandra Shearburn, Morgan Slater and Robyn Wormington
- Purdy- Ximena Aldava, Dakota Farris, Lisa Lee, Zachary Leverich, Audrey Lowe, Kelton Park, Hollis Robar and Sang Zi
- Rocky Comfort- Makayla Barnhill, Ava Golubski and Ngun Hnem
- Seligman- Khloe Holder and Karma Romine
- Shell Knob- Taylor Bredeson
- Verona- Allison Davis, Jessica Gonalez, Joseph Heverns and Gisela Salas
- Washburn- Cloe Brattin, Andrew Cornell, Christian Long, Dylan Rainwater and Bonnie Robbins
- Wheaton- Amy Cunningham and Madison Pierpont



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**STANLEY LEROY BRATTIN**  
Stanley Leroy Brattin, age 71, of Cassville, passed away Friday, January 20, 2023, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.  
Services were held Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Buddy Barnard conducted the services. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cassville.  
Contributions may be made to Haven of the Ozarks in memory of Stan.

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**RAYMOND FRANK VELASQUEZ**  
Raymond Frank Velasquez, age 79, of Cassville, passed away Friday, January 20, 2023, at Mercy Hospital Joplin in Joplin.  
Private services will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

**FOHN FUNERAL HOME  
CASSVILLE, MO.  
417-847-2141**  
*Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.*  
**ROBERT "BOB" STEINER**  
Robert "Bob" Steiner, 63, of Joplin, passed away on

OBITUARIES

Tuesday, January 18, 2023. Arrangements are entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.



**JOANNE PEHKONEN**  
Joanne Pehkonen, age 82, of Cassville, passed away Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at Oak Pointe of Monett in Monett.  
She was born February 9, 1940, in Detroit, Michigan, the daughter of Edward and Rose (Cieslak) Ziemba. On August 9, 1975, in Waterford, Michigan, she was united in marriage to Charles Pehkonen, who preceded her in death in September of 2002. Also preceding her in death were her parents.  
Surviving are one son, Brian Clancy, of Detroit, Michigan; one daughter, Lynn Church and partner Danny Tortorella, of Cassville; one stepdaughter, Cheryl Pehkonen, of Royal

Oak, Michigan; one brother, Patrick Ziemba and his wife, Janice, of Macomb, Michigan; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.  
Joanne grew up and attended school in Detroit, Michigan, graduating from Visitation High School. She then attended San Francisco University in San Francisco, California, where she attained a Master's in Business. Joanne was employed by the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco as hospital administrator from 1986 until 2002 when she retired. After retiring, she moved to Hartland, Michigan, and in 2017 moved to Cassville to be near her daughter. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, gardening, going to wine tastings and being out on the lake in her boat.  
A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Michigan. Cremation arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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**ERNEST JAMES FORBES**  
Ernest James Forbes, age 68, of Monett, passed away Friday, January 20, 2023, at Mercy Hospital Cassville in Cassville.  
Private services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville.

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**JANICE MCLEOD**  
Janice McLeod, age 67, of Aurora, passed away on Jan-

uary 19, 2023, at her home. Mrs. McLeod, daughter of Louie and Wilma Bradley Brisco, was born on July 19, 1955, at Fort Briggs, California, and graduated from Cassville High School in 1973. She worked at Fasco in Cassville for 20 years, and also worked at Mercy Hospital in Springfield for a short time. She enjoyed fishing, and arts and crafts.  
She married Perry McLeod on December 9, 2018; he survives.  
Additional survivors include one son, Louis Tiedman, of Grantsville, S.C.; one stepdaughter, Jessica Clayton, of St. Joseph; and three grandchildren, Logan Clevenger, Levi Clevenger, and Grayson Clevenger.  
Funeral service were held Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at White Funeral Home and Crematory in Cassville, with Pastor Jason Mackey officiating; burial was at Clio Cemetery.  
Arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

**White Funeral Home  
and Crematory**  
www.whitefuneralhome.org  
417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400

**REVEREND RONNIE PAUL HOWERTON**  
Reverend Ronnie Paul Howerton, 75, of Monett, passed away Friday, January 20, 2023. Arrangements have been entrusted to Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.



*The Family of*  
**Dollie Owens**  
*would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, food, and flowers. A special thank you to the Hospice Compassus team throughout Mom's illness. Thank you to Fohns for all their help, support, and a beautiful service. Thanks to Brother Terry Bailie and Brother Karty Burbridge for their comforting words, and Marcia and Carl Hendrix for their special songs. Thanks to the ladies that served a wonderful meal at the Fairview Church (Shell Knob). We do appreciate all who helped in any way.*  
*The Family of Dollie Owens*

*The Family of*  
**Bonnie Opal (Carden) Coberley**  
*would like to thank our Fohn Funeral Home family, Church of Christ of Washburn, and Rick Hendrix for the beautiful service for Opal. Thanks for the cards and prayers.*  
*Bonnie Morgan  
Helen Catron  
Raymond Catron  
James (Jr.) Carden*

**CASSVILLE SENIOR CENTER**  
**WEEKLY MENU**  
**JAN 30:** Beef stew, steamed red potatoes, roasted cauliflower, cornbread, monster cookie bars  
**JAN 31:** Lemon pepper chicken, baked potato, California veggies, homemade tomato basil bread, peach cobbler  
**FEB 1:** Hamburgers, tater tots, cucumber salad, cheesecake swirl brownies  
**FEB 2:** Marinated grilled chicken, baked potato, green beans, homemade tomato basil bread, yellow cake  
**FEB 3:** Ham & cheese wrap, tomato soup, potato chips, peanut butter bars  
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• Morning Service 10:45 am  
• Evening Service 6:00 pm  
• Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm  
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417-847-4165



OBITUARIES



**SAMUEL S. RHEA**  
 Samuel S. Rhea, age 62, of Shell Knob, formerly of Kansas City, passed away on January 3, 2023, at Mercy Cassville Hospital. He was born January 28, 1960, in Aurora. He live his life to the fullest and was an avid Chiefs fan. He loved being outdoors camping, fishing, and riding his motorcycle.

Wheaton JR/SR High 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Honor Roll 2022/2023

**7th Grade A Honor Roll:** Jozy Bittle, Casen Bolton, Ava Bui, Alexis Krueger, Rylee Stansberry  
**7th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Morgan Crandall, Easton Creekmore, Alesha Hang, Savanna Holenda, Lyena Lee, Kristian Shockley, Kaydance Smart, Amos Thawngzathang  
**8th Grade A Honor Roll:** Corbin Bailey, Andy Bui, Yeshua Cha, Kylie Hardwick, Perla Hinojosa, Bodie Lauderdale, Harmony Loftis, Meyah Peckham, Jayson Peterson, Kinsey Pettengill, Shayle Prewitt, Mallory Royer, Avery Schlessman, Mitchell Shockley, Hunter Taylor  
**8th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Brody Bateman, Logan Brattin, Senji Chang, Joel Chawn, Alexis Craig, Ricardo Cunningham, Miranda Gallemore, Jeneil Hairens, Vincent Hang, Dayana Rivera, Brandee Sherwood, Brooke Sherwood, Chariety Vick, Lily Walling, Audrey Witham, Carson Woolaway  
**9th Grade A Honor Roll:** Leanna Milan-Gomez, Riley Roller  
**9th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Lynsey Bressler, Makenzie Bressler, Raelyn Buckhanan, Nevaeh Crandall, Rich Hang, Richard Hnin, Mallory Kelly, Anna Par, Jayci Park, Jelissa Vue  
**10th Grade A Honor Roll:** Chung Awr, Sarah Holenda, Houston Roller, Laura Vang, Casyn Walling

Survivors include his mother, Harriet Rhea, of Shell Knob; four children, Sean, Aaron, Nicole, and Nathan; and three brothers, Alan Rhea, of Shell Knob, John Rhea, of Emerald Beach, and Robert Michael Rhea and his wife, Lisa, of Alpena, Michigan.  
 He was predeceased by his father, Jack Don Rhea; his brother, Donald Rhea; and his sister-in-law, Betty Jo Rhea.  
 Memorial services will be in Kansas City at a later date.  
 Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Funeral Home and Crematory, Cassville.

**White Funeral Home and Crematory**  
 www.whitefuneralhome.org  
 417-847-8400 or 417-858-8400

Wheaton JR/SR High 2nd Quarter Honor Roll 2022/2023

**7th Grade A Honor Roll:** Jozy Bittle, Casen Bolton, Ava Bui, Alexis Krueger, Rylee Stansberry  
**7th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Morgan Crandall, Easton Creekmore, Alesha Hang, Savanna Holenda, Lyena Lee, Kristian Shockley, Amos Thawngzathang  
**8th Grade A Honor Roll:** Corbin Bailey, Andy Bui, Yeshua Cha, Kylie Hardwick, Bodie Lauderdale, Harmony Loftis, Meyah Peckham, Jayson Peterson, Kinsey Pettengill, Shayle Prewitt, Mallory Royer, Avery Schlessman, Mitchell Shockley, Hunter Taylor, Carson Woolaway  
**8th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Brody Bateman, Logan Brattin, Senji Chang, Joel Chawn, Alexis Craig, Ricardo Cunningham, Courtney Grippando, Jeneil Hairens, Perla Hinojosa, Dayana Rivera, Brandee Sherwood, Brooke Sherwood, Chariety Vick, Lily Walling, Audrey Witham  
**9th Grade A Honor Roll:** Leanna Milan-Gomez  
**9th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Lynsey Bressler, Makenzie Bressler, Kaicee Clark, Rich Hang, Richard Hnin, Mallory Kelly, Anna Par, Jayci Park, Riley Roller, Jelissa Vue  
**10th Grade A Honor Roll:** Chung Awr, Marissa Grimaldo, Sarah Holenda, Houston Roller, Casyn Walling  
**10th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Bailee Gorman, Melanie Hang, Mayridson Loney, Tatum Pendergraft, Laura Vang, Yong Vang, Lakeisha Wise  
**11th Grade A Honor Roll:** Hayden Royer  
**11th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Jianna Cha, Angel Lopez, Alissa Mason, Leonel Millan-Gomez, Kenzie Robbins, Eakatrina Vue, Rebecca Zingcuai  
**12th Grade A Honor Roll:** Joselyne Juarez, Kadence Mestas, Allison Whitman  
**12th Grade A/B Honor Roll:** Steven Chavis, Kollin Garner, Cayden Hopkins, Trenton Imel, Henrietta Klann, Zoey Martell, Lily Ray, Truman Thompson, Joshua Vang, Rowan Wise

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 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am  
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:30 pm  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm  
 Sunday Morning Radio Program KKBL 95.9 FM 7:45 am  
 MtOliveBaptistCassville.com

MDC offers free virtual class about winter native plants

Native wildflowers and grasses can add beauty to winter gardens and benefit wildlife such as songbirds. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will offer a free virtual Native Plants Winter Beauty class from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, January 28. Natives can add subtle colors and bold textures during winter to landscape gardens and lawns. Cydney Ross, MDC native landscape specialist, will discuss what plants work well over winter. Ross will also talk about what plants provide good food and shelter for wildlife during winter. Songbirds, for instance, feed on native plant seeds and berries. This class is open to participants ages 18 and older and registration is required. To register, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/4fA>. For more information about using native plants in landscaping, visit <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZV7>.

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The Barry County Sheriff's Office currently has an opening for a part-time

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Starting pay \$12.50 hour, 24 hours weekly. All applicants must be able to pass a background check and drug test. Apply at the Barry County Sheriff's Office Administration building located at 505 East Street Cassville, MO 65625 or you can print an application online at [www.barrycountysheriff.com](http://www.barrycountysheriff.com) or call 417-847-6556 to request an application be mailed.

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

JAIL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Positions Available

The Barry County Sheriff's Office currently has openings

for full-time Correctional Officers

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 \$33,000.

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.barrycountysheriff.com](http://www.barrycountysheriff.com) or you can call 417-847-6556 to request an application be mailed. Return all applications to Sheriff Danny Boyd.

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# Boost profits by frost seeding legumes now



Add legumes to fescue and other cool-season pastures at the right time to add pounds and profits to cattle. The right time is when pastures are frozen and snow-covered, says University of Missouri Extension state forage specialist Craig Roberts. Snow makes the seeds easier to see. Seeding on frozen ground also lessens the chance of rutting or compacting soils. Broadcast annual lespedeza, red clover or white clover in mid-February in most of Missouri, says Roberts. Seed in late January in southern counties and late February in northern counties. Frost seeding, a method of broadcasting seeds, allows seeds to work into the soil as the ground freezes and thaws. Too much thatch or plant residue can prevent good seed-to-soil contact, which reduces stands. Cattle can help by “hoofing” seeds into the soil as they trample pastures. Red clover, white clover and annual lespedeza are the top three legumes to frost seed in Missouri, says Roberts. In endophyte-infected tall fescue pastures, clover reduces animal exposure to toxins associated with fescue

toxicosis, says Tim Evans, MU Extension specialist in veterinary toxicology. Fescue toxicosis impairs weight gain, milk production and reproductive performance. It also hinders beef cattle’s ability to regulate body heat and causes leg and foot problems, including fescue foot. Other legume options include alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, hairy vetch and sunn hemp. Seed these later in the year; if seeded too early, seeds may germinate and emerge before an ice storm, Roberts says. Roberts does not recommend frost seeding birdsfoot trefoil because of its poor vigor in Missouri soils. The right amount and type of seed and good pasture management determine the success of adding legumes to pastures, he says. Look for “certified seed” for best results and to avoid poor-quality stands. For seeding rates, download the free MU Extension publication “Seeding Rates, Dates and Depths for Common Missouri Forages” at [extension.missouri.edu/p/G4652](http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G4652). Roberts offers more tips in the MU Extension video “Frost Seeding Legumes in Tall Pastures” at [youtu.be/zkYQo251xDQ](https://youtu.be/zkYQo251xDQ). In March, the Alliance for Grassland Renewal will offer training in Missouri, Virginia and Alabama. The Missouri training is March 23 at MU’s Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon. Register at [bit.ly/3XkSP77](https://bit.ly/3XkSP77). Roberts says the workshops are a great way to learn to renovate and manage Kentucky 31 fescue pastures. For more information, visit [www.grasslandrenewal.org](http://www.grasslandrenewal.org). MU Extension agronomists and livestock specialists also can offer advice.

FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training

University of Missouri Extension and Kansas State Research and Extension are partnering to offer the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training remotely. The class will take place February 7-8, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In order to receive a certificate of training, you will have to attend the entire training on both days, and training leaders must be able to see a live video feed of you periodically throughout the entire training (or you need to speak or type into the chat when requested) to ensure that you are engaged throughout the entire training. You must participate in the training on a device larger than your phone (i.e. tablet or computer). Note that it is very important that you are listening and engaged during the training to be eligible to receive the certificate of training.

If you are a covered farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and need the training, this course will meet that requirement. For more information, visit <https://www.ksre.kstate.edu/foodsafety/produce/fsma/index.html>.

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# Winter Temperatures Will Affect Water Temperatures

Recent weather has ranged from mild temperatures to snow and ice. Although the cold air hasn't been as consistent as in previous years, the water temperature of Missouri's lakes and rivers is colder in the winter months. If you are near or on one of the state's lakes or rivers, or a private pond, please be careful and stay alert!

The body loses heat 25 times faster in water than in the air. Life jacket use becomes even more important in cold water because hypothermia can quickly rob the

body of the ability to perform the most basic tasks. When someone is suddenly immersed in cold water, they are at risk for cold shock and hypothermia. Cold shock refers to blood vessels constricting to conserve core body heat when the trunk of the body goes under water. This will quickly limit the use of a person's arms and legs. Likewise, these conditions may cause a sudden increase in heart rate and blood pressure—in some cases resulting in cardiac arrest. Cold shock can cause involuntary gasping reflex when the body hits the water. This gasp results in a person inhaling water and could result in drowning.

If you take an unexpected plunge into cold water, it is vital to get out of the water and into dry clothes as soon as possible. If dry clothes are not an option leave the wet ones on. Even wet clothes will offer some insulation and trap body heat. A warm drink can be given to someone suffering from hypothermia if they are conscious. Caffeine and alcohol should be avoided. Hypothermia can be deadly even if you are wearing a PFD, so it is important to never go boating alone in the winter. If no one

knows you are in trouble, no one can help.

Many cold weather anglers use lakes or ponds for winter recreational activities. Youngsters are often attracted to ice-covered private ponds for skating and playing. Theoretically, the only "safe" ice is at a skating rink. The ice forming on lakes, rivers, and ponds place a person at much greater risk due to natural variables. It's impossible to judge the strength of ice by its appearance or daily temperature. Missouri temperatures move from single digit temperatures to the upper 40s within short time periods, which will greatly affect the construction of ice.

Adults should educate children about the dangers of playing on ice and always supervise them when they are on or near ice. Make sure they understand the dangers of being on the ice and insist that they wear a life jacket/PFD. Never let them play on ponds or lakes unattended.

Many ice victims start out as would-be rescuers. To prevent this from happening, do not go onto the ice to rescue another person or retrieve a pet. To aid someone who has fallen through the ice the first step should be call-

ing for emergency services. A local fire department should have the quickest response time, the proper equipment, and have trained to handle ice emergencies. Rather than going onto the ice to attempt rescuing someone, you should extend a ladder, pole, or rope to a victim along with something that will float.

If you find yourself in the position of needing to be rescued, there are techniques that should be followed for self-rescue. Try not to panic. Face the direction you came from and spread your arms out on the unbroken ice. Kick your feet and try to pull yourself onto the ice. Once out of the water, do not attempt to stand. Lying on the ice keeps your weight distributed. Roll away from the hole then crawl across the ice back to solid land.

Adults should never mix alcohol and winter ice recreational activities. Alcohol impairs your judgment and speeds up the development of hypothermia.

Another winter water safety concern is related to docks. Ice and heavy snow combinations have caused major damage to boat docks in the past. The extra weight of snow and ice can cause

such structures to collapse. The Missouri State Highway Patrol would like to caution dock owners about attempting to remove snow and ice from their docks during inclement weather. It is easy to end up in the water accidentally. Due to the extreme cold water, hypothermia can set in quickly and render a person helpless in the water.

If dock owners insist on being on docks during icy conditions, life jackets should always be worn. Use the buddy system to make sure that someone is there to assist you if you end up in the water. Remember that damaged electric wires around docks should be treated as if they are live. Any boats operating in areas where major dock damage has occurred are encouraged to operate at no wake idle speed, to prevent further damage to docks already under the added stress of heavy snow and ice.

Troopers encourage everyone to remain vigilant around water. If you are on or near the water and an emergency occurs, call \*55 on your cellular phone to reach the nearest troop headquarters. Marine enforcement troopers and emergency response services will respond.

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Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) vs. Osteoarthritis (OA) Diagnosis and Treatment

Rheumatoid Arthritis diagnosis can be problematic in the early stages. There is no one blood test or physical finding to confirm a diagnosis. Doing blood tests that show the presence of inflammation in the body may be helpful. Providers may recommend X-rays or MRIs to track the progression of the disease. There is no cure for rheumatoid arthritis. But studies indicate that remission of symptoms is more likely when treatment begins early with medications known as disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Types of medications are recommended on the severity of symptoms and length you have had the disease. Usually, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can relieve pain and reduce inflammation. Next are steroids which also reduce inflammation and pain and slow joint damage, but short-term use of steroids is recommended due to side effects. Conventional DMARDs are drugs that slow the progression of the disease and save the joints and other tissues from permanent damage. A newer class of DMARDs known as biologic response modifiers are usually more effective when paired with conventional DMARDs. Next, is the Targeted synthetic DMARDs to be used if conventional and biologics haven't been effective. All these medications have side effects that need to be considered. Physical and Occupational therapy and assistive devices are recommended to help keep joints flexible and help learn new ways to do daily tasks which are easier on your joints. All these medications have side effects that need to be considered. If medications fail to slow joint damage, your provider may suggest surgery to restore the use of joints, reduce pain and improve function.

Usually, X-rays can detect a diagnosis of OA by showing the narrowing of the space between bones in your joints where cartilage is lost and the development of any bone spurs. Lab tests are used to rule out other causes of joint pain but cannot diagnose OA. Sometimes your provider may draw fluid from a swollen joint to test for infection, gout, inflammation, or OA. OA can't be reversed, but treatment can reduce pain and help improve mobility. Medications can help with OA pain. Acetaminophen has been shown to help some people with mild to moderate pain. NSAIDs such as Ibuprofen typically relieve OA pain. Duloxetine (Cymbalta), an antidepressant, has been approved to treat OA pain. Physical therapy teaches exercises to strengthen muscles around your joints,

increase flexibility, and reduce pain. Doing regular gentle exercises can be effective. Occupational therapy helps you learn ways to do daily tasks with less stress on your joints. Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) units use low-voltage electrical currents to relieve pain. Cortisone injections into joints may relieve pain for a few weeks and can be repeated every three months. Injections of lubrication (hyaluronic acid) may provide some relief, but research is not promising. Realignment bones or joint replacement are two surgical options.

Judith Lewallen is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner with over 40 years of 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.



The Best Reacher Grabber Tools of 2023

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Can you recommend some good reacher-grabber tools for seniors with back or hip problems who need help picking things up off the ground? I bought a cheap one a few months ago that doesn't work very well but would like to find one that does.

Bad Back Betty  
Dear Betty,  
A good "reacher-grabber" is a very practical and popular tool for anyone who struggles with injuries, arthritis or loss of mobility. It works like an extension of your arm allowing you to reach down and pick things up off the ground without bending or stooping over. It can also help with reaching and grabbing things in high

overhead places, as well as areas that are difficult to get to.

But with so many different types of reacher-grabbers on the market today, finding a good one that works well for you is not always easy. Depending on your needs, here are some top-rated products to consider.

All-purpose: For retrieving small and medium-sized items, the "Ettore Grip'n Grab," is a top option that can handle most chores. This 34-inch-long tool has a soft comfortable trigger handgrip and a rubberized jaw that's strong enough to lift objects up to 5 pounds and up to 4 inches wide, yet sensitive enough to pick up something as small as a dime. The jaw also rotates and locks at 90 degrees for vertical or hori-

zontal use to help you reach things in awkward spaces.  
Lightweight: If you want a reacher primarily for retrieving small lightweight items around the house, the "RMS Featherweight the Original Reacher" is a top pick. Available in 32 and 26-inch lengths, it's made from ultralightweight aluminum and has a trigger-style handgrip with a serrated jaw that provides a secure grip when lifting objects.

It also has a magnet built into the tip for picking up lightweight metal objects like a paperclip, and a small hook (or horn) that aids in retrieving things like clothes, shoes or keys. It even has a built-in clip on the arm so you can attach it to canes, walkers and wheelchairs. But, because of its super-lightweight design, it doesn't work well at retrieving heavier items like canned goods from shelves.

Foldable: For easier storage, the top selling folding grabber is the "Zayad Reacher Grabber Tool," which is 32-inches long and has a slip-joint in the arm that allows it to easily fold in half. It also has a soft ergonomic grip with a rubberized, rotating jaw that can lift objects

up to three pounds and up to 4 inches wide.  
Heavy-duty: For heavier lifting jobs or for outdoor use, the "Unger Nifty Nabber" is a top choice. Available in 36 and 48-inch lengths, this sturdy tool has a rubber-coated heavy-duty claw that grips small, large, and odd-shaped items with ease. It also has a built-in magnet for picking up small metal objects, an ergonomic squeeze-grip handle and can lift 8 pounds.

Where to Buy  
You can buy reacher-grabbers at many pharmacies, retail, medical equipment and home improvement stores. But, because it's a specialty item, the selection is very limited. Your best bet is to buy one online at Amazon.com, which sells all of the top reacher-grabbers at prices ranging from around \$10 to \$20. Just type the product name in the search bar to find it.

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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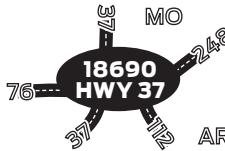
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