

Upcoming.....4A	Classified.....10-11A	RRSP continues glade restoration 5A • OFO Young Artist Concert 12A
Obits.....8A	Auctions.....11A	

ERGM FD to construct new station



Shown above is an exterior concept of the new Eagle Rock/Golden/Mano fire station.

Ezra DeVore

The Eagle Rock-Golden-Mano Fire Department will construct a new station, says Fire Chief Mark Pierson.

The plan for the new station has been in motion for about two years, with the final preparations now being performed. The new site will host a larger seating area for the meals hosted by the fire department and a larger kitchen. Fire Chief Pierson stated the department's twice-monthly breakfasts frequently exceed capacity in the summer, with attendants lined out the building awaiting food. The new facility, he says, will offer four more dining tables to increase accommodation, in addition to a generally larger space.

Additionally, the new station will offer greater accommodation for the crews themselves with four new offices, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and other updated facilities.

Fire Chief Pierson expects to break ground in early May, with full completion estimated in one year.

Pierson says the current building is nearing 50 years old

and has serviced him and his crews well in his decade as Fire Chief, yet he says the department has outgrown the building.

"We've had a lot of comments about the project, and nobody has said anything negative - it's all been positive," Pierson says.

"That's another big plus for us. The community has been very supportive; everybody says we're due for moving forward. It's exciting times coming up for us; we're all excited - the community's excited. We're very proud to be able to offer this. It's not only going to be for us, you know, it's going to also be for our community. We provide services for three areas, and this station's going to be for them. It's not just going to be for us; it's for our community too."

At present, the project is ahead of schedule, with this time surplus possibly leading to the order of construction materials even before the date previously foreseen, Fire Chief Pierson stated, expressing his optimism for the project.

Parnell to take lead of Wildcat athletics and activities beginning in July

The Cassville R-IV School District has selected Lance Parnell as the next Activities Director at Cassville Schools. Parnell will begin serving in his new role on July 1 of this year.

Parnell has worked for the district for over 25 years. He began his teaching career at Eunice Thomas Elementary in 1998 as the physical education teacher. After teaching in the primary, he transitioned to the high school where he eventually led the weight-lifting program. Currently, he is serving as the Success Academy teacher, which is an intervention program that began this school year; he is also presently serving as the middle school athletic director.

"I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the Activities Director," said Parnell. "I look forward to serving the district athletic and activity programs in a different role."

As a veteran Wildcat educator and coach, he has spent his entire teaching and coaching career at Cassville. In 1998 he began coaching as an assistant high school coach for the football, basketball and track programs. In 2002, he was named Defensive Coordinator for the varsity football team and earned the spot as Head Varsity Football Coach in 2013 and remained as the head coach until last school year.

He also served as the Head Golf Coach from 2001-2014.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Parnell to our administrative team," said Dr. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville R-IV Superintendent. "After a successful coaching and teaching career, we know he is a great fit to lead our athletics and activities programs. Over the years, Coach Parnell has done an exemplary job building positive relationships with staff, students and families and we are excited for him to lead all of our district athletic and activity programs."

The decision to hire Parnell comes after current Activities Director, Doug Martin, announced his retirement during the January School Board meeting. Martin has been with the district for eight years.

"Mr. Martin has done an outstanding job in his tenure here at Cassville," said Parnell. "He has been a great mentor to me."

Parnell, and his wife Suzy, live in Cassville and have three daughters and one grandson.

Winter storms dump snow and ice on Barry County

The second snowstorm of the season pushed through Tuesday evening (January 24) into Wednesday, dropping an average of six to eight inches of wet snow throughout Barry County, allowing a perfect snow day for local kiddos, while an ice storm on Monday, January 30, came through, making a mess of roads and causing closures and slide-offs across the county.



Clemons brothers, Archer, 2, and Knox, 8, of Exeter, enjoyed last Wednesday sledding at home.



Paisley Freeman, 7, and Presley Hermann, 4, of Wheaton, spread the love just in time for Valentine's Day.

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Peterbilt Strikes Building On Hwy. 37



Ezra DeVore

According to a crash report investigated by Trooper Coffee, at approximately 8:40 a.m. on January 17, a tractor-trailer swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle, crashing into a building on MO 37.

Eastbound in a 2016 Nissan Sentra, Rebecca Lynch, 52, of Republic, failed to yield at the intersection across from Mike's Auto Care, pulling into the path of a southbound 2019 Peterbilt Tractor Trailer. The driver, Larry Lyons, 49, of Exeter, then swerved into Southwest Family Dental, off the east side of the highway.

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RRSP to release campsites for reservations

Missouri State Parks has announced that campsites previously on hold at Roaring River State Park, just outside of Cassville, will be released for guests to reserve in March and April.

Some campgrounds in Roaring River will undergo improvements later in 2023, but will be temporarily available until construction dates are determined.

The campsites released will be in campground Loop 3 at Roaring River State Park, which will be converted from basic sites to sites with sewer, electric and water. The project is in the design phase and should be sent out for bid later this spring.

For more information on state parks and historic sites in Missouri, visit mostateparks.com. Missouri State Parks is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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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. OATS offices will be closed, and regular routes will not be running on Monday, February 20, 2023, for the Presidents’ Day holiday.

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 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, February 3

A Dinner and Dance will be hosted at the Stella Senior Center with doors opening at 5:30 P.M. There will be a buffet meal at 6 P.M. The dance will start at 7 P.M. with music performed by The Moccasin Bend Band. Cover charge is \$5. Refreshments are always available. Please call (417) 628- 3314 or (417) 489-3661 for more information.

Tuesday, February 7

Cassville Cruisers Monthly Meeting will be held at Show Me Plaza at 7 P.M.

Saturday, February 11

Auditions will be held for the comedy “Mission Possible” at 10 A.M. at United Methodist Church, YY15, Shell Knob. Show dates will be April 28, 29, 30. No experience necessary. Call (903) 818-5318 before February 10 if date conflict.

School Menus: Feb. 6 - Feb. 10

All meals served with milk and subject to change.

Cassville R-IV High School: Mon: B: biscuit and gravy or french toast, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail. L: grilled ham and cheese or turkey and cheese, tater tots, carrot sticks, pears. Tues: B: biscuit and gravy or breakfast burrito, sausage patty, pears or cereal, blueberry muffin, applesauce. L: chili dog or crispito, Doritos, baked beans, juice. Wed: B: biscuit and gravy or pancake on stick, hashbrown, pineapple or cereal, graham crackers, peaches. L: chicken sandwich or pizza, Sun Chips, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail. Thurs: B: biscuit and gravy or scrambled eggs, sausage/toast, mandarin oranges or cereal, Nutri Grain Bar, apple. L: chicken and noodles or chicken nuggets, green beans, breadstick, pineapple. Fri: B: biscuit and gravy or mini cini, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail or cereal, banana muffin, peaches. L: burrito or quesadilla, nachos, refried beans, glazed carrots, juice.

Cassville R-IV Pri. Int. Mid.: Mon: B: biscuit and gravy or mini cini, sausage patty, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, peaches. L: hamburger or meatball sub, Sun Chips, green beans, peaches. Tues: B: biscuit and gravy or sausage biscuit, hashbrown, peaches or cereal, cinnamon toast, applesauce. L: pizza or ham sandwich, Baked Lays, carrot sticks, fruit cocktail. Wed: B: biscuit and gravy or oatmeal, toast, sausage, mandarin oranges or cereal, Pop-Tart, peaches. L: pork chopette or chicken nuggets, potatoes, broccoli and cheese, pineapple. Thurs: B: biscuit and gravy or chicken nuggets, hashbrown, orange or cereal, Rice Krispies treat, apple. L: spaghetti or shrimp, salad, corn, breadstick, pears. Fri: B: biscuit and gravy or strawberry bagel, yogurt cup, fruit cocktail or cereal, Pop-Tart, pineapple. L: tangerine chicken or popcorn chicken, rice, green beans, fortune cookie, mandarin oranges.

Purdy R-II Schools: Mon: B: egg and cheese biscuit, fruit. L: mini corn dogs, potato wedges, fruit. Tues: B: whole grain biscuit, gravy, sausage patty, fruit. L: taco salad, beans, fruit. Wed: B: whole grain french toast sticks, syrup cup, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, baby carrots, fruit. Thurs: B: breakfast pizza, fruit. L: Frito chili cheese wrap, corn, fruit. Fri: B: apple cinnamon oatmeal round, Go-Gurt, fruit. L: hot dog on whole wheat bun, Sun Chips, celery with peanut butter, fruit.

Cassville Branch Library Activities

- February 6:**

 - 2pm: Craft/Sewing Group

February 7:

 - 10am: Homeschool Enrichment
 - 1pm: Adult Painting, pre-register, \$5 fee
 - 5:30pm Adult Painting, pre-register, \$5 fee

February 8:

 - 1pm: Crochet with Ashlyn
 - 5pm: Yoga with Tara

February 9:

 - 10am: Storytime with Miss Kelly
 - 2pm: Storytime with Miss Kelly
- February 10:**

 - 12pm-4pm: Red Cross Blood Drive

For more information about services offered by our Cassville Library, call the Cassville Branch Library at 417-847-2121 or visit at 301 W. 17th St., Cassville. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm; new Saturday hours are 9am to 1pm; and closed on Sunday. For information online, visit the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library website: blrlibrary.com.

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Roaring River Continues Glade Restoration

Ezra DeVore

An initiative is underway at Roaring River State Park to restore the vital yet fragile glade areas in the park, providing security for habitats that take years to form and have been hindered by invasive species. With the help of AmeriCorps teams, the park continues its initiative to clear its glades of factors that inhibit the return of wildlife to these ecosystems.

AmeriCorps is a network of programs designed to meet community needs in a variety of aspects of life, ranging from education to homeland security, though the individuals sent to Roaring River are skilled specifically in hands-on forest management. Missouri's primary AmeriCorps members are based in St. Louis, though will be sent for weeks or months across the nation to tend needs of natural ecosystems - working in dense, remote back-country for extended periods of time. With three visits to Roaring River planned for this spring, totaling nearly 25 days, the park is preparing for a great deal of progress to be made - both before and after opening day.

Of the 22 glade areas overseen in the Roaring River and Big Sugar State Parks, the primary focus areas of the park are Glade 3, near Highway F, and Glade 7, on Fire Tower Trail. Glades in our area can range from one acre to 45 or more, and each acre can take 100 work hours or more to clear of invasive species. With short staffing issues, Roaring River has enlisted AmeriCorps teams from St. Louis and Colorado to assist with the work.

"AmeriCorps is helping us achieve the dream of getting those glades restored," Roaring River Superinten-

dent Joel Topham stated. He says the groups come down to Barry County and assist in a variety of projects, however, including general trail maintenance and rebuilding after floods.

"It takes a lot of effort," Topham continued. "They backpack into remote areas and cut down trees by hand. We're trying to minimize the impact that big machines can have on an ecosystem, so we do it all by hand."

Chainsaws, axes, and similar handheld equipment are utilized instead of larger, more devastative machinery, as delicate and accurate removal is the goal. Topham equates the practice to "the way they did it back in the day."

Though the great logging era of American expansion was limited to the latter half of the 1800s, this method of forest management has not altered greatly, he says.

The prevailing issue tackled in these efforts is the excessive growth of the Eastern Red Cedar. Natural Ecologist at Roaring River, Taylor Steinfeldt, states that cedar is a naturally occurring tree in this region. However, its susceptibility to forest fires is what kept the species from becoming a problem for ecosystems in existence prior to the encroachment of civilization in the 1920s.

In the past, lightning would cause forest fires at

certain intervals, healthily clearing the land for new life to form. However, with roads and fencing constructed as civilization drew its borders, forest fires were not able to spread as vastly as historically, leading to a great abundance of hindering flora growing.

What were once young trees, able to be extracted easily, slowly became mature trees, cemented and virtually fireproof. With their canopies not allowing the sun to dry their surrounding earth, the soil and vegetation surrounding them are nearly always wet, moist, and rarely fully dry. This wet earth then acts as an additional wall for any forest fire to pierce.

If allowed to flourish completely, the cedar will conquer vast swaths of land, usurping land that could

support the broader health of the glade. With its canopy shadowing the forest floor, wildflowers and grasses are not allowed to grow as they would in the sun, and therefore, mammals who live off vegetation lack food sources. Comfortable in inhospitable locations and requiring little soil, this cedar thrives nearly anywhere in southwest Missouri's climate.

These trees are also notoriously rot-resistant. The first teams sent out to remove the species cut down a vast amount of them, leaving the remnants in piles, believing that the stumps would rot over time. These piles remain to this day, however, and though unintended by its fellers, fostered the birth of many new Red Cedars in the area.

Glades are typically found

on drier slopes, facing south or west toward the sun. Sun exposure is crucial for the glade to thrive, providing it with the abundance it requires to become a sanctuary for birds, butterflies, reptiles of all kinds, and herbivore mammals like deer and rabbits.

The goal at present is to clear the woodlands of debris and tame the cedars. Glades reach self-sufficiency easily, requiring only the right conditions to manifest itself. Upon reaching full manifestation of function, the glades can self-regulate if tended to every few years with prescribed burnings. The park plans to further open and connect the glades to one another, providing a network of open and connected space for the woodland creatures inhabiting them.

Many animals who rely on these glades as their home, like the Collared Lizard, have been pushed out nearly completely. When the glades are damaged or separated by human development or intervention, more mobile animals such as deer and rabbits can move to another. However, snakes, scorpions, lizards, and other smaller creatures tend to isolate and get entrenched, leading to possible harm if their threatened environment worsens.

On May 13, Big Sugar Creek will host a wildflower hike. Please call the Nature Center at 417-847-3742 for information. Roaring River State Park proudly continues their weekly Bluegrass nights from the weekend of May 26 and 27, every Friday until early September.

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LUC Ranch Receives Donation



Shown above, left to right, are Bob Kark (Recording Secretary), Ken Ortman (Founder and Director of LUC), and Michael Pemberton (Grand Knight).

The Knights of Columbus Council 13975 (Holy Family Parish) has donated \$500.00 to the Lives Under Construction Boy's Ranch (LUC). For those not familiar with LUC, it is a place where boys/young men with varying degrees of family or social issues can go for help. LUC was founded as not just as a refuge but a place for young men to grow and become productive, not just for themselves but for our community as a whole. Their philosophy has five tenants for each young man. The program is based on Christian principles, the staff never gives up on a boy, education is important if a boy is to be successful, good work habits are stressed, and each boy will have a skill when he leaves.

Walmart Foundation Gives \$1,000 to Cassville Bright Futures



Pictured above, left to right, are Dr. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville R-IV Superintendent; Mindi Artherton, Communication Coordinator at the district; Gena Wenger, Cassville Middle School Counselor; Daniel Harrelson, Cassville Walmart Store Manager; Raegan McCombs, Cassville Walmart Emerging Coach; Dr. Traci Mitchell, Cassville R-IV Assistant Superintendent; and Brenda Keith, Cassville Walmart Coach.

The Walmart Foundation has awarded a \$1,000 donation to the Cassville R-IV Bright Futures program. The funding will be used to purchase food for the district Backpack Programs. The Bright Futures Backpack Program provides non-perishable 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.

The mission of the Walmart Foundation is to create opportunities so people can live better. Grants are awarded through an annual open application process.

Cassville R-IV Bright Futures Backpack program will hold Project PB&J February 6-17. Project PB&J is a peanut butter and jelly food drive. Drop off locations will be at Arning Companies, Freedom Bank, United Methodist Church, Arvest Bank, CS Bank, Security Bank, Mercy Hospital, and the Cassville Chamber of Commerce.

For more information regarding the Bright Futures Program, contact Mindi Artherton at 417-847-2221.

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Cassville earns Grief Sensitive School Designation and grant from NY Life Foundation



Shown above, left to right, are Dr. Merlyn Johnson, Cassville R-IV Superintendent; Chris Elmer with New York Life; Mrs. Gena Wenger, CMS Counselor; and Dr. Traci Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent at Cassville R-IV.

Mindi Artherton

Cassville R-IV has been designated a “Grief-Sensitive School” by the New York Life Foundation, receiving a \$2,000 Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative grant in order to better support the mental health of grieving students who are facing trauma.

Eunice Thomas Elementary, Cassville Intermediate, Cassville Middle School and Cassville High School counselor’s departments will each receive \$500 per building from the grant.

Schools confront issues of grief and loss every day. Studies show that unresolved

grief can have a social and emotional impact on children, leading to behavioral issues and poor performance in school.

Last semester, Chris Elmer, New York Life Insurance agent, provided grief-sensitive training to district staff during a professional development day.

The Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative – a pioneering effort that utilizes New York Life’s workforce to help equip local schools to care for the grieving students in their midst – is an extension of the work of the Coalition to Support Grieving Students, a

collaboration among leading K-12 professional organizations to develop and deliver best-in-class grief support resources to educators.

Snow Day!



Sisters Abigail Schroeder, 12, and MaKalei Schroeder, 10, of Purdy, made use of their snow day last week by building a snowman.

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HELEN L. MORGAN
Helen L. Morgan, of Purdy, entered into rest on January 24, 2023, in Joplin, at the age of 86. Helen was born July 13, 1936, in Washburn, one of seven children to Ira ‘Buster’ and Elsie (Bowles) Nodine. She graduated from Neosho High School, class of 1954, and was a lifelong area resident.
She owned and operated numerous restaurants in the area and worked with her husband, Sammy Gene Morgan, during the harvest season. She loved being with her family, especially her grandchildren, and cooking for them.
She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt. Helen was a member of the Cassville Assembly of God Church. On July 12, 1954, Helen married Sammy Gene Morgan, and he preceded her

in death on August 9, 1980. In 1990, she married Oscar Morgan, and he preceded her in death in 2004. She is survived by four children, Troy Dale Morgan and wife, Cherri Lynn, of Butterfield, James L. Morgan and wife, Vicky, of Stotts City, Tony R. Morgan, of Sarcoxie, and Betty Wagoner and husband, Rick, of Miami, Okla.; grandchildren, Sammy Morgan, Jeremiah Tindell, Gracee and Abbi Morgan, Benji, Adam, and Jacob Morgan, T. J. Morgan, Morgan Wagoner, and Mesa Wagoner; sixteen great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; an honorary grandson, Chris Brisco; sister, Pearlie Creasser and husband, Jeff, of Altus, Okla.; daughter in law, Diane Morgan, of Cassville; and numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family. In addition to her husbands, Sammy and Oscar, and her parents, she is preceded in death by three children, Rhonda Morgan, Jess Eugene Morgan, and Michael Ray Morgan; two grandsons, Cody Taylor and Donnie Morgan; daughter-in-law, Shirley Kay Morgan; four brothers, Ronnie, George, Jack and James Nodine; and a sister, Juanita Dishon.

Services were held on

OBITUARIES

Monday, January 30, 2023, at the Clark Funeral Home Chapel of Memories. Interment followed in the Union Cemetery, and serving as pallbearers were Morgan Wagoner, Adam Morgan, Jacob Morgan, Jeremiah Tindell, Sammy Morgan, and T. J. Morgan.

Online condolences may be posted at www.clarkfuneralhomes.com.

Services are under the direction of Clark Funeral Home, Neosho.

MARTHA LORENE INGRAM

Martha Lorene Ingram, 83, of Cassville, passed away Thursday, January 26, 2023, at home. The family will receive friends 5-7 p.m., Thursday, February 2, 2023, at Brashears Funeral Home, Huntsville, Ark.. Funeral service will be 2:00 PM, Friday, February 3, 2023, at the fu-



RICHARD LEE “DICK” FIELDING

Richard Lee “Dick” Fielding, age 67, of Washburn, passed away Monday, January 30, 2023, at Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas.

He was born August 26, 1955, in Cassville, the son of James Arthur “Art” and Naomi Myrtle (Stewart) Fielding.

Preceding him in death was his father, Art Fielding.

Surviving are his mother,

Naomi Fielding, of Cassville; children, Jazmin Fielding, of Cassville, Josh Sanders and his wife, Amber, of Washburn, and Josy McIntyre and her husband, Todd, of Cassville; one brother, Randy Fielding, of Washburn; one sister, Rhonda Brown, of Seligman; four grandchildren, Haiden Sanders, Lily Sanders, Reef McIntyre and Rya McIntyre; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dick grew up and received his education in Washburn, graduating from Southwest High School. He was employed by Jim Black’s Cabinet Shop as a finish carpenter for many years as well as a jack of all trades. Some of his favorite pastimes were canoeing and riding his Harley. Dick loved watching college sports and was a big fan of Big Little League World Series and the Kansas City Chiefs. He was always there for anyone no matter what the need was. His family was very important to him, espe-

cially his kids and grandkids. Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, February 4, 2023, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Washburn, under direction of Fohn Funeral Home in Cassville. Rick Hendrix will conduct the services.
The family will receive friends from 1:00 P.M. until service time Saturday at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Washburn.
Contributions may be made to Bikers Against Child Abuse in memory of Dick.

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Visit fohnfuneralhome.com for online obituaries, guestbook and private condolences.

RALPH ROBERT MCCORMICK

Ralph Robert McCormick passed away January 20, 2023. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Buchanan Funeral Home, Monett.

DHSS dashboard promotes funding transparency, accountability

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) published a new dashboard at Health.Mo.Gov/funding that allows users to explore how nearly \$1.2 billion in federal funding benefits Missourians. As legislative leaders began the budget process formally last week by hearing Governor Parson’s budget recommendations, the dashboard will help explain where COVID-19 public health funding is headed by each House and Senate dis-

trict, Missouri county, and federal funding act. This public health dashboard complements the statewide ARPA dashboard by showing allocation from seven federal funding acts, including ARPA, CARES Act, and more. “Public health is worth investing in,” said Paula Nickelson, acting director of DHSS. “We know that with an increase in funding, we must also increase our ability to transparently reflect where that money is going and how

it benefits Missourians. This influx of funding represents a unique, unprecedented opportunity to use short-term funding to enhance systems and impact the public’s health for generations.” The dashboard is accompanied by five multimedia stories, the first five stories in a series that will highlight major innovations supported by this funding. Over the next several months, other stories will be added to showcase projects within local public health agencies, area agencies on aging, and other critical partners.

The stories include: Vital records: building a fully digital, comprehensive system for

112 years’ worth of records, including birth, death, and marriage records; Testing speed: new equipment automated manual processes, increased capacity and allowed for faster test results; Disease monitoring: improved equipment combined with a new partnership with MU enhanced Missouri’s ability to track diseases and variants; Closed-loop recycling program: created laboratory supplies during extreme supply chain disruptions by recycling 1,500 pounds of plastic waste; Improving nutrition: Missouri WIC increased funding for fruits and vegetables and will build a digital data dashboard.

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Psalm 115:1

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How to Cover Dental Care in Retirement

Dear Savvy Senior,
 I had dental insurance through my work for many years but lost it when I retired and joined Medicare. Where can retirees find affordable dental care?

Uninsured Al
 Dear Al,

Unfortunately, about two-thirds of U.S. retirees don't have dental insurance today. Without coverage from traditional Medicare, and with private dental insurance typically costing too much to be feasible, most seniors are stuck paying full out-of-pocket prices every time they visit a dentist. While there's no one simple solution to affordable dental care there are a variety of options that can help cut your costs. Here's where to look.

Medicare Advantage: While dental services are mostly excluded under original Medicare, many Medicare Advantage plans do provide coverage for dental care, but it's usually very limited. Medicare Advantage plans are government approved health plans (usually HMOs and PPOs) sold by private insurance companies that you can choose in place of original Medicare. To shop and research Advantage plans in your area visit Medicare.gov/plan-compare or call 800-633-4227.

Dental insurance: If you have gum problems and need extensive dental care, a dental insurance plan may be worth the costs versus paying for care yourself. Monthly premiums for individual plans range from about \$20 to \$80. A typical plan includes two or three cleanings and checkups per year, but these plans will likely have a waiting period – anywhere from a few months to a few years – before coverage for more expensive procedures kicks in. To find dental plans in your area, see eHealthInsurance.com.

Dental savings plans: While savings plans aren't as comprehensive as insurance, they are a good option for those who don't have dental insurance. How this works is you pay an annual membership fee – around \$80 to \$200 a year – in exchange for 10 to 60 percent discounts on service and treatments from participating dentists. To find a savings plan, go to DentalPlans.com (or 888-632-5353) where you can search for plans and participating dentists, as well as get a breakdown of the discounts offered.

Veterans' benefits: If you're a veteran enrolled in the VA health care program or are a beneficiary of the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), the VA offers a dental insurance

program that gives you the option to buy dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. The VA also provides free dental care to vets who have dental problems resulting from service. To learn more about these options, visit VA.gov/dental or call 877-222-8387.

Cheaper dental care: Because prices can vary by dentist, one way to ensure you get a good deal on your dental care is to call multiple provides and compare prices. To get an idea of what different dental procedures cost in your area, see FairHealthConsumer.org. If you're paying cash, it's also perfectly reasonable to ask your dentist for a discount.

There are also a number health centers and clinics that provide low-cost dental care to those in need. And all university dental schools and college dental hygiene programs offer dental care and cleanings for less than half of what you would pay at a dentist's office. Students who are supervised by their professors provide the care. See TeethWisdom.org to search for a center, clinic or school near you.

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.

Stock Market Insights

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

Strong
 Never arm wrestle a softball pitcher. My high school sophomore, who's been "hitting the gym," learned this lesson. They are stronger than you expect. Last week's gross domestic product (GDP) was stronger than analysts expected too.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (the champion of the lamest name) released the GDP report for the final three months of 2022 on January 26, 2023. According to the Wall Street Journal, the US economy was positive and beat analyst forecasts by nearly 12%.

Even though the GDP slowed down from the prior three months, it was enough to push 2022 into positive territory after a negative first half. The US economy is showing some fight, even against strong inflation and rising Federal Reserve interest rates.

Most analysts agree that the push behind the market is companies buying to rebuild inventories, consumer spending, and government spending at all levels. One notable exception was that residential home investment dropped 26.7% as home sales

struggled against surging mortgage rates.
 I still think the US will see a mild and short-lived recession in the early-to-middle part of 2023. The market probably has already reached its low point in this cycle, but a mild recession could affect the job front and cause more layoffs and lower incomes.

Our economy hasn't yet felt the full impact of the Fed's rate hikes. So I don't think they need to raise rates further; however, they're expected to increase rates in the next two meetings at a 0.25% clip and then stop sometime this spring, which could spark the stock market to climb.

Several analysts forecast the Fed actually cutting interest rates in the last half of this year because of the resilience of the US economy. The US consumer is strong.

My son soon learned

to avoid arm wrestling the mighty right hand of his softball pitching sister until his weight training kicked in. He defeats her now, but his sister is stronger than he expected. I think our economy is too.

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Starting salary of \$28,600 yr. Barry County also provides a benefit package which includes paid employee health insurance, CERF Retirement Benefits, paid sick leave, 14 paid holidays and paid vacation leave after 1 year.

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

The Barry County Sheriff's Office is an equal opportunity employer.

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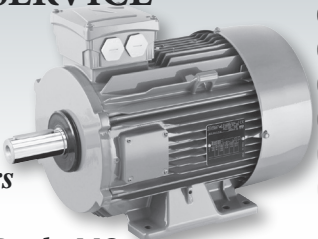
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BID NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Barry County E9-1-1 is currently accepting proposals for
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Must be insured. Must provide proof of insurance if bid is accepted. Your proposals must be in strict accordance with guidelines set forth by Barry County E9-1-1 Mapping & Addressing Office. These guidelines, as well as additional information, may be obtained by contacting Gina Johnson at 417-846-4911 x221. All proposals must be received by sealed bid no later than Friday, February 10 at noon at the 9-1-1 Center. You can mail to PO Box 910 Cassville MO 65625 or bring to 9-1-1 center at 4011 Main St, Cassville MO

NOTICE

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MU Extension planning
budgets can aid farmers

As farms continue to see increased input costs and fluctuating returns in 2023, proper planning and decision-making will be critical for the year ahead. Updated enterprise planning budgets from University of Missouri Extension can help producers manage costs and project revenue for their operations.

More than 30 interactive budgets and calculators are available for livestock, row crop and forage enterprises. Customized to Missouri growing conditions and economic factors, these tools can equip producers with tools to evaluate their operation's scale and profitability, said MU Extension agricultural business specialist Jennifer Lutes.

“Our planning budgets give producers the opportunity to plan for economic sustainability of their operations and really articulate what their farm will look like going into the next growing or marketing year,” Lutes said. “As we look ahead to another year of increased expenses and volatility, we see our budgets as a critical piece of the farm management toolkit.”

Producers can tailor each budget to fit their farm and understand the cost structure for each enterprise. Equipped with this information, they can then determine how to best control input costs, set price targets for the year or adjust enterprise sizing for maximum profitability.

Unique growing conditions, economic factors and crop types across the Show-Me State require more than a blanket approach to farm management, notes MU Extension ag business specialist David Reinbott.

In addition to statewide budgets, customized crop budgets and irrigation investment tools are available for producers specifically in southeastern Missouri. Cotton, rice, peanuts, milo and other regional crops are included in the suite of budget tools, Reinbott said.

Producers in the Missouri Bootheel can leverage crop budgets specifically tailored to their region as they make sound management decisions in 2023, he said.

“Our tailored budgets for the Bootheel give these producers invaluable tools as they evaluate and make management decisions for operations that we just don't see elsewhere in the state,” Reinbott said. “These resources are one of a kind.”

Missouri's enterprise budgets are prepared each year by University of Missouri Extension and can be downloaded for free. Find budgets at muext.us/MissouriAgBudgets.

Download crop budgets for southeastern Missouri at muext.us/SEMOAgBudgets.

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OFO to present Valentine's Young Artist Concert Feb. 19

Theo Jones

standing next to a piano

Shown above is pianist Theo Jones, who will be performing at the Valentine's Young Artist Concert, in February.

Murray Bishoff

The Ozark Festival Orchestra will continue its 43rd season with its "Love Is In The Air" concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 19, at the Monett High School Performing Arts Center in Monett.

This will be the third concert led by the OFO's new music director, Alexandra Kovatch. She has been director of orchestras at Drury University in Springfield since 2020 as well as director of the Springfield Chamber Orchestra.

The concert will include romantic-themed selections, such as Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet Fantasy," selections from Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story," Elgar's "Salut d'Amour" and "Nimrod" from the "Enigma Variations," and an orchestrated version of "As Time Goes By."

In addition, this concert will feature soloists from the OFO's annual Young Artists program, offering young people from the area an opportunity to display their skills by playing a movement from a concerto with the orchestra. Following auditions, a panel has selected three Young Artists. In the junior division, 11-year-old Theo Jones of Rogersville, a piano student of Cindy Dittrich, will play the opening movement from "Concerto Romantique" by American composer Catherine Rollin. There will be two senior division players. Violinist Kate Caddy, 15, of Walnut Grove, a student of Starla Blair, will play the third movement from the Concerto in A minor by Vivaldi (Op. 3 No. 6). Pianist Owen Cornell, 16, of Bolivar, a student of Jennifer Smith, will play the first movement of the Keyboard Concerto No. 7 in G minor by J.S. Bach (BWV 1058). Also auditioning for a chance to perform with the OFO were sisters Anna Lu, 11, and Esther Lu, 13, both pianists, from Bolivar.

The OFO's Young Artists program is underwritten in part by the Barry-Lawrence Area United Fund, expanding opportunities for young people.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, and free for children high school age and under. The performing arts center is located on the north side of Monett High School, 1 David Sippy Drive in Monett, west of the Price Cutter supermarket at Bridle Lane and East Cleveland Avenue.

The OFO will continue its season with its next annual Marty Beckwith Memorial Pops in the Park Concert on April 16 at the Monett City Park Casino.

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...all that Jazz

The Cassville Wildcat Band Boosters proudly presents a music filled evening provided by the High School and Middle School Jazz bands.

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6:00 pm

Cassville R-IV Schools-FEMA 1(MS)

Ticket Prices:

Tables: \$100 for 8 (includes seat, cupcakes and drinks)

Prepaid tickets: \$10.00 each

Tickets at the door \$15.00 each

Tickets can be purchased in the High School Office or Tomblin's Jewelry and need to be presented on performance night!

17-19c

18-19c