

## A bond that drives

Potosi's Emily Bierman shatters WBCA fundraising record to recognize her cousin, Sydney, and her fight with brain cancer

SEE SPORTS

## Schreiner subject of book, talk

WWII hero part of book recognizing those who sacrificed in Pacific

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## Try to find the right spot

County having trouble getting location for final communication tower

During the monthly Grant County Law Enforcement meeting Monday, there was some level of uncertainty on what was coming next for things.

Both the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management were waiting to hear the status of vehicles they have ordered. For the Sheriff's Office, they have seen other departments, like Fennimore Police, find out their orders for new squads have been bumped, and the county did not know where the fourth of the four squads were in the assembly process.

For Emergency Management, the funding for the swift water rescue trucks was part of a Federal grant, and while they believe there will be an extension because many agencies are seeing delays, they want to know just when the trucks will be delivered to let the feds know.

But the bigger issue for the committee was the need to find a location for the final tower for the new county emergency communication system. The entire system is supposed to come online at the same time, so any delay on getting the final tower in could complicate just when the new system will be up and operating.

Utilizing federal ARPA funding, the county is in the process of replacing its aging emergency communication system. The equipment running the current batch of towers is obsolete, unavailable except for finding used parts, and the coverage has many gaps in coverage.

The new system will offer nearly complete coverage for the county, and with the use of a fiber optic loop, if any tower were to go down, the other towers will still be up and running as they are not repeaters, but broadcasting from the network feed.

For the rest of the county, the towers are in different stages of completion. Some are under construction, while others are up.

But for the final tower in Cassville, the county does not have a location.

Thus far, different locations have not panned out. For one, the property owner does not want to break off a parcel. For another, the space is not enough to have the service building that would have

County | SEE 4A



In its second year, Cassville's Chalk the Park event saw the number of people attending double this past Friday night.

## Making moments

Organizations work to fill calendar with events

"It's really great to see."

Amy Olson is wearing two hats in 2023 - her regular one as the head of the Grant County Fair, and the other as the President of the Grant County

Tourism Council. In both positions, Olson is seeing an increase in the number of community events that are going on across Grant County, and at the Grant Tourism | SEE 11A



More than 500 people enjoyed a night out on the Grant County Fairgrounds with the community movie night that also took place last Friday night.

## Churchill brothers to be recognized by local veteran groups June 24

By all accounts, brothers John and Jim Churchill were just your typical sailor and soldier, doing their duty during the Vietnam War.

John served in the Navy for just over four years, being an ordnance maintenance specialist on the USS Forestal.

Jim was in the Marines. By all accounts, it looks like Jim served just over five years.

The men came back, and like so many veterans that have come before them, and have come back since then, the brothers folded themselves back into the society they put on a uniform to protect and defend.

John passed away in 2001, while Jim died in 2015. Unfortunately, since neither man came from a family of any means, their service to our country that should be recognized for every veteran who

has passed was delayed.

For John, who was buried in Beetown Cemetery, his gravesite was never fully paid for, and the plaque afforded to every veteran was never affixed to his final resting place, sitting instead at the county Veteran Service Office.

For Jim, when he passed, another brother had ordered his cremation, but before the bill was paid, that brother could no longer be contacted, and Jim sat in a vault at the Martin Schwartz Funeral Home since then.

No one else from the family was there to finish the job. A sister, who lives in Nashville, is dealing with dementia, and the rest of the siblings seem to be gone.

However, John and Jim are going to get their recognition June 24, as several groups have come together to make sure they get a

proper burial and service at the Beetown Cemetery, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Things got underway when Lancaster VFW Chapter 40 learned of the brothers at the beginning of this year. Living under the motto 'no veterans left behind,' a group of veterans began learning what could be done to complete the job for Jim and John.

"Everything has gone very smoothly," said Carl Thiede of the Lancaster VFW, noting the work so many have done on this project.

Working with Martin-Schwartz, Jim and John's sister was tracked down, and the paperwork to release Jim's remains was completed.

Oddfellow Mississippi Valley Lodge 86, which has a mantra of helping the dead, the widows, the orphans, came in and installed the

Churchill | SEE 4A



Last month, Lee Jerrett and Steve Staskal installed the cement foundation for the memorial plaques for brothers Jim and John Churchill, who are now lying at rest together at the Beetown Cemetery. After years, they will be formally recognized this month with a ceremony by local veterans.

## Driver arrested after fatal crash

Alleged drunk driver causes first traffic fatality on county roads

The county's clean record for 2023 is erased as a 52-year-old Cassville man was killed in a vehicle accident last week, and a Cassville woman was arrested and charged as a result.

Gerald Dukett was pronounced dead by the Grant County Coroner's Office at the scene of the crash on STH 81 at Settlement Road Thursday afternoon.

Erin Ruberg, 33, was arrested on a tentative charge of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and cited for failure to yield the right of way from a stop sign resulting in death. An intake hearing on the citation is scheduled for July 17.

According to the Grant County Sheriff's Office, Dukett was driving east on 81 around 1 p.m. as Ruberg's vehicle came to a rolling stop at Settlement Road and Grant County Y and then went south on Y. Ruberg's vehicle pulled out in front of Dukett's vehicle, and Dukett's vehicle struck Ruberg's vehicle on the passenger side, with both vehicles ending up in the ditch in the southeast corner of the intersection.

Dukett was ejected from his vehicle, the Sheriff's Office said. Ruberg suffered minor injuries, and was arrested after field sobriety tests, the Sheriff's Office said.

Cassville Police, Fire and EMS, the Grant County Highway Department, and the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit assisted the Sheriff's Office. Wisconsin 81 was closed for about five hours.

Dukett is the first fatality on Grant County roads this year.

In other traffic news, a 17-year-old from Platteville suffered what the Grant County Sheriff's Office called "severe" injuries, and a 20-year-old Cuba City man was arrested after a head-on crash southwest of Platteville Friday evening.

Abraham Burnette Runde was arrested on a tentative charge of great bodily harm by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and knowingly operating after suspension causing great bodily harm, and cited for operating left of center causing great bodily harm.

Runde's and the 17-year-old's vehicles collided head-on on County D around 11:10 p.m.

The 17-year-old was taken to UW Hospital in Madison by medical helicopter.

Runde's intake hearing on the

Crashes | SEE 6A