

MUSEUM DISPLAYS GIVE GLIMPSE THROUGH TIME — PAGE 2

<<< CUBS PLAY FOR SOUTHWEST TITLE

Hoops squad looks to keep improving through season. — PAGE 3



MONETT Monthly

JANUARY 7, 2025 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY

Rezoning requests to allow for multi-family housing

City commits to purchasing bunker gear, ladder truck for fire department

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

Several items from the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing, at least five motions on re-zoning and plat placements within the city, headlined the Monett

CITY OF MONETT

What: Held December council meeting

Ordinances: First readings held for five ordinances recommended by Planning and Zoning Commission

More: City commits to buying new bunker gear, ladder truck for fire department

City Council meeting in December.

"The first five items tonight

all came from the planning and zoning, and there's a lot of actions here," Mayor Randy Burke said. "The planning and zoning has been pretty busy of late, so here we are. We're doing the first reading tonight of all these re-planning and reasoning issues. We'll do the second reading in the January meeting."

The council held the first reading for two new re-zoning requests for part of the "Schallert Trust-Owned

Property" and 1509 Glen Street.

Burke said the Schallert Trust-Owned Property is just south of Country Club Estates on the west by Eisenhower.

Approximately 20% of that lot is going to be re-zoned for multi-family housing. Burke said project builders had clarified to the council that the homes will be duplexes.

Regarding the property at 1509 Glen Street, the council

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MURDER CHARGE

Who: Alan Mellow, 33, of Monett
What: Is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of armed criminal action
More: Mellow being held in jail on no bond

Monett man charged with murder

Woman shot to death, infant suffers skull fracture

BY KYLE TROUTMAN

ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

A 33-year-old Monett man is being held in the Barry County jail on no bond after allegedly shooting a woman to death on Dec. 20 at an apartment complex in Monett.

Alan Mellow, 33, of Monett, is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of armed criminal action. According to a press release from Monett Police Chief George Daoud, the victim was identified as Hannah Lee Blizard, 30, of Monett.

According to a probable cause statement filed by Det. Sgt. Scott Landreth, with the Monett Police Department, on Dec. 20, officers were dispatched to a shots fired call at the Fairway Apartments in Monett. While en route, they were advised a woman had been shot.

Cpl. Iannaccone arrived on the scene and observed a female on the ground near a Nissan passenger car, noting she appeared bloody and lifeless. Iannaccone spoke with a witness who said he saw a white male, whom he thought was named Alan, shoot the woman three times at close range, then went into an apartment with an infant.

Iannaccone, along with Barry County Sheriff's Office Deputies Calderon and Hightower, began evacuating the scene and clearing surrounding apartments, and while outside of the apartment identified by the witness, Iannaccone heard a male state, "My son will grow up without a dad."

Monett officers then summoned additional resources, including all its detectives and a Missouri State Highway Patrol special weapons and tactics team. Landreth said when he arrived on scene, Sgt. J. Givens, with the Patrol, was speaking to the suspect via telephone, ultimately convincing the suspect to surrender and turn the infant over to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Cheer spread at annual Christmas parade



The Grinch was one of many costumed characters to appear in the annual Monett Christmas Parade on Broadway in December. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Monett schoolboard discusses EDGE program

STUCO presents to board on activities, accomplishments

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett School Board held its last meeting of 2025 on Dec. 18, focusing on the future of teaching and childhood development.

The board held discussion on the district's EDGE (Education, Development, Growth, and Excellence) leadership program as well as updates on the newly established Mater's Program for instructors.

The board talked about the continuing work on the EDGE leadership framework for administrators. The program was developed last summer in the hopes of supporting leadership consistency.

The program's framework has a focus

on "building trust through clarity and expectations, leading through challenges directly, maintaining emotional consistency, and modeling calm, steady leadership for staff" according to the school's website.

Administrators revisit the EDGE framework monthly, with an emphasis on reinforcing and developing specific leadership traits throughout the year.

The board also gave updates on the new master's program that is set to help

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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Inaugural Protect the Fawn and Turkey Predator Derby Jan. 23

SWMO Game Feed will host the inaugural Protect the Fawn and Turkey Predator Derby Jan. 23 starting at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post No. 4207 Tom Wolfe Memorial, located at 5400 Hwy. 60 in Monett. The tournament, for coyotes, bobcats, foxes, raccoons and opossum, starts on Jan. 23 at 6 p.m., with check-in on Jan. 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. and awards at 7:30 p.m. A free chili will also be served on Saturday. The tournament's goal is to manage predators of turkey, fawns and other wildlife. There will also be a Skinner on hand. More information, including rules, how to pay the \$50 2-person registration fee and prizes, may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/bdz968yy>.

New Site Baptist hosting revival Jan. 25-27

New Site Baptist Church, located at 11925 Farm Road 1060 in Monett, will host the Encounter Revival from Jan. 25 through Jan. 27. The three nights of worship will feature guest appearances from Pastor Anthony Vargas and Vocalist Daniel Crews. Encounter Revival will be at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 25, and 6:30 p.m. nightly Jan. 25-27.

100+ Women third quarter meeting on Feb. 5

The 100+ Women of Barry and Lawrence Counties will meet on Feb. 5 from 6-8 p.m. at the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library, located at 2200 Park St. in Monett. Social hour is from 6-7 p.m., and at 7 p.m., voting members (those who donate \$100 or more) can nominate a charity from Barry or Lawrence counties to receive fourth-quarter meeting funds. People may donate online at cfozark.org/100monett, or by mail to Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Attn: 100 Women Monett, PO Box 8960, Springfield, MO 65801.

Publisher's note: Do you have an event coming up? Publish it free in news briefs by emailing: monettmonthly@outlook.com

CORRECTIONS

Monett Monthly corrects factual errors or clarifies information promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please email Publisher Kyle Troutman at monettmonthly@outlook.com.

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ABOUT

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The publication is free, and additional copies are available at the *Cassville Democrat* office.

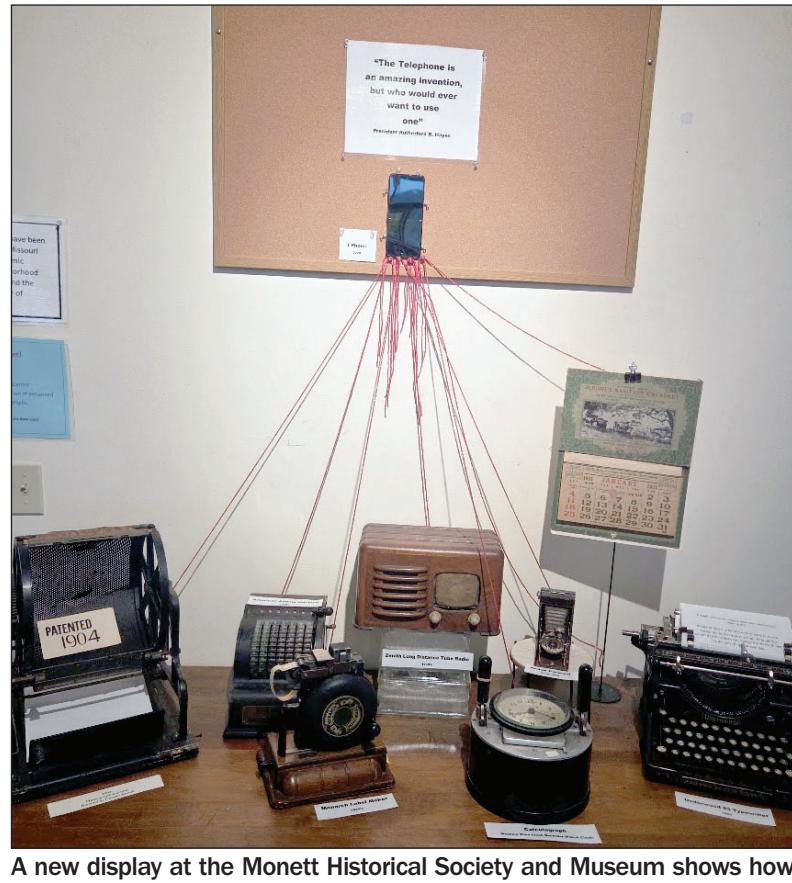
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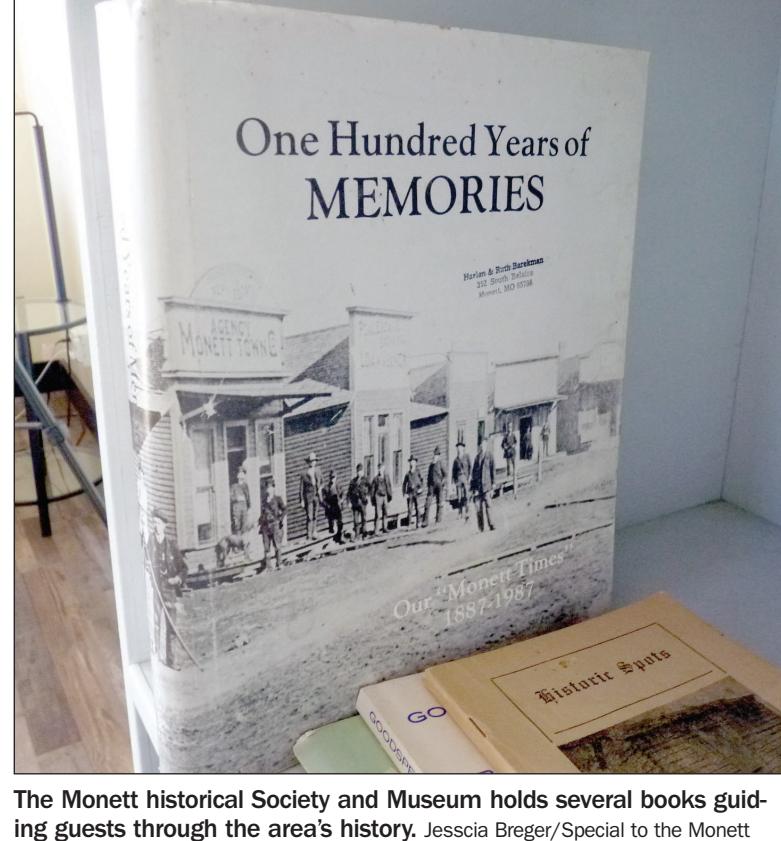
A new display at the Monett Historical Society and Museum shows how technology has changed throughout the years. Jesscia Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Monett Historical Society and Museum is houses several examples of ever changing home entertainment through history. Jesscia Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Historical Society and Museum displays the building's own transformations through time. Jesscia Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Monett historical Society and Museum holds several books guiding guests through the area's history. Jesscia Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Museum gives glimpse through time

History of Monett buildings, transformations in technology on display

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

As a new year begins, it is often the time to reflect on growth and change.

As a city based on trade and transportation, Monett has embraced the concepts of growth and change since its establishment in the late 1800s.

The Monett Historical Society and Museum offers several rooms to explore the city's history, but some displays directly show how the city and the world around it have changed and grown throughout the years.

Hanging in the lobby, guests are met with a photo display of the museum itself, showing the changing facade over the decades.

The building did not always house the Museum and the display shows how the building, formerly Monett State Bank, changed its face and then had it restored as the now Monett Historical Society and Museum.

The Museum sits at the corner of Broadway Street and Fifth Street and even the building itself is a historical site.

Built in 1903, as the Commercial Bank of Monett, the bank changed its name in 1901. Today, the building housing the Museum still bears the name "Monett State Bank" above the entry.

The structure was restored in 2017 and became home to the Monett Historical Society and Museum.

Moving further into the Museum, guests see not only the changes to their hometown over the years, but the changes in technology, home entertainment and society in the world around Monett as well.

A new display now shows how technology has changed throughout the years starting with typewriters, physical calendars, radios and cameras — showing the development of new technology and guiding guests along the journey from each as individual inventions to the collaboration of these items to the smart phone.

The display lays out the multiple devices, showing not only how far the technology has come, but also showing in a live setting, the size and functionality of each device, putting into perspective the ease of the smartphone and all the advancements that lead to it.

The display also shows how these advancements were pushed against and doubted by powerful people. It even quotes President Rutherford B. Hayes in his doubts that the telephone would gain popularity.

Along with communication advancements, the Museum also houses a display of several home entertainment devices from radios to televisions.

The outdated devices show the different methods and materials used throughout time to transmit images and sounds to our homes.

The Museum welcomes guests to explore the changing world around them with these displays as well as many more exploring local changes in transportation, schools and city developments.

The Museum is open five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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JARED LANKFORD

Home of the Chiefs

It was Sunday January, 4 1998, a day I'll never forget.

I was three days shy of my 17th birthday but I received the greatest gift a boy that was a diehard Kansas City Chiefs fan could imagine.

The Chiefs were hosting a playoff game at Arrowhead Stadium against Denver and I would make my debut in the stands.

It was magical. All my life I had wanted to attend a Chiefs game. The atmosphere on television displayed the electricity of a loyal fan base. However, all that paled in comparison to attending a game in the loudest stadium in the NFL.

Over 75,000 screaming fans that frustrated opposing teams, causing penalties and forcing timeouts. The most famous event took place on December 9, 1990, when Denver's John Elway twice appealed to the officials to make the Arrowhead crowd quite down so his team could run a play. Despite the threat of a penalty, the fans roared even louder.

For 45 years I have proudly supported the Red and Gold. Win or lose, it did not matter.

One of the biggest factors to my original fandom was the fact that the Chiefs were a Missouri team, which meant a great deal to me.

So, in December 2025 when Clark Hunt announced that his team would move 23 minutes away to Wyandotte County in Kansas to build a new stadium, it was a personal gut punch to millions, of fans including myself.

I have no problem admitting that my biggest issue is one of pride — state pride.

I was and am a Chiefs fan because they were Missouri's team. St. Louis had lost the football Cardinals to Arizona and Rams to Los Angeles, but the Chiefs were the state's gridiron institution.

Football fans identified Missouri as the Chiefs Kingdom.

For the next five years I will be likely in a football state of depression as the Missouri era draws closer to its end.

I will be frustrated with the voters of Jackson County for not extending the 3/8's cent sales tax for the overhaul of the Truman Sports Complex. I will be frustrated with Frank White, a Royals baseball legend, turned politician, who worked tirelessly to thwart the stadium efforts — more out of spite from being fired from the Royals broadcast booth than concern for the Missouri taxpayers.

I will be frustrated with Clark Hunt for turning his back upon a state that built, paid, cheered and lived and died every Sunday for his team.

The Chiefs released a statement in an attempt to spin the development as a positive one for the fans.

It read in part: "What makes Chiefs gamedays so special is you. Seats don't make noise, concrete doesn't intimidate opponents, parking lots don't cook barbecue. You do."

They also put this in bold: "Every step of the way, he (Lamar) prioritized the fans."

I personally like former Chiefs standout lineman Mitchell Schwartz's response on X (formerly Twitter) and felt it summed up my feelings.

"I'm fine with owners doing whatever they want to make more money," Schwartz said. "That's how they're all wired regardless of how much they/their families are worth. I can hate that it's always about money but it's reality. Just be honest. Don't lie and try to placate the fans with platitudes."

Everything about the move benefits the Hunt family and not the fans, players, employees, taxpayers and most of all me — The World's Biggest Chiefs Fan (it's on my coffee cup so it's official).

The deal includes a roughly \$3 billion domed stadium in Wyandotte County, a \$300 million team headquarters and training facility in Olathe, Kan., and at least \$700 million in surrounding mixed-use development.

The new stadium under consideration will only seat 62,000 to 68,000 a decrease of 8,000-14,000 seats from Arrowhead, meaning higher ticket costs. Tell me again how this benefits the "average" Chiefs fan.

Every benefit for getting a Super Bowl, Final Four, Taylor Swift Concert with Travis Kelce dancing or whatever, it will be the Hunt family and not the Chiefs family that benefits.

Reading the breakdown on how the facility will be financed makes fans even more frustrated. The Hunts got a deal and made a business decision.

I don't think I am alone in saying that the owner will need to repair some damaged bridges with Missouri fans. Because right now, I don't know if I'll be supporting the Red and Gold in 2031.

Jared Lankford is the sports reporter for Monett Monthly and has more than 15 years experience covering Monett-area athletics. He may be reached at monettsports@gmail.com

SPORTS

CUBS CAP 2025 WITH STRONG SHOW-



Monett's Alex Meeks is fouled as he puts up a shot in the championship bout against East Newton at the Southwest Holiday Tournament. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

Monett seeks to take next step in development

BY JARED LANKFORD

monettsports@gmail.com

Coming into the 2025-2026 basketball season, Monett had zero starters returning and just two players that had played meaningful varsity minutes.

Cubs Coach Andrew Ballock knew this season would feature growing pains, and he was correct.

The Cubs won just once in their first six games, a 47-46 decision over Pierce City, but then ripped off three straight victories over Hollister, Seneca and Southwest.

The last two wins came in the Southwest Holiday

CUBS HOOPS

What: Started season 1-5 but reeled off three wins in a row and played for Southwest Tournament championship

Title result: Loss to East Newton, 40-23

More: Monett hopes to keep improving and gaining experience entering Big 8 Conference play

of new guys playing in varsity roles they have never done before and we have take some lumps early. Now, I think we hit our stride winning three in a row before [falling to East Newton], but I am proud of the way we have been playing."

Ballock talked to his team after the 40-23 championship loss and told them that he was proud of them and that they should not be upset, but use the game as further motivation as the season progresses.

"We saw growth and improvement this week," Ballock said. "East Newton is a great ball

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Lady Cubs bear down on 2026

Red-hot Monett braces for tough Big 8 play

BY JARED LANKFORD

monettsports@gmail.com

Entering the new year with a 8-1 record, the Monett girls basketball team is not content to rest on its laurels.

While excited about the great start to the season, the Lady Cubs players and coaches know that every game will be a grind. There are no easy games or nights we can take off."

"It helps having five seniors on the floor," said Josh Kleine, Monett coach. "We have been able to score in bunches and play some youth

LADY CUBS HOOPS

What: Finished the 2025 portion of this season at 8-1

Ahead: Big 8 Conference play

More: Triple-threat of scorers leading the way for Monett

to get them experience.

However, as we get into conference play we know that every game will be a grind. There are no easy games or nights we can take off."

Monett has a three-headed attack that spearheaded the hot start.

Meredith Merriman and transfer Avery Stokes have given the Lady Cubs a one-two punch of size, scoring and athleticism

down low.

"One of our biggest strengths is our unselfishness," Kleine said. "When Meredith found out that Avery was transferring in, she was excited and didn't think about losing scoring or minutes. The whole team shares the ball and does what is best for the team. That just helps make them both tough to defend because teams must respect both of them."

Merriman is averaging 19.1 points and 10.2 rebounds and Stokes is chipping in 10.3 points and 7.7 rebounds per game. Kleine pointed out that when a team has two players averaging nearly a double-double per game, good things tend to happen.

"Kilee is just a consistent performer," Kleine said. "She moves the ball around and does those little detail things that don't always show up on the

pen.

"The girls are working well together," Kleine said. "When you are not concerned with individual stats and you just want to win, that is when playing team basketball is at its best."

However, the Lady Cubs are more than just their two interior players.

Kilee Wilson is the other piece to the team's triple-headed scoring punch, as she is averaging 15 points, 4 steals and 2 rebounds per game.

"Kilee is just a consistent performer," Kleine said. "She moves the ball around and does those little detail things that don't always show up on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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LOCAL DEVOTIONAL

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The Barry County Health Department offers WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) services to clients that qualify. The WIC program is a supplemental nutritional program for women, children, and infants. Eligibility includes pregnant women, women breastfeeding their infant up to the infant's first birthday, and postpartum women up to 6 months. It also covers infants up to their 1st birthday and children through the age of 5 years. You must live in Missouri and the household income can be no more than 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines.

WIC offers a variety of foods including: milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, peanut butter, whole grains, fresh and frozen fruits/vegetables. It offers supplemental infant formula, infant cereals, and infant fruits/vegetables. WIC can offer an average monthly savings of \$60.00 per child.

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Please call The Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 to see if you qualify and make an appointment for certification.

Publisher's note: This article is courtesy of Barry County Health Department, located at 90 Barry County Drive in Cassville. The Department may be reached at 417-847-2114.



"A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ." Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758).

Lots of people make New Year's Resolutions, many of which will have to do with losing weight or exercising more. I'd like to suggest a more significant resolution. In the quote above, Jonathan Edwards says to be Christ-like should be the "great concern" of every true and faithful Christian. For Christians, this should be a high priority 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, all our life — a powerful, profound resolution for every year!

Christ-like character can be gained from studying Christ, his life and his own priorities. When we do so, we will see that it was the will of the Father and the truth of the Scriptures that motivated him. One suggestion then, is that you read the four Gospel accounts through several times this year. Besides reading of Jesus' life and listening to his

teaching in the Gospels, let me offer the following quotes to guide you along in a greater knowledge of God and His will for your life. (Suggestion: besides the suggestion to read through the Gospels, save these quotes and read through them each week of the year.)

"There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve Him, boldness to share Him, and contentment in Him." — J. I. Packer

"Faith is not an instinct. It certainly is not a feeling — feelings don't help much when you're in the lions' den or hanging on a wooden Cross. Faith is not inferred from the happy way things work. It is an act of will, a choice, based on the unbreakable Word of a God who cannot lie, and who showed us what love and obedience and sacrifice mean, in the person of Jesus Christ." — Elisabeth Elliot

"It is grace at the beginning, and grace at the end. So that when you and I come to lie upon

our death beds, the one thing that should comfort and help and strengthen us there is the thing that helped us in the beginning. Not what we have been, not what we have done, but the Grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Christian life starts with grace, it must continue with grace, it ends with grace. Grace wondrous grace. By the grace of God I am what I am. Yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me." — D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

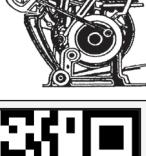
"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength — carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." — Charles Stanley

"What do we want? What would we be doing? What do our souls desire? Is it not that we might have a more full, clear, stable comprehension of the wisdom, love, grace, goodness, holiness, righteousness, and power of God, as declared and exalted in Christ unto our redemption and eternal salvation?" — John Owen.

Rev. Randy Crane is the pastor at Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Monett. He may be reached at cranes5@hotmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The purpose of the Commentary page is to provide a forum of various opinions, and we highly encourage letters to the editor. The opinions of columnists are not necessarily shared by Monett Monthly or its staff. If you have an opinion, send a letter to Kyle Troutman, Monett Monthly, P.O. Box 486, Cassville, MO 65625, email ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.

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Lonnie Dean Fulp • Monett • Jan. 27, 1937 - Dec. 7, 2025
Maxine Virginia Schad • Monett • April 3, 1929 - Dec. 10, 2025
Alfred "Al" Fiffe Jr. • Monett • Dec. 26, 1929 - Dec. 15, 2025
Bruce L. Johnson • Monett • Jan. 20, 1950 - Dec. 15, 2025
Olen Morris • Monett • Jan. 21, 1934 - Dec. 30, 2025

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Monett's Bryce Hoyt puts up a shot in action against East Newton in the Southwest Holiday Tournament. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Jack Stephens keeps a ball in play during the championship game at the Southwest Holiday Tournament on Dec. 30. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Cubs: Big 8 play upcoming; Monett playing in Crane tournament Jan. 12-17

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A



Monett's Henry Walker goes for 2 against East Newton in the Southwest Holiday Tournament championship game on Dec. 30. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

club. We knew they were going to be physical and well coached. We did a lot of good things but struggled to put the ball in the hoop. But, I'm not disappointed with our effort."

As the season plays out, Monett has been happy with the emergence of Alex Meeks and Jack Stephens.

Meeks has taken on the role of patrolling the post for the Cubs, fighting for rebounds and locking down the interior. Stephens has the ability to slash to the basket and the size to post in the paint.

"Jack and Alex played tough all tournament long," Ballock said. "Both couldn't get shots to go in the championship. East Newton was a big reason for that, but also just coming under control plays a role. Still, we are heading the right direction."

As Monett pushes into 2026 and the heart of Big 8 Conference play the goal is simple — keep improving.

"We are 10 games into the season, and now is when we need to settle and play their roles on both ends of the floor,"

Ballock said. "As a group, we need to find ways to score and be more consistent on the offensive end. Defensively, we are active and we don't tend to give up many easy baskets. We have two guys that consistently score, but we need a few more guys to step up and join them. We want to win by committee, but also score by committee."

Monett opened play in the Southwest tournament with a 50-33 win over Seneca and then topped host Southwest 40-32 in the semifinal.

"We put ourselves in a position to play for a title," Ballock said. "Many of our guys have never played for a championship, and to see us put together a couple of wins and reach the title game is encouraging. I think that will help us going forward when we reach that next championship game."

For his efforts Stephens was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Cubs opened Big 8 play on Jan. 6 with Seneca and will play next at Mt. Vernon on Jan. 9, then travel to the Crane tournament in Jan. 12-17.



Monett's Brady Rhea puts up a shot against East Newton in the Southwest Holiday Tournament championship on Dec. 30. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



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Lady Cubs: Toughest part of schedule coming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

stat sheet but at the end of the night are major factors in why we won."

The Lady Cubs have settled into an eight-person rotation.

"We like our current rotation," Kleine said. "Hannah Parris comes off the bench. She isn't an offensive threat, but on defense, she is a disrupter. Her size and speed cause other teams to struggle to get into rhythm. She leads our team in tipped passes. Kenzi Waterman is long and athletic and

leads the point on our 1-2-2 defense and leads the team in charges taken."

Kleine emphasized that he was proud of all of his players.

"Everyone knows what we expect of them and the role we want them to play," Kleine said. "As we push into 2026, we are focused on fine tuning and not major changes."

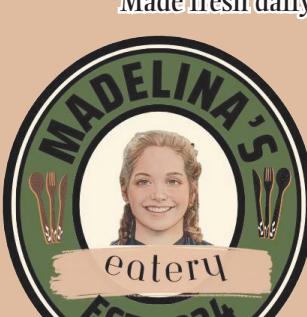
The Lady Cubs spent the winter break working on being more consistent on the defensive end and adding some wrinkles to

their pressure.

"We know that the toughest part of our schedule is still in front of

us," Kleine said. "We want to be one-day better and one-game better every time we take the floor."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

noted that the property and area surrounding it is zoned for industrial use.

The council decided to approve the ordinance to move forward with re-zoning the property and stated they will be looking into re-zoning the entire area to better reflect actual use of the properties in its January meeting.

"Our community development director is going to be looking at that so we can get some uniform zoning," Burke said.

The council also held first reading and approval of the preliminary plat for phase two of the North Hill subdivision, located between 17th Street and H Highway on the Lawrence County line. This project will also be placing duplex-style housing in the area.

A first reading was also held to approve changes to regulations of Legacy Lot Overlay District.

"In this area in central Monett, most of the houses were built over 100 years ago," Burke said. "Around 2018, the city adopted new codes and the lot requirements

City: Tandem Ladder Truck costs nearly \$1.9M

"In this area in central Monett, most of the houses were built over 100 years ago. Around 2018, the city adopted new codes and the lot requirements expanded."

MONETT MAYOR RANDY BURKE

On changes to the regulations of Legacy Lot Overlay District

expanded."

Burke said the ordinance would allow people who have homes in the area to be able to rebuild to the new lot sizes instead of being restricted to the outdated lot requirements of the district.

The final planning and zoning item listed was to subdivide an established multi-family plat for two houses and multiple duplexes in the plat for Hubert and Gilbert's Minor Subdivision.

Beyond Planning and Zoning recommendations, the council also focused on the city's fire department, needs as they approved an agreement for Preorder of Firefighter Protective Clothing and the Purchase of a 107

foot Tandem Ladder Truck for the Monett Fire Department.

Council revealed that much of the current protective clothing the department possesses is nearing its 10-year expiration time and the current ladder truck is 30 years old.

Council agreed all required updating, and the agreement for gear will allow the city to buy the protective clothing at a discount.

The bunker gear is set to cost \$109,920.35, with hoods, gloves, boots, belts and straps costing an additional \$14,818.

The new Pierce M a n u f a c t u r i n g Ascendant 107-Foot Quint tandem lad-

der truck is priced at \$1,898,598. Burke noted that the city's current truck is 30 years old and the lifespan of such vehicles is typically 25 years.

Burke said this new truck will allow for better access to larger buildings such as businesses, apartments and hotels.

The city will retain the current 75 foot ladder truck and place it in reserve. Both purchases are to come out of the 2026-27 fiscal budget.

Regular City Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Monett School District Board Room, with video available on the city's website the following day.

Murder: Mellow allegedly admitted to shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

police.

The suspect, identified as Mellow, was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Barry County jail.

Monett Detectives Brown and Salazar processed the scene and released Blizzard's body to Barry County Coroner Gary Swearingen, who pronounced her dead at the scene. The infant was transported to Cox Monett Hospital for evaluation, then due to suspicious injuries,

transferred to Cox South Hospital in Springfield for further treatment, where it was determined the child had a skull fracture of as yet undetermined nature. The child was then transferred to a hospital in St. Louis.

A search of the apartment Mellow was in allegedly revealed a loaded Taurus PT809c semi-automatic handgun on the kitchen counter, along with a nylon type holster and spare 17-round magazine.

The weapon allegedly contained a partially expended 13-round magazine. That magazine had Winchester hollow point ammunition, and the 17-round magazine contained full metal jacketed rounds.

Landreth then went to the Barry County jail to interview Mellow, who after signing a written

wavier of his Miranda rights, agreed to speak with Landreth, with Barry County Det. Abby Parsons also present.

According to Landreth's statement, Mellow said he and Blizzard had recently had a child together and the Blizzard "had a severe alcohol addiction he was trying to help her with."

"He said that [on Dec. 20] they were arguing about her alcohol use and the fact she had

stolen coins from his coin collection, which he believed she used to purchase alcohol," Landreth's statement said.

"He said [Blizzard] decided to call her mother and leave with the child. Mellow said he would not allow that and decided to leave himself with the child.

"Mellow said he took [the infant] outside to his

vehicle and was pursued by [Blizzard]. He said he put [the infant] in the backseat of the vehicle and he got into the driver's side. [Blizzard] went to the passenger side and got in to prevent him from leaving with [the infant]. Mellow said his handgun was in the vehicle, and when [Blizzard] got in, he shot her 'a couple of times' in the head."

Landreth said Mellow then disclosed he went to the passenger side of the vehicle and opened the door, intending to remove [Blizzard] and leave her at the scene, but instead took [the infant] out of the vehicle and went back inside the apartment, where he was later contacted by Givens.

Landreth included in his statement that Mellow allegedly made several statements that he knew best what to do with [Blizzard] and displayed deep distrust of law enforcement and Child Protective Services. Additionally, Mellow has a past history of violent behavior, Landreth said.

Mellow's criminal history online shows multiple traffic and vehicular registration infractions, as well as charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, all in Cassville, Monett and surrounding areas.

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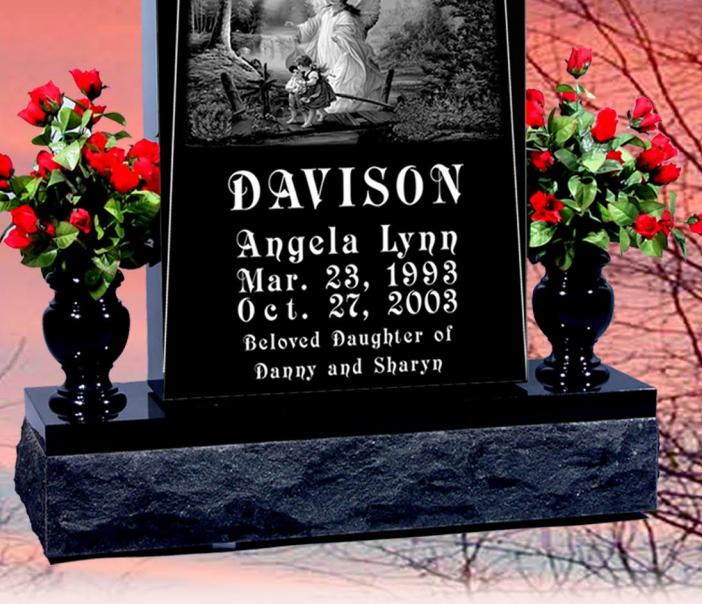
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The Christmas Choir is directed by Amanda Hull at the Monett Missouri Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Contributed photo



Laura Collinwood, of Stockton, narrated in-between each musical rendition at the annual Christmas Concert. Contributed photo

Monett Missouri Stake hosts Christmas Concert

The Monett Missouri Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints annual Christmas Concert was held at the Monett Stake Center on Dec. 14, 2025. More than 600 people were in attendance.

Amanda Hull, of Pierce City, directed the

50-member adult choir, the 35-member children's choir, and the 13-member orchestra. The members came from the Cassville area, Granby area, Carthage area, Pierce City area, Monett area, Aurora area, Lamar area and Stockton area, and they held weekly practices in

the Monett Stake Center since October.

Laura Collinwood, of Stockton, narrated in-between each musical rendition, typing all to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Not only did the congregation enjoy the music and narration, but they also enjoyed the beautiful decorations.

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School: Student engagement strong

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

local staff advance their degrees.

As presented in the November board meeting, The program is in partnership with Evangel University to allow the district to administer the course to 10 people every 18 months.

"We will run them through a master's program that we will teach," Superintendent Mark Drake said. "When I say 'we' I mean anyone with a specialist or higher."

Drake said through the program, the instructors would earn the degree with the agreement to work for the district for five years after the program completion.

The board reported that it has already received 18 applications for the first cohort and selected the 10 applicants to participate.

All applicants have been notified. Evangel University representatives visited on January

5 to meet with selected applicants.

The selection process included review by the PDC Leadership Committee, which ranked applicants anonymously before administrators reviewed feedback and finalized selections.

Classes for the first cohort will begin on Jan. 14 and will be held at the Central Office.

The board also heard from Student Council (STUCO) members about leadership opportunities for students as well as staff. Student council representatives discussed attending a District STUCO meeting in Lebanon, where a guest speaker focused on confidence and leadership.

Students shared that they were able to bring back ideas and strategies, especially around team building and engagement.

STUCO also highlighted several service and community-fo-

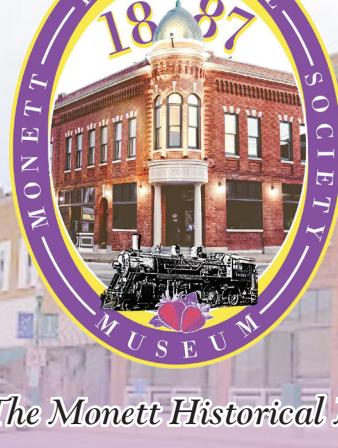
cused efforts, including donating 23 boxes of toys through Operation Christmas Child, hosting two blood drives, and supporting the Golden Age Dinner, which was shared as a successful event.

STUCO reported that student engagement has remained strong throughout the year, noting events including the Back-to-School Bash and Spike Wars.

Students also shared an unexpected update in student policy reporting that the no-phone law has had a positive impact on the student body, helping with focus, teamwork and participation during school activities and leadership events.

The next school board meeting will be held January 15. Monett School Board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Board Administrative Meeting Room located at the District Office.

Remember our history!

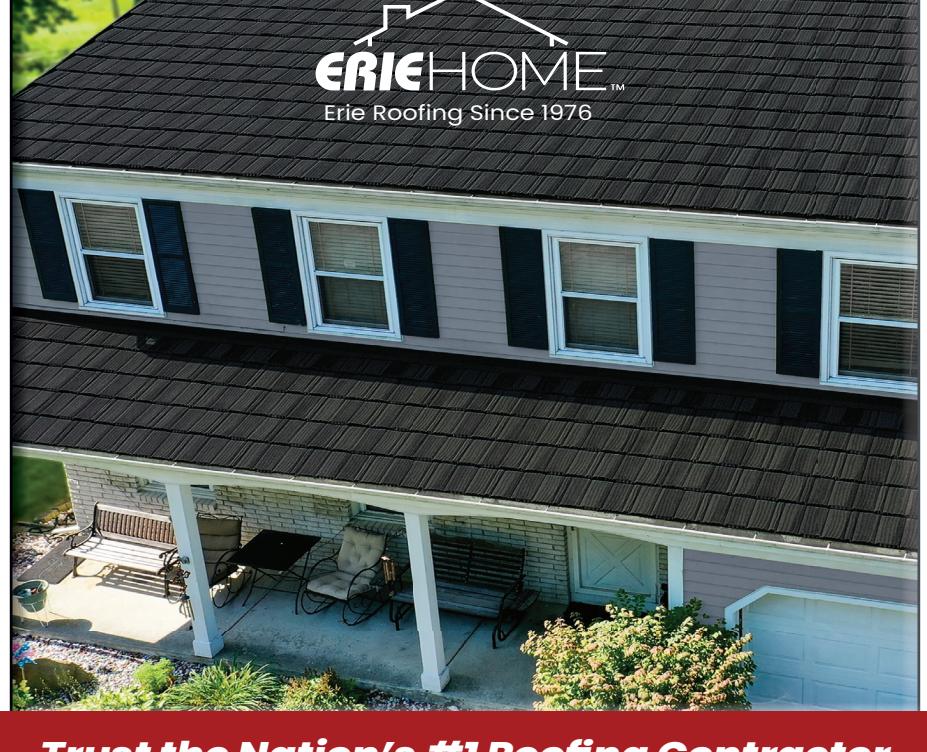


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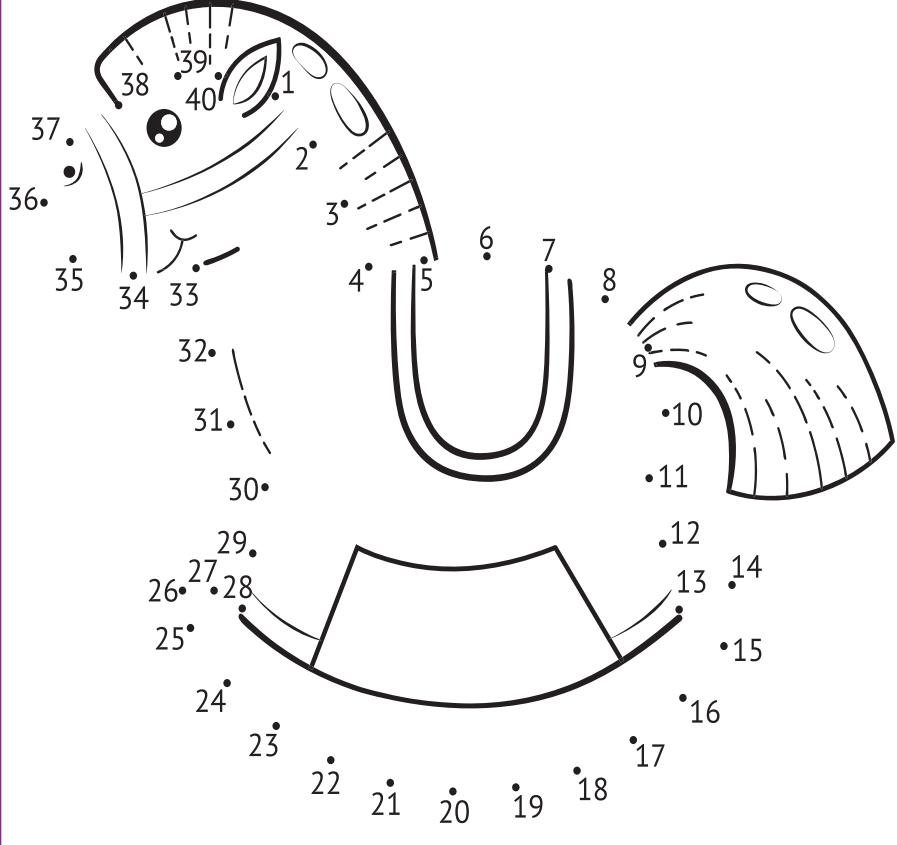
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Monett Christmas parade delights crowds

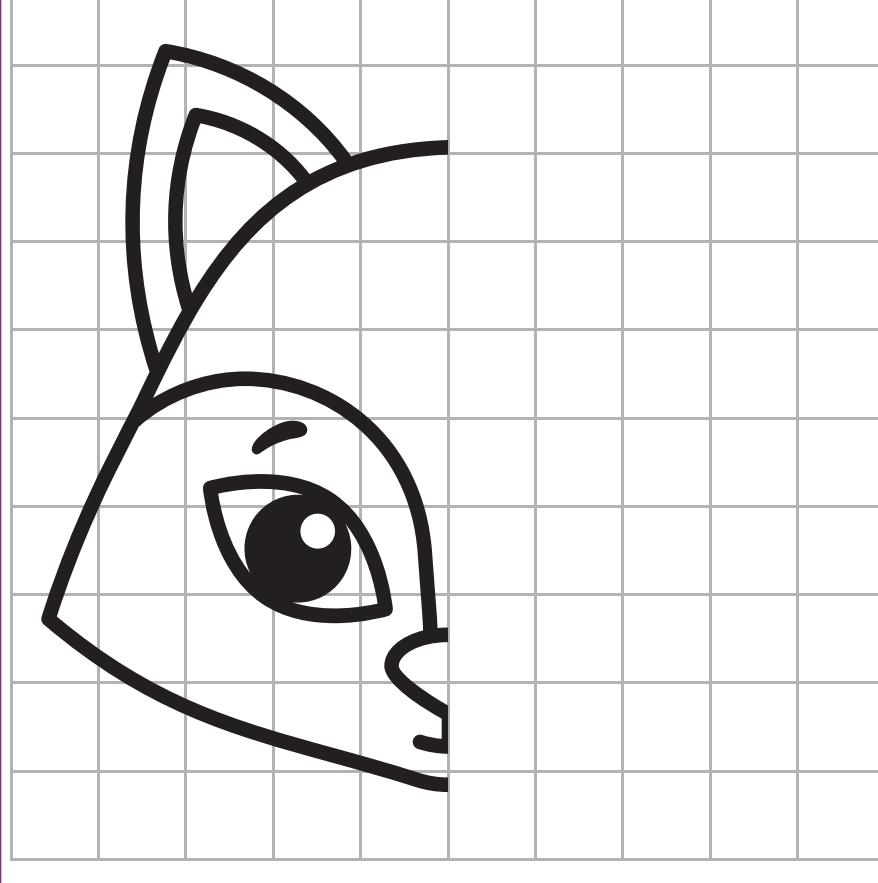


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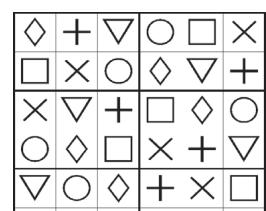


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△					○
	+				×
	◊	○			
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Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.



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Q: What did Bacon say to Tomato?

A: Lettuce get together!



JUST kidding

Q: What is the most hardworking part of the eye?

A: The pupil



JUST kidding

Q: How do you make a tissue dance?

A: Put a little boogey in it.



Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER 3 AND 9

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United in Learning and Partnership

Over the past year, Monett administrators and staff have been intentional about inviting families into our schools and creating opportunities for parents and loved ones to be part of the learning experience. From Grandparents and Grandfriends Day to classroom-based reading and writing activities, our schools are finding meaningful ways to connect with families and students.

These shared experiences strengthen relationships, support student confidence, and help students see that learning is valued both at school and at home. When families participate, students feel encouraged, supported, and proud of their work.

Family involvement plays a vital role in student success. When schools and families work together, students are more engaged, more confident, and better prepared to grow both academically and socially. By welcoming families into our schools, we build strong partnerships that support students beyond the classroom.

Monett Schools will continue offering family-centered events throughout the year and encourages parents to watch for opportunities to join their students on campus. Our schools are strongest when families and educators work together, and we remain committed to creating welcoming spaces for families.



A Tradition of Giving at MMS

Monett Middle School students continued a cherished holiday tradition through their annual Chain Links fundraiser, combining generosity, leadership, and a spirit of service to support others in meaningful ways.

Led by Ms. Barker, the fundraiser invited students to bring in donations, with 25 cents equaling one paper chain link added to the ceiling of the campus hallways. As the days passed, the growing chain served as a visible reminder of how small contributions can quickly add up when students work together for a greater purpose.

Throughout the fundraiser, Student Council members collected donations each morning in the gym, ensuring contributions were credited to the correct grade level. While the competition added excitement, the heart of Chain Links remained focused on helping others during the Christmas season.

Donations helped purchase Christmas gifts for families through Crosslines, ensuring children and families had something special to open during the holidays. Students also supported individuals experiencing homelessness by providing hand warmers, socks, and food. In addition, students visited Oak Pointe Assisted Living, where they delivered socks and lotion, spent time visiting with residents, and enjoyed a fun game of bingo together.

Through the Chain Links tradition, Monett Middle School students were able to see firsthand how their generosity directly impacts others. Experiences like these teach students the importance of empathy, kindness, and service, values that extend far beyond the classroom and reflect the caring culture of our schools.



A Day of Music and Connection

The sounds of the season echoed throughout Monett as Monett High School Choir students shared holiday cheer during their annual Christmas caroling tour. Throughout their tour, students brought joyful music and festive spirit to every stop.

The choir visited the Monett Early Childhood Center (MECC), Monett Intermediate School (MIS), Monett Elementary School (MES), Monett Middle School (MMS), Central Office, Cox Hospital, Monett Residential Living Center (MRLC), and Oak Pointe. Each visit was filled with familiar carols, smiling faces, and moments of connection that brightened the day for students, staff, patients, residents, and community members alike.

Between performances, the group enjoyed lunch together and plenty of laughter, making the day just as meaningful for the students as it was for those they visited. For many students, the tour offered a chance to step outside the classroom and use their talents to serve others, reinforcing the importance of kindness, generosity, and community.

Events like this reflect the heart of Monett Schools and the role our students play in strengthening relationships across the district and beyond. By sharing their voices and their time, these students helped create moments of joy that extended far beyond the music itself.

The choir's December caroling tour brought moments of joy that extend beyond the holidays. Through music, connection, and compassion, our students shared experiences that will be remembered long after the final song was sung.



SRTC Kadence Harris Toy Drive

Scott Regional Technology Center hosted its Annual Toy Drive in memory of former student Kadence Harris, whose kindness and generous spirit continue to inspire the Scott Tech community.



Kadence was a student in the Auto Technology program and was known for her strong work ethic and passion for helping others. She played a key role in planning the Harris Whiskey Lamps Poker Run to benefit the Thornton Toy Drive, reflecting her desire to give back and bring joy to children in the community.



All donated toys were given to the Linn Thornton Toy Drive, helping brighten the holiday season for local families. A special visit from Santa added extra cheer as toys were collected, making the event a meaningful tribute to Kadence's lasting legacy of service and giving.



The Cubbies | Celebrating Staff Who Embody The Monett Way



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Kanika Meadows



MES

Kat Gervais



MIS

Megan Cidney



MMS

Kelli Huhl



MHS

Garrison Earnest



SRTC

Garret Spencer



MECC

Laverne Frasier



MES

Carlos Calderon



MIS

Rachel Sullivan



MMS

Stacy Stewart



MHS

Carolyn Stellwagen



SRTC

Michelle Evans



District

Concha Ceceñas

Board of Education Highlights

The Board of Education received several updates highlighting student leadership, district operations, and continued growth across the district.

Student Council (STUCO) members shared highlights from a successful semester, including events such as the Back-to-School Bash, Homecoming Dances, Spike Wars, and the Golden Age Dinner. Students also reported on service efforts, including donating 23 boxes through Operation Christmas Child and hosting two blood drives. This year, STUCO expanded its impact by celebrating both staff and student birthdays for the first time, while noting that the district's no-phone expectations have positively supported focus and engagement.

Facilities updates included progress on the SRTC Welding Project, with ventilation work underway and nearing completion. The Board also received updates on leadership development, with 18 applicants for the district's first leadership cohort and 10 selected to participate. Classes will begin later this month at the Central Office in partnership with Evangel University, alongside continued monthly work using the EDGE leadership framework.



Did you know?

Monett's Board of Education members are volunteers who dedicate many hours each month reviewing materials, attending meetings, and staying informed so they can make thoughtful decisions for our students and schools.

At Monett Schools, every decision is guided by our vision to prepare students for the future.

We are proud to grow learners, thinkers, and leaders, together with our community.

