



MONETT Monthly



MARCH 4, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY

BEEF CATTLEMEN'S CONFERENCE

What: Hosted by the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce and the University of Missouri Extension Service on Feb. 24

Outlook: Demand seems to have supported higher beef prices, despite past trends to the contrary.

Beef producers see upbeat outlook

Concerns about drought, stockyard practices shared

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Monett Monthly

Beef producers shared insights on production and strategies for success at the annual Beef Cattlemen's Conference, hosted by the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce and the University of Missouri Extension Service on Feb. 24 at the Monett National Guard Armory.

Ian McGregor, field specialist for the University Extension, gave the welcome following a chili supper provided by the Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

McGregor spoke about adding stockers to one's herd as a strategy to offset difficulties maintaining cattle year-round. Taking in a weaned calf when feed is plentiful and selling in July offered a way to use resources, rather than wait until cattle sales became necessary when forage supplies dwindle.

"In the worst-case scenario, you won't have to sell off a lot of precious cows," McGregor said. "It takes a long time to rebuild a herd. Forage demand can switch on and off. Stockers are an easily exchangeable liquid commodity. And with stockers, you're not dealing with the drama of calving."

The biggest danger in the stocker strategy is losing money due to an animal death. McGregor suggested buying animals from a neighbor rather than the stockyard to minimize risk. He also cautioned tracking the volume of feed available at different times of the year.

Jennifer Lutes, an ag business specialist, encouraged producers to use available tools, like the University of Missouri's spreadsheet on break-even pricing. She also encouraged use of Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY REVIEWS CONNECTIONS, DISPLAYS



Jan Rowell explains local connection to museum pieces at the monthly membership meeting of the Monett Historical Society. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Group revels in progress in recent years, current status

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett Historical Society held its February membership meeting with a focus on connecting locals to their past through new and ongoing displays and events at the Monett Museum.

The program "Treasures Under Our Roof" was presented by Museum Curator Pro Tem Jan Rowell and Historical Society President Jeanne Ann Camp.

The women shared how the museum came to be

as it is now as well future plans to connect the town to its past.

One such project may involve community input to help finish. Working with records available, the historical society wants to develop a walking tour of parts of Monett.

"When we applied to be a historical district, the architect who did our building here gathered all this information and it's quite interesting," Camp said. "He has pictures of the buildings as they are today and he has a sum-

mary of what was in that building from like 1897 or whenever each building was built, who built it, what it was used for and so on."

Rowell said this includes a map showing each lot which is to be enlarged. The society hopes to have this done by the summer at which point they intend to ask the community for help recounting the histories of each building.

"Now, multiple businesses have been in those buildings," Rowell said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CITY OF MONETT

What: Is rethinking the change to a Charter form of government

Why: Only 11 qualified applicants for 13-member commission

More: City denies re-zoning application for multi-family housing

City weighing options on Charter

Lack of 13 commission candidates forces change of plans

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett City leaders made a decision in February to cancel a planned reorganization of city government.

In the November 2025 Council meeting, the city Council approved an ordinance calling for the April election asking the question "Shall a Commission be Chosen to Frame a Charter" and if passed, elect 13 commissioners to draw up the charter.

Now, that election proposal has been cancelled for a lack of 13 qualified applicants. While 25 applications were taken, only 14 were submitted. Of the 14 submitted, two applicants withdrew, and one was denied due to insufficient signatures.

The matter was discussed during the Jan. 22 City Council work session, where options on how to move forward were discussed.

The Council could proceed with an 11-member commission, but this option would fall into a legal gray area, as the proposal was for a 13 member commission. If the Council chose to move forward, it could also open up a write-in process to fill the last two spots.

Council could also choose to use Missouri state statute chapters 77 and 78 to transition to a Council Manager form of government with a five-member Council. This option would require a petition of 25% of voters in the last mayoral election to pass.

The third option the Council discussed was to simply try again. Mayor Randy Burke said the timing of the proposal may have had an impact on the results, suggesting that trying again, not during the holiday season could result in better community involvement.

"It was a pretty tall order — Monett's never done anything like this before," Burke said at the Jan. 22 meeting.

"Trying to fill at least 13 can-

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NEWS BRIEFS

Monett Senior Center hosting Red Bandana Dulcimers on March 6

The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host the Red Bandana Dulcimers on March 6 at 11:15 a.m. A dulcimer is a stringed instrument existing in two main forms: the hammered dulcimer, featuring strings struck with small hammers (similar to a piano's mechanism), and the Appalachian/mountain dulcimer, a plucked, fretted zither. Both are historically rooted folk instruments, with the hammered version common in Europe/Eastern Europe (e.g., cimbalom) and the Appalachian version in US folk music.

FUMC Bake Sale for Summer Missions March 8

The First United Methodist Church in Monett, located at 1600 N. Central Ave., will host a Bake Sale for Summer Missions from 9:15-11:15 a.m. on March 8. All proceeds benefit summer mission teams, and all food items will be bid on until 11:10 a.m.

Senior Center hosting Bingo March 13

The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host Bingo with Access Family Care on March 13 from 12-12:30 p.m. The free event is on the second Friday of every month starting at noon.

Men's Ministry BBQ and Cornhole on March 17

New Site Baptist Church, located at 1925 Farm Road 1060, will host a Men's Ministry BBQ and Cornhole on March 17 from 6-8 p.m. for a night of brotherhood, BBQ, and friendly competition.

Strawberry-picking program at Historical Society

Did you pick strawberries growing up? Jim Randall, Monett attorney, draws on four generations of farming strawberries, with railroad connections, for an entertaining program on March 17 from 7-8 p.m. at the Monett Historical Museum Event Center at 422 Broadway. There is no admission charge for the program.

Oak Pointe hosting Trivia & Coffee Bar March 19

Oak Pointe will host a Trivia & Coffee Bar at the Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., on March 19 at 10 a.m. Gentevia is bringing the prizes for trivia. The event is free of charge.

EncourageHer Women's Event on March 20-21

New Site Church, located at 1925 Farm Road 1925, will host EncourageHER 2026, a two-day women's conference focused on encouragement, connection and spiritual renewal, March 20-21. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. on March 20 and continues at 9 a.m. on March 21. EncourageHER is open to high school girls and women of all ages and is designed to bring multiple generations together for worship, fellowship and faith-based teaching. Guest speakers will include Kelly Graves, Jennifer Duncan and Lisa Burton, each sharing personal testimony and messages centered on Christian faith and encouragement. Registration is \$20 per person. Childcare is available for \$5 per child, per day, for children ages 11-and -younger. Childcare must be reserved by March 18 through pre-registration and fees are non-refundable. Organizers say the conference aims to strengthen attendees through worship, biblical teaching and opportunities to build meaningful connections within the community. Registration is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/4hza3d6r>.

Windmill Ridge hosting tournament March 21

The Windmill Ridge Golf Course, located at 117 S. Lincoln, will host the spring Thaw Golf Tournament on March 21. The 2-person scramble will have a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. Sign up at the clubhouse in person or by calling 417-235-6076. Sponsors are also being accepted and should call the clubhouse.

Monett Speedway Swap Meet and Car Show March 21

The Monett Motor Speedway, located at 685 Chapell Drive, will host the Monett Speedway Swap Meet and Car Show at noon on March 21. People may bring their cars, bikes, trucks, etc. to show off. The swap meet set-up is \$10. There will be a 50/50 raffle, prize raffles and giveaways, as well as a test-and-tune for all race cars.

Monett South Park Spring Thaw on March 21

The City of Monett Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce, Drury Go, the YMCA, Kiwanis International and Windmill Ridge Golf Course to host a Spring Thaw event featuring a number of activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21 in Monett's South Park. This event will also feature food trucks in the park, organized by the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce, and a craft fair in the City Park Casino organized by the Monett YMCA. For more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3jztfvzc>. The Monett Kiwanis Club is hosting a disc golf tournament at the South Park Disc Golf Course. Players can choose from five divisions based on skill level and play 18 holes at their leisure between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Route 66 Discs will be onsite with options to rent or purchase discs. The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Barry County Youth Camp. To register online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ms8k3>. The Monett Area YMCA will host a pickleball scramble kicking off at 10 a.m. in the South Park outdoor pickleball courts. Pickleball participants can register in one of four skill levels; novice, beginner, advanced, and intermediate. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the tournament will run through 3 p.m. Proceeds from the YMCA Pickleball Tournament benefit the YMCA Annual Campaign, which is the YMCA's financial aid/scholarship fund that allows all in the community to gain access to the Y and all it offers. To register online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3vaxyhma>. Windmill Ridge Golf Course will host a two-person scramble golf tournament with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. To sign up, stop by the clubhouse at 117 S. Lincoln Ave. in Monett, or call 417-235-6067. To pay online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mrykk2py>. DruryGo will be hosting a 5K Fun Run to kick off Spring Thaw events. The run will begin at 8 a.m. and take participants through the roads and trails of South Park. Three medal winners will be announced in the Men's, Women's, and Children under 12 divisions. This event is open to participants of all abilities. The cost is \$25, which includes a T-shirt, snacks and water bottle. To register online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mrypp6ywd>.

School Board Candidate Meet & Greet on March 26

Monett CTA is hosting an evening to meet the five candidates running for three open school board positions on the April 7 ballot. This is a come and go event designed to give voters the opportunity to talk to the candidates and make an informed decision. The event is set for March 26 from 6-8 p.m. at the Monett Historical Society, located at 422 Broadway.

Methodist Manor hosting Trivia Night March 27

Methodist Manor will host a Trivia Night at the Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., on March 27 at noon.

Masonic Lodge hosting 2nd annual cajun dinner March 28

The 2nd Annual Monett Masonic Lodge Cajun dinner will be held March 28 at 5 p.m. at the Monett VFW Post 4207 Tom Wolfe Memorial, located at 5400 Hwy. 60. The event will feature cajun smoked alligator, red beans and rice, spicy jambalaya, boudin and gumbo. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and tickets can be purchased at the door or before the event for \$25; children 10-and-under eat for free. The bar will be open for refreshments, and tea or water is included with the dinner ticket. There will be a silent auction and possibly some games. Drawing for the Glenfield model A 270 with Sig Buckmaster scope will be drawn some time after dinner along with other raffles or drawings that we may come up with.

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

44 donate at blood drive

4 longtime donors honored for milestone gallon donations

A community blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross on Feb. 9 drew strong local support, with 44 donors giving blood to help meet ongoing medical needs.

According to Monett Chairperson Donna Beckett, the event reflected the community's continued commitment to helping others.

"I appreciated everyone coming out to donate blood," she said.

Two individuals were recognized as first-time donors: Elio Rodriguez and Jemina Augustinov.

Several longtime donors were honored for milestone gallon donations, including:

- David Brubacker — 7 gallons
- Marilyn Bell — 16 gallons
- Michel Garman — 18 gallons
- Beckett — 28 gallons

The event received volunteer support from the Church of Christ of Monett, and contributions were provided by Schreiber Cheese. Donors also received \$15 gift cards and T-shirts as a token of appreciation.

The next community blood drive is scheduled for April 6 at the Connection Point Church in Monett.

All donors include:

- Lou Ellen Honeycutt
- Ronnie Vett
- Howard Gentry
- Roger Spencer
- Carol Brown
- Samuel Helmkamp
- Kenneth Saloga
- Marilyn Bell
- Michel Garman
- Lyla Salsman
- Mark Meyer
- Latricia Davis
- Nora Barrientos
- Nicholas Hill
- Molly Johnson
- Angela Johnson
- Judith Ancelin
- Mary Brubacker
- Roy Cash
- Walter Brubacker
- Ken Lentz
- Cheryl Spain
- Pauline Brubacker
- David Brubacker
- Joseph Alvarez
- Julie Balmas
- Michael Estes
- Makenzie Hopper
- Mark Conner
- Claire Brock
- James Monroe
- Robert Brink
- Orlando Lagunas
- Samuel Brubacker
- Mariana Hernandez
- Lara Merriman
- Eric Herkelman
- Karen Herkelman
- Dorcas Brubacker
- Christopher Brooks
- Dyanna Yarbrow
- Bobby Culver
- Tresa Enos
- Yared Reyes
- Charles Wilke
- Elio Rodriguez
- Jemina Augustinov

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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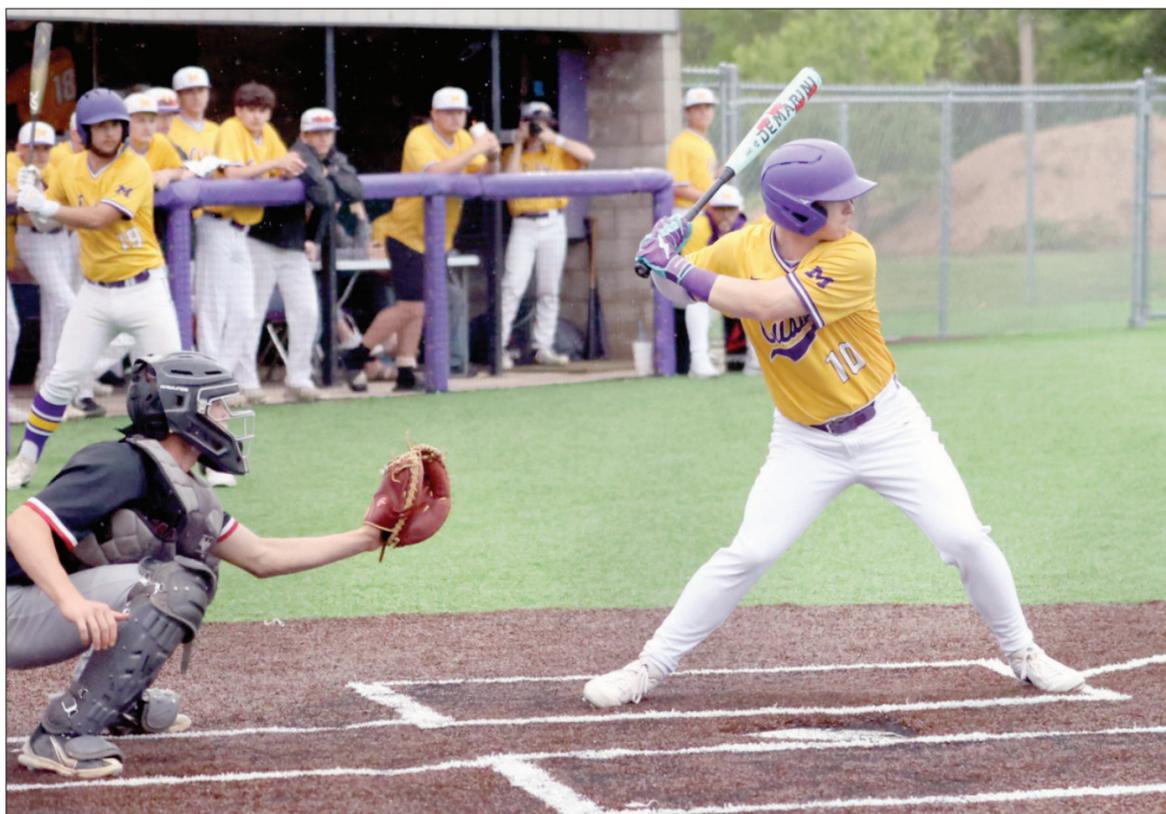
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MONETT SEEKS TO CREATE SPACE



Monett's Miles Young looks to lead the Cubs into the 2025-2026 season. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

Diamond Cubs return 6 starters from last season

BY JARED LANKFORD

monettsports@gmail.com

With two-thirds of its starters returning, the Monett baseball team is looking to take another step forward this season.

Last year, the Cubs finished 11-12, but lost six contests by 2 runs or less. This year, Monett is hoping that its experience will create some space and those close losses will slide over into the win category.

"Last year was a year in which we completed very well but came up just a little short in many games," said Michael Calhoun, Monett coach. "I was proud of our seniors and the way we battled all season. We had several kids step up and play key roles as the season progressed giving us some key experience moving into this spring. We finished fourth in the Big 8 and lost 7-3 to a good Aurora team in the district semifinals."

Monett lost three starters to graduation in Aiden Clapper, Landyn Brandt and Michael Privett.

Clapper was 4-2 as a starting pitcher and the trio combined to collect 73 hits, 42 RBI and 16 extra base hits.

However, the Cubs have firepower coming back in the form of a trio of All-Conference and All-District performers in Carson Burtrum, Miles Young and Samuel Carr.

Burtrum, a senior, was 5-5 on the mound last year with a 2.44 ERA.

"Carson has been an excellent starting pitcher over his first three seasons," Calhoun said. "I don't see anything changing. He's an excellent left handed pitcher and I am excited to see how he does at first base when he is not on the bump."

Young hit .338 with 18 RBI as a



Carson Burtrum throws a pitch for the Cubs last season. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

and is expected to be a run producer for Monett this season. "Miles has been a three-year starter for us on the infield," Calhoun said. "He will be one of our senior leaders and a big part of our offense."

Carr hit .338 for the Cubs last year with 23 hits and 15 RBI.

"Samuel had a breakout campaign at

third base last season," Calhoun said. "He was one of our best and most consistent hitters. I see him just continually improving in all aspects of his game."

Tucker Anderson returns for his senior campaign behind the plate and anchoring the pitching staff.

"Tucker was our starting catcher

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MONETT ALUM

Who: Cameron Witt
What: Has taken a hitting instructor job for the FCL (Florida Complex League) Marlins, the rookie-level affiliate of the Miami Marlins
More: Witt was chosen out of a pool of over 100 candidates

Headed to the big leagues

Monett's Witt lands job with Marlins organization

BY JARED LANKFORD

monettsports@gmail.com

Missouri baseball fans fall mostly into one of two camps — they are multi-generational St. Louis Cardinals fans, or they cheer on the 1960s upstart Kansas City Royals.

However, baseball fans in Monett may have a third rooting option with one of their own landing the job of a lifetime.

This spring, Monett alumnus Cameron Witt will serve as the hitting instructor for the FCL (Florida Complex League) Marlins, the rookie-level affiliate of the Miami Marlins, based in Jupiter, Florida.

"I'm excited, very excited," Witt said. "Ever since I got into coaching, I've just been super passionate about player development and know what that looks like. I've been very fortunate to work with the people that I've worked with and worked underneath."

"I still stand by that to this day in my coaching career, I think Joey Hawkins coming to Missouri State was probably one of the best things that's happened for me in my career, because he was a guy that came from pro ball and very much instilled a pretty pro ball lead development plan. So, I've kind of got to see what that looked like. And now, I get to see that at the professional level."

Witt was chosen out of a pool of over 100 candidates.

The process of weeding through the applications and interviews was tedious for Witt, but he stuck it out.

"Obviously, when you get a position like that, it is definitely a competitive process," Witt said. "I actually had a buddy that I coached with at Missouri State. He actually sent it to me when it got posted. He said I should apply. So I sent an application and everything. Then, didn't really hear anything for a few weeks. So, I kind of, you know, just kind of let it be, and then before you know it, I get an email here and there from some people within their player development department and asked to fill out surveys and things like that."

"Then finally, I got on the phone with Joe Migliaccio, Marlins hitting director. We kind of just talked for a while, and then after that, got put on a zoom interview with him and some other coaches throughout the minor league organization. Then, I had another phone call or two with Joe. That was pretty much it. They offered me the job, and I was all in."

Witt began to feel the itch to coach baseball while still in high school.

"I always knew, especially as I went through my years in high school, I maybe wanted to coach," Witt said. "I didn't really have a specific level that I

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Kings of the Big 8

Cubs claim first conference title since 1978

By Jared Lankford
monettsports@gmail.com

It was nearly a half-century ago the last time that the Monett eighth-grade basketball team could say they were the kings of the Big 8 Conference.

In February, the young

Cubs climbed to the top of the conference bracket with a thrilling 45-43 victory over Cassville.

"Cassville had not lost a conference game in the last two years," said Blair Powell, Monett coach. "They have a player that is 6-4 and he is really good. Two weeks ago, we lost to Cassville by 15."

Monett finished the season 15-1 and entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed. Powell said this Monett team was fun

to coach and be around.

"These boys are gym rats," Powell said. "They don't mind 5:30 a.m. Practice. They are selfless on the floor, make the extra pass and look for the open guy."

The coach pointed to the fact Monett had played close games all year, and he said his team had a tremendous amount of grit.

"We have a bunch of good shooters," Powell said. "I really have to give their parents

a ton of credit. They got the boys started playing basketball early. Last year, we made the championship game and lost to Cassville, this year we were able to pick up where we left off and improve."

Powell said the Cubs switched to a zone and forced the Wildcats to beat them from the outside.

"That 6-4 kid hit the first four shots for them," Powell said. "We were able to come out

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LOCAL

Barry County Health Corner



What your child's blood lead test means

The blood lead test tells you how much lead is in your child's blood.

Lead can harm a child's growth, behavior and ability to learn. The lower the test result, the better. However, no lead level has been proven safe.

Lead poisoning occurs when children lick, swallow or breathe in dust from lead paint. Most homes built before 1978 have old lead paint, often under newer paint. If paint peels, cracks, or is worn down, the chips and dust from the old lead paint can spread onto floors, windowsills and all around your home.

Mining has occurred in a large portion of Missouri. High levels of lead in the air, dust, and soil have been found in areas surrounding mining activity. Mining waste in these areas has been used for driveways, land fill material, and even in children's play area.

Other sources of lead include drinking water, jewelry, pottery and occupational exposures brought home. Lead paint, dust and other materials containing lead may get onto children's hands and into their mouth and swallowed or inhaled.

Many children have had some contact with lead in old paint, soil, plumbing or other sources. All children under the age of 6 should be screened for lead risk factors at each well child check. If a child is at risk for lead poisoning, he or she should be tested.

All children under the age of 4 should be provided lead education and offered a test yearly. For children up to age 6, your doctor or nurse should ask you at every well child visit about ways your child may have had contact with lead. Children who have had contact with lead should be tested. Additionally, Federal requirements are to blood lead test all children receiving Medicaid benefits at ages 12-24 months, at a minimum.

The Barry County Health Department offers a capillary lead screening test for children age 1-5 years old. We also offer lead case management for children with elevated blood lead levels. Through case management we give parents educational and nutritional advice to help lower the child's levels.

We work with the parent to ensure that the child is following up with their private physician. Blood testing must be done at regular intervals to ensure that levels are returning to normal limits.

If your child needs a lead screening, please call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 for more information.

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.

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Local Death Notices

- Dr. Kenneth Laverne Hall • Purdy • Nov. 10, 1945 — Jan. 29, 2026
- Ralph Albert Schmidt • Monett • Aug. 5, 1945 — Jan. 30, 2026
- Evelyn J. Gifford • Pierce City • Nov. 15, 1944 — Jan. 31, 2026
- Rosa Joan "Jo" Chapman • Monett • Feb. 20, 1932 — Feb. 6, 2026
- Nelda M. Fritz • Monett • Aug. 12, 1929 — Feb. 12, 2026
- William Lee "Billy" Brewer • Monett • May 21, 1958 — Feb. 13, 2026
- Jeanette M. Maxwell • Monett • May 12, 1947 — Feb. 20, 2026
- Jose Duran • Monett • Sept. 5, 1984 — Feb. 25, 2026

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LOCAL DEVOTIONAL

The Book of Life

If there is a personal, infinite God who created all things including human life (and I believe there is!)...and, if this infinite, personal God wants us to understand how we are to navigate through life understanding good from evil, right from wrong and even more importantly how we are to understand the truth about who God is and how He wants us to be in a genuine, loving relationship with Him, then the question we must ask is this: Could this God make Himself and His will known to us in an understandable way which is absolutely true — true for all people throughout all time?

I believe the answer to this important question is Yes! We have this communication by God in a book we call the Bible. I'll admit there are parts of the Bible which are not easy to understand, but its basic message is clear enough that a young child can understand it.

That basic message is this: God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16) We should also understand that what it

means to "believe in him" is not merely, "Oh yes, I believe Jesus Christ was a real person" but that we believe in the sense of being devoted to him, following him, seeking to be like him, and, believing that his death on the cross was a sacrifice for your own sins because you do not perfectly honor and obey God.

Though the Bible is written by people over time, its claim is to ultimately be a book of truth handed down to us by God himself. Should that surprise us? After all, since God is infinite, personal, all knowing and wise, doesn't it stand to reason that He would communicate with us, His creatures, that He loves us and wants to be in real relationship with us?

One of the people in the early church used of God to communicate the truth He wanted conveyed was Luke (a well educated physician), from whom we have the third Gospel. He set about to compile an account of the life of Jesus Christ for an official named Theophilus. Luke's Gospel, based on eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life and teaching, has been found to be entirely accurate even by secular

historians. Luke begins by clearly stating his purpose: Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4, NIV)

So that you may know the certainty — so that you might know the truth — so that you might also come to have eternal life, for that is what all the things Luke and the others communicated from God in their writings. The Bible really is, therefore, the Book of Life.

I'll close with a story conveyed though a mission organization our church supports, a true story of an amazing way in which God is still communicating with people to help them find eternal life in and through Jesus Christ.

A Christian couple smuggled some Bibles

into Iran but were nervous about handing them out. Stopping for gas one day during their travels, the wife said to her husband, "Do you see that man leaning against the building over there? I think we're supposed to give him a Bible." Her husband replied, "You mean the man with the rifle in his hands? Are you kidding? I'm not going to approach him!"

After wrestling with the Holy Spirit's surprising nudge, they eventually agreed to give the man a Bible. The husband held it out to the Muslim man. Leaning his rifle against the building, the man reverently took the Bible, held it to his lips and kissed it. Tearfully, he said, "The book of life! Three days ago, I had a dream: a man in a white robe came to me and said, 'Come to this place and wait right here, and somebody will soon give you the book of life.'"

The Muslim man soon gave his whole heart to Jesus.

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

Young Artists draw crowd



A large attendance enjoyed the Ozark Festival Orchestra's Young Artists Concert on Feb. 22 at the Monett High School Performing Arts Center. Four soloists performed works for clarinet, trumpet, flute, and voice with the orchestra. Ayden Alexander, 17, from Mt. Vernon, is pictured at left leading the audience in selections from the film "The Greatest Showman," with words by music director Carla Wootton, who is pictured directing. The next performance will be on April 12 at the high school PAC. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

City: Rezoning on West Hazel Street denied

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

didates, I was hoping to get 20 and do it in a six-week period that included both the Thanksgiving holiday and the Christmas holiday."

Council said comments from residents included concerns about not having time to dedicate to being part of the commission, or perceived lack of qualifications for the task.

Council members reiterated that as a member of the community, each resident is qualified to

have an opinion on how the government is run.

Burke said he still feels like the charter is the way to go given the involvement the city did receive.

Council decided to end the process for the motion on the table with further discussions planned to find the preferred path forward.

At the regular February Council meeting, Council members revisited an issue that was brought before them in the January meeting

regarding rezoning efforts on West Hazel Street. The rezoning project was first brought before the city in 2021.

It was explained in the meeting that Planning and Zoning had recommended the rezoning to the Council but it was never officially approved.

Even without the official approval by Council of the rezoning in 2021, the GIS (Geographic Information System) maps were changed to reflect the re-zoning into multi-family use.

Three options to move forward were presented for the motion: Council could either approve the rezoning, deny the rezoning or recommend that the issue go back to Planning and Zoning for another hearing.

"Having looked at this, it really looks like spot zoning," Burke said. "So we really have three options. We can say yes and go ahead and do it,

which wouldn't make any sense to me because we've got other stuff on our agenda about clearing up spot zoning. The second option is to send it back to Planning and Zoning, and the third option is to say no and right now and deny the petition and the builder can resubmit an application."

The Council once again heard from the public on the matter. Multiple residents on the street came forward all expressing concern for the safety and comfort of existing residents should the multi-family housing be erected on the street.

The Council ultimately chose to deny the motion to re-zone the property to multi-family.

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.

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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Title: First conference title since 1978 for middle school team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

of a timeout and cool him off. Cassville had a chance

at the end, but we got a hand in that tall kid's face

and the shot fell short." The conference title

was the first for the Cubs since 1978, and Powell

hopes that it is just the beginning for this group

of players as they transition to high school.

Witt: Chose baseball for its unique challenges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

was really focused on, but I knew I wanted to coach in some capacity. Once I went through my first year at Crowder, I knew that I kind of wanted to stay in college. I really liked the college atmosphere of coaching."

Helping players improve is its own reward for the former Cub. He said he chose baseball as his favorite sport because of its unique challenges.

"I think with baseball, there's so much failure that goes into it, and it's just one of those things that you can do all the things right, and still come up short.," Witt said. "So, when dealing with so much failure, it really makes you appreciate the successes a whole lot more. I think that's definitely a piece of it. There's just so many different ways that you can impact the game.



Witt

"As a player, I know everyone wants to hit home runs and score, and that's all good, but there's just so many different ways. You can be exactly who you are. You don't have to try and be Aaron Judge. You can be exactly who you are and be a really good player."

A standout athlete in his own right, Witt was a force for the Cubs baseball team.

"Cameron is all over our record books and is, if not

the best, definitely one of the best players to ever play for Monett High School," said Michael Calhoun, Monett baseball coach. "Cameron had a relentless work ethic who was constantly trying to improve his all-around skills. But, hitting was his passion. I know it has always been his dream to be a part of professional baseball.

"After his college career had completed he started the journey into coaching. Because of his hard work and talent to work with hitters he has earned the opportunity to work as an hitting instructor for the Miami Marlins. I am so proud of not only the professional he has become, but the young man. I am so excited to see how this path progresses and how far he can go."

By the time he graduated Monett, and to this day, Witt is the school's

all-time leader in games played (108), runs (128), RBI (86), hits (124), doubles (28), walks (85) and total bases (168). He also holds the career mark for games pitched (42) and innings pitched (203.3). He is Monett's single season record holder in runs (42) and walks (26).

Upon graduation, Witt played at Crowder College in Neosho, where he was a two-time NJCAA Academic All-American. He played in 64 games his rookie season, posting a .281 batting average with two home runs, 25 RBI and 48 runs. Witt helped the Roughriders qualify for the NJCAA Division 1 World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., for just the second time in program history.

Witt played for Campbell University and helped the Camels win a Big South Championship

in 2019 before becoming a graduate assistant for Missouri State, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education in 2021 and a master's degree in sport's management in 2023.

In 2024, Witt was hired as the hitting coach for Akron University.

Now with the step up to the big leagues, Witt will put all his skills to the test.

"I'm responsible for each individual guy's individual player development," he said. "So obviously we have certain objectives and benchmarks, or KPIs. In terms of hitting, you're trying to do whatever you can to help each guy meet those benchmarks. That way, in a perfect world, they get bumped up, promoted to the next level, whatever it is.

"It's completely different from college ball. You don't get the fall season

you get spring training, and then you roll right into it. On a daily basis, you're meeting with guys individually, you're hitting with guys individually and putting together daily routines for guys depending on what they need to work on, what they need to improve with. Obviously, you're preparing the whole group in terms of scouting reports on who they're facing that night. There's so much video now, there's so much technology. So, you've got all the data and everything that you could want at your hands. Now you have to be careful with it, because too much can sure be a lot for the player. So really, my job is to take all of it and simplify it as much as possible. That way, I can give it to the player in a way that's very simple for them that way, when they go to compete."

Baseball: Coach excited about numbers, youth combined with experience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

last season and did an excellent job," Calhoun said. "I look for him to earn that position again and continue to improve both offensively and defensively. He will be one of our key leaders this season. He is focused and has been working hard this off-season to make this one his best."

Senior Logan Cole played his way into the Cubs' starting lineup last year, and Calhoun expects bigger things this season.

"Logan really improved his overall game last season," Calhoun said. "By the end of the year, he was our second baseman. I see him pushing for that

position again this year. He is a very hard worker that also keeps improving at the plate."

Monett will ask junior pitcher Dylan Washick to chew up innings on the mound.

"Dylan was one of our best pitchers returning this season," Calhoun said. "He has a good arm and excellent control on all his pitches. He's a great competitor, and I am truly excited to see how he does with an increased workload on the mound."

The Cubs will also look to Braden Cendroski and Brayden Seitz to round out its returning starters.

"Braden was our second baseman and desig-

nated hitter throughout most of the season. I look for him to continue to be a catalyst in our lineup this season. I look for him to compete for time at second. Brayden played outfield but had a few injuries last season, but I am excited to see him get a full season in the outfield. He will be around the top of our lineup and I see him causing havoc on the base paths."

Monett will look to a deep bench to fill out its roster spots in seniors Xavier Garcia, Adma Martinez and Truman Zinn; juniors Chris Calhoun, Seth Denny and Urijah Rigs; Sophomores, Jaxon Stout, Levi Szyldowski,

Cameron Ash, Hayden Bremer, Karsen Madrid, Kelby Connella, Kolbey Bounds and Luis Serrano.

"I am excited about our numbers and the combination of youth and experience we have coming back," Calhoun said. "We were so close last year in many games and I feel our core back learned a lot of great lessons we can build upon. We have several seniors that will be excellent leaders for us. Several of our younger players that got a taste last season I see getting a lot better. Our conference and district will be very competitive and I look forward to another exciting spring."

The Cubs open the season on March 20 at Southwest.

Monett's

home opener is slated for March 24 against Eldorado Springs.

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Monett Museum Curator Pro Tem Jan Rowell tells the local stories of Museum pieces at the Monett Historical Society's membership meeting in February. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

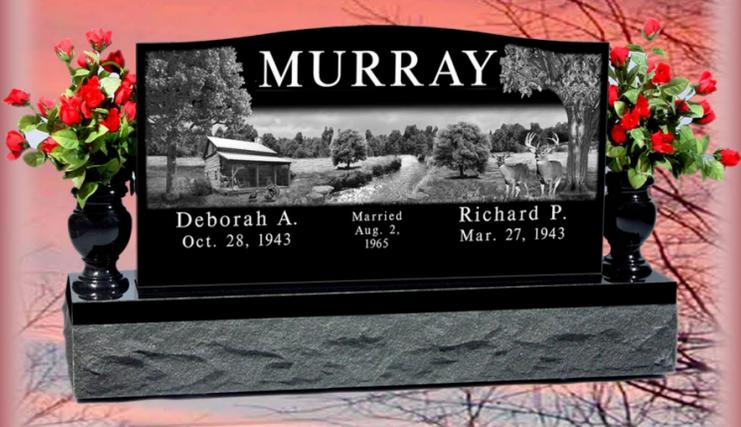


A new display in the Monett Museum showcases office life before modern technology. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Museum's new office display features items familiar to many Monett locals to connect them with the past. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

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Museum: Has 12,000 items

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"So, what we were talking about was getting together, some people who have grown up here to sit together and say, 'OK, I remember when this building was this business,' so we will have that."

The women said this map with the buildings' histories could then possibly be turned into a walking tour of the town's businesses.

They also revealed a new display now available for viewing in the museum focused on office life in early Monett. Showcasing items such as an antique typewriter, calculator and register, the display shows how offices ran before modern technology.

The display is completed with a scene that connects the present as it displays a simple chair adorned with an old fashioned fedora hat and an early edition of The Monett Times newspaper.

The scene is one that staff agreed reminded them of local present day reporter Murray Bishoff, making the display more relatable to current times.

Rowell said as a previous librarian, she was a storyteller at heart and shared the story of the museum with the gathered crowd.

"So, once upon a time there was a little tiny museum and thanks to a lot of fairy godmothers and fairy godfathers that museum turned from two or three tiny rooms into what we have now," she said. "Now, thanks to multitudes of people, we have three buildings and two stories. No one in the beginning thought we could ever fix this up, no one, will guess what? We are now not only full, we are full to bursting."

Rowell said that since opening in the current building, the museum has had guests from over 30 states, including Alaska.

"We are no longer a tiny little museum," she said. "We are a darn good medium-sized museum. It started with a building, but then it depended on the people who donated things."

She shared that as of the donation she cataloged earlier that day, the museum has had 912

people donate items or belong to the Historical Society resulting in over 12,000 items in the museum.

She said it is a tribute to the city and its people that so many are willing to donate to enhance local historical preservation.

Commenting on the local aspect of the items, Rowell said that it is the local connection to the items that make them so significant.

"They're interesting on their own; they're interesting in the knowledge that they bring today, but when you know the story behind something then, they become alive, then they're something living and breathing," she said.

Rowell then shared the stories behind some of her favorite pieces displayed in the museum, reminding those in attendance that these stories can be shared to all guests who ask for a tour during their visit connecting guests to the lives of each item.

Locals were encouraged to take a tour and bring non-locals as well to hear the stories of Monett's past.

The Historical Society also encourages community members to join them at the meeting on March 17 to hear and share stories of generations picking strawberries in the area as strawberry season grows close.

The meeting, held at the Monett Historical Museum Event Center, is free and open to the public.

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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Speaking from their experience as buyers and beef producers in a panel at the Monett Beef Cattlemen's Conference were, from left, Wes Spinks, Travis Merrick, and Bryson Byergo. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Bill Brooks speaks at the Monett Cattlemen's Conference. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Nine vendors made up a trade show for the Monett agriculture conferences held at the Monett National Guard Armory, hosted by the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce and the University of Missouri Extension Service. The number represented an increase over last year. Pictured are Crown Power and Equipment's tractors and other heavy-duty items to display. Jasmine Burks, Chamber executive director, reported the Chamber used the event to help raise money for the Chamber Foundation's scholarship program, which extended this year to students from Pierce City and Purdy as part of the Chamber's area outreach. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Beef: Inventories continue to fall, slaughter numbers are down

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ness. Bryson Byergo, from Byergo Angus Farms in Savannah, talked about the operation started by his grandfather that has grown to over 1,000 head. Travis Merrick, whose ranch is located nine miles south of Lockwood, discussed the experience he's gained in the past 10 years running the operation. Wes Spinks, from Jerico Springs, spoke from his perspective buying cattle for feedlots.

Byergo challenged ranchers to think in the long run. Even though the cattleman has an animal for a brief period, the care taken under that charge extends to how well the next owner performs. He urged using data rather than expected progeny differences that may not happen. His farm follows genetic sourcing. He does not buy calves that don't weigh 750 pounds expecting them to produce bigger offspring.

Merrick emphasized taking a balanced approach. For example, Merrick does not trust foot scores done by himself. He has others do it for third party scoring to get it right. He tries to identify females that will raise efficient calves, thus finding cow lines that will deliver what he wants. He looks for cattle that eat less and come off feed faster, and show healthy traits.

"There's no reason not to invest in the best cattle you can," Merrick said. "Take pride in what you're doing."

"The cattle buyer only owns cattle when he's got smoke under them," Spinks said. "They must come off the truck and perform well for that person."

He noted the market these days wants



Ian McGregor was a featured speaker at the Monett Cattlemen's Conference. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

80% choice meat or better. When he goes to the stockyard, he looks for the names of owners that he knows, ones that have a record of years of strong performance. Spinks also noted that stockyards used to slaughter cows at 1,200 pounds. Now they want them at 1,600 pounds. He urged ranchers to look for animals that can produce cattle that size.

Spinks was frankly critical of the stockyard system in speaking to groups of cattlemen after the

talk. He noted that even though all animals receive additional vaccinations as soon as they reach stockyards, the mortality rate is now higher than it has been in decades, a phenomenon that defies explanation. Moreover, he said no matter how good the rancher's records are and how carefully the animal's history is documented, stockyards strip animals of their ear tags, put on their own tags, and trash any records that came with the animals.

The strong history never reaches the buyer.

Spinks told the cattlemen that selling animals in matching groups brings higher prices, rather than in handfuls. Buyers like to see uniformity.

Offering a market outlook, Dr. Bill Brooks from Northwest Missouri State University saw several more good years ahead from current trends. With about 40% of cattle in the nation living in drought conditions, an increase from a year ago, cattle are moving to different parts of the country, out of places like Nevada and Utah. There are also unexpected events, like tariffs that stopped cattle coming from Mexico to the processing plant in Lubbock,

Texas. That plant is closing, and Brooks didn't see it coming back. Rather, he expects to see large fleets of trucks hauling corn to Mexico.

With the dollar value running flat, Brooks expected sales of beef to remain competitive on the international market. He further noted that Americans export most of their leather, which returns as products.

Cattle inventories continue to fall, and beef slaughter numbers have dropped, reflecting a reluctance by producers to thin their herds, thus they are keeping animals longer and growing them larger. Brooks said this is having side effects like forcing the sale of bigger

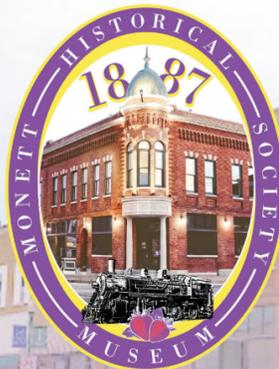
cattle trailers.

"We're a long way from building herds up," Brooks said. "Beef heifers are expected to calve higher than last year. We're going to have a few more heifers in beef herds this year."

Demand seems to have supported higher beef prices, despite past trends to the contrary. Brooks said it will not take much to drive prices up.

"Overall, it looks like it will be a pretty decent year again for producers, if you have animals to sell," he said. "Look at drought conditions. The average age of farmers is not getting any lower. Finding folks who will do this work may be as big a challenge as the drought."

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LOCAL

Monett dairy conference looks at risks

Producers offered tips on better production

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Monett Monthly Dairy producers heard concerns about herd maintenance and market trends during the annual Monett Dairy Conference, held Feb. 24 at the Monett National Guard Armory, a joint effort by the University of Missouri Extension Service and the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reagan Bluel, dairy specialist for the Extension, opened the conference with cautionary words about managing dairy herds. According to research, Bluel reported heat stress can impact dairy cows in short-term production and long-term over generations.

Dr. Jimena Laporta, with Dairy Science Digest, has extensively studied this phenomena, Bluel said, and recently produced a podcast on the subject. Laporta found that cows subjected to heat stress see mammary gland changes as well as an adrenal gland response to heat. Adrenals respond to stress that changes metabolism, blood pressure, and a heightened level of inflammation. The stress of weaning can also make mammary glands thicker through the release of cortisol, adrenaline, and estrogen stimulated by adrenaline.

As a result, heat stress can lower milk production by that cow. The change becomes progressive over time, so that with subsequent pregnancies, the cow is making less milk. That can result in a dairy producer retiring her from the herd earlier.

On top of that, Bluel tracked the daughters and granddaughters of heat-stressed cows. Studies found that the offspring also produced less milk.

To address the issue, Bluel urged producers to build barns, with an east-west orientation, with a 1.5-2% slope. Installing fans can also help.

"We know if we can change some things, it will pay dividends down the line," Bluel said. "Change what's easy. Put out water with a hose. Have your cows cool down and drink more. Work with a nutritionist so dry matter has better quality. Choose to deliver rations at better times. She will eat more when it's cooler. Put salt blocks out everywhere."

While Bluel saw val-



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count increases with age. Improvement strategies Montalbano suggested focused on clean equipment, running a consistent milking routine, and replacing hoses. He said many scientists recommend keeping a cow standing for 30 minutes after milking to dry better and to give the teat time to close.

"One bad cow in a herd of 40 can throw the counts way off," Montalbano said. He reviewed tests DFA makes available, as well as lab services and farm loans to make improvements.

Bill Brooks, dairy economist from Northwest Missouri State University, offered a market outlook for dairy products. At the present time, Brooks saw many positive trends, such as minimal impact from avian influenza (HPAI).

The percentage of heifers expected to calve is down to 26%, putting the number of heifers at the lowest number in more than 25 years.

"We're not sending cows to slaughter plants," he said.

Missouri presently has 54,000 head of dairy cattle. Six states, including Missouri, still produce 60% of U.S. milk. Production is moving back toward the center of the country.

Sustaining herds in feed prices also looks promising. Brooks saw no big reasons to see corn prices change in the coming year. Likewise, soybean meal supplies looked strong with good demand.

"Our prices have moved higher," Brooks said. "International prices are down. We have been a consistent dairy exporter. We are in the best position to take advantage of international markets."

The majority of milk continues to go into cheese production, which has flattened in volume in the past three years. Brooks noted the Make America Healthy Again movement reopening the use of whole milk in school meals will likely benefit producers.

In addition, the MAHA emphasis on protein continues to favor milk products like yogurt and cottage cheese. Brooks said GLP-1 drugs for weight loss have become so plentiful that 23% of households are reporting a member taking the drugs. The higher emphasis on protein is also causing a resurgence in scurvy, another affliction not seen in modern times.

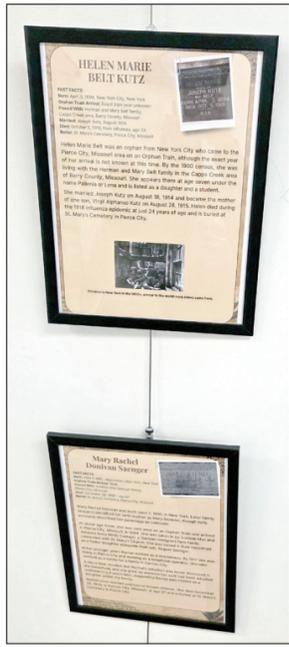
"Overall, we had a good year last year," Brooks said. "We saw a 2% gain in consumption. We anticipate another good gain next year. We're seeing a run-up in cheese. It's hard to think that's sustainable. A lot of product is looking for a home over the next couple months due to the volume we're seeing at the exchange."

Brooks cautioned that drought conditions continue in different parts of the county, like south Texas. Spreading of excessively hot weather can impact feed production and cut margins. He urged producers to sign up for producer insurance programs. He concluded, "It won't be a terrible year for profitability. It will be decent but a lot tighter."

Lunch for the dairy conference was provided by the Monett Area Chamber.



The Pierce City Branch Library invites local residents to discover their connections to the Orphan Trains with a new traveling exhibit. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Local Orphan Train stories are currently on display at the Pierce City Branch Library until March 28. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

'Orphan Train' exhibit at local library

Traveling historical exhibit details rehoming of orphans in southwest Missouri

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

One local library is bringing the past to life in Lawrence county with a traveling exhibit called "All Aboard the Orphan Train."

The exhibit is currently on display at the Pierce City Branch Library until March 28, when it will move on to St. Louis.

This exhibit tells the stories of thousands of children who migrated to the west and midwest states from large eastern city orphanages.

The movement began in New York where overcrowding in orphanages had become a public issue in the late 1800's into the early 1900's.

Due to industrial growth and the promise of better lives for immigrants, the city saw a population boom between 1850 and 1900, seeing the city grow twice its size from approximately half a million people to over one million.

According to the National Orphan Train Complex, in 1900, Ellis Island was processing over 2,000 immigrants per day. Immigration reached its highest point in 1907, when 1,285,349 people were admitted to the United States.

It wasn't until 1921 that quota laws like we have today were instituted, limiting the number of immigrants to the US each year.

By 1920, New York's population had reached over 5 million.

While jobs were readily available for the new arrivals from across the world and across the country, the housing mar-



Local residents lent items to the Orphan Train exhibit visiting Pierce City to display family ties to the movement. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

ket was not prepared for the growth.

With many new and existing residents working new industrial jobs that were often low-paying and dangerous, the overpopulation soon became an issue of child care.

Many working parents found themselves unable to care for their children and having to place them in orphanages while more were injured or died from their labor, again leaving their children to be cared for by orphanages or community members.

While since described as a "flawed" system, the Orphan Train movement ran from 1854 to 1929 in an attempt to rehome children from the crowded cities to rural families

across the country.

Many of these children found their new homes in southwest Missouri — including Monett — after departing the train that stopped in Pierce City during the movement.

The stories of local Orphan Train arrivals are displayed as well as several family owned items from their local descendants, showing the local connections to this part of American history.

The exhibit is on display at the library Located in the Community room Pierce City Library 101 N. Walnut Street from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through March 28th.

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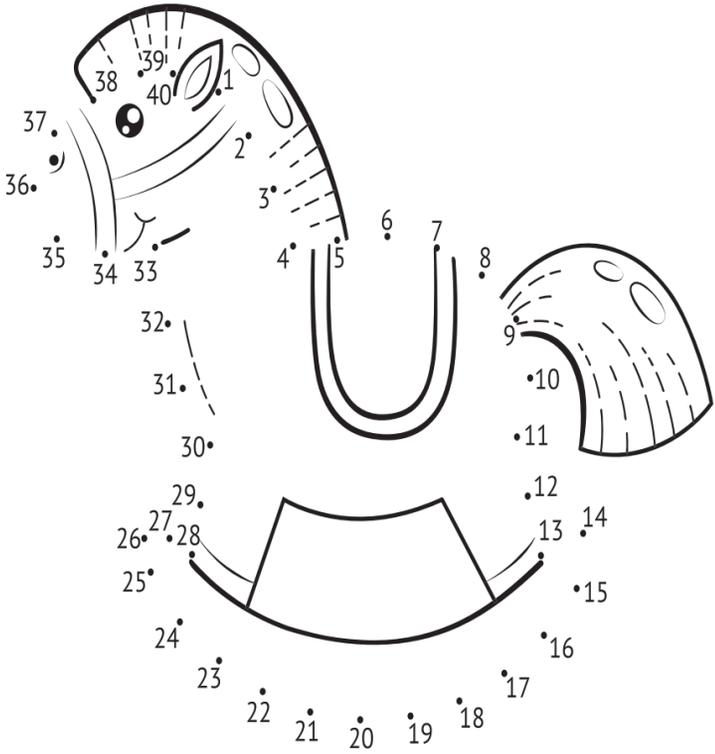
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DOT TO DOT



JUST kidding

Q: How do oceans say hello to each other?

A: They wave!



JUST kidding

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear!



JUST kidding

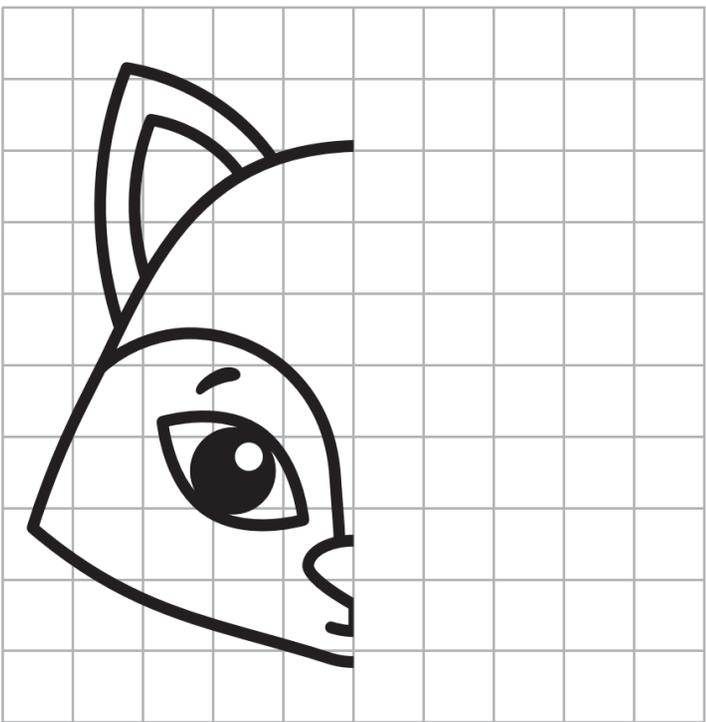
Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A: An investigator!



MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



Private eye

Which two are exactly alike?



ANSWER: 3 AND 9

Sudoku 6 x 6

		1	3		4
	5	3			
5	1				2
			4		5
			1	2	
	3	2			

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 6, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

- a number can only appear once per row
- a number can only appear once per column
- a number can only appear once in each box of 6 squares

9	7	5	2	3	1
3	2	1	5	4	6
5	1	4	7	6	3
2	3	6	9	1	5
1	9	2	3	5	4
4	5	3	2	6	1

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MONETT SCHOOLS

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2025-2026 School Year

March 2026

MECC PK & K Screenings

The Monett Early Childhood Center (MECC) will begin scheduling appointments for preschool and kindergarten screenings on Thursday, March 5, 2026. Families with eligible children are encouraged to call and reserve a time for one of the screening dates offered in April.

A preschool and kindergarten screening provides a general overview of a child's development and early learning skills. The screening helps teachers identify strengths, recognize areas where support may be needed, and ensure each child begins the school year with a strong foundation.

Screening Dates:

- Monday, April 6, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 13, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 27, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Screenings will take place in the cafeteria and commons area at the Monett Early Childhood Center.

Three-year-old children are screened for specific developmental delays. Monett Schools does not offer a general preschool program for three-year-olds, but children may qualify for early childhood special education services. Students accepted into early childhood special education are not included in the full-day Title preschool program.

Age Requirements:

- Preschool: Child must be four years old before August 1
- Kindergarten: Child must be five years old before August 1

In addition to the screening, families will have access to helpful community resources. Representatives and information will be available for programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, local food pantries, the Care Mobile, Blessing Boxes, the YMCA, the Monett Library, and CDC child development milestones.

The screening appointment is the first step and does not guarantee enrollment in the fall. Families will need to return during the summer to complete enrollment, including E-Registration through PowerSchool. Preschool families will receive a letter in June regarding acceptance into the program. All kindergarten students who meet the age requirement will be admitted.

Parents with eligible children are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to support their child's growth and prepare for a strong start to the school year.

To schedule an appointment or ask questions, contact the Monett Early Childhood Center at 417-354-2168, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MES Celebrates Essential Skills Success

Monett Elementary (MES) students presented their Essential Skills Celebration at the February Board meeting, giving board members and guests a glimpse into the focused work taking place each day at MES.

Principal Drake, alongside Mrs. Nolasco, Ms. George, Ms. Pulliam, Mrs. Lemon, and Mrs. Gervais, highlighted the intentional and focused work happening each day at Monett Elementary as students build strong reading foundations. At every grade level, essential reading skills are clearly defined, intentionally taught, and consistently reinforced to help students grow into confident, capable readers.

Students in Grades 1-3 were Recognized for Mastering Key Reading Skills:

First Grade Skills

Segment spoken words into individual phonemes, decode CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant)/CVCe (consonant-vowel-consonant-silent e) in context and read grade level HF words.

Second Grade Skills

Decode two syllable words in context and read grade level high frequency words.

Third Grade Skills

Decode multisyllabic words in context and determine the meaning and read grade level high frequency words. words in context, determining meaning, and reading grade-level high-frequency words.

MES teachers work together to engage students and help them master these essential skills. Their goal is 100 percent proficiency because they believe in 100 percent of their students. The students who presented at the board meeting are a powerful example of what happens when hard work, practice, feedback, and perseverance lead to real growth.

Student growth is intentionally celebrated through a special lunchtime award ceremony that honors effort and progress. When students master their essential skill, families are invited, certificates are awarded, and the achievement is recognized in a meaningful and powerful way. During the Board Meeting students proudly rang the gong to mark their accomplishments and celebrate their success. It is a joyous tradition that reinforces our belief that all students can learn, grow, and thrive at MES.

To close their presentation, students from each grade level came together to share their Essential Skills chant, a message that reflects the heart and spirit of the Monett Elementary School.

"We love our school.
We come here to learn and grow.
We read books and work hard every day.
Our teachers help us and cheer us on.
At MES, we rock our learning and have fun doing it."

We are so proud of our Monett Elementary students and staff for the dedication, teamwork, and heart they bring to building strong reading foundations for the future.



PK & K SCREENINGS
MONETT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

1007 6th Street
Monett, MO 65708
417-354-2168

SCREENING DATES
April 6, 13, 27 - 12:30-2:30 pm
April 20 - 8:30 -2:00 pm

Monett High School Graduation

The Monett High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 8 at 7:00 pm at Burl Fowler Stadium.

Gates will open at 6:00 pm, allowing families and guests time to find parking and seating. Burl Fowler Stadium parking will be reserved for handicapped parking only.

Graduation represents years of dedication, growth, and memories that will last a lifetime. Our seniors have worked hard, supported one another, and left their mark on Monett High School. We are incredibly proud of the young adults they have become.

We invite our families and community to join us as we celebrate the Class of 2026 and cheer them on as they begin their next chapter. Once a Cub, always a Cub.

Monett High School
CLASS OF 2026

FRIDAY
MAY 8, 2026 | BURL FOWLER
MONETT SCHOOLS

The Cubbies Celebrating Staff Who Embody The Monett Way

 MECC Alexis Davis	 MES McKenzie Brink	 MIS Channing Boykin	 MMS Penny Smith	 MHS Rachel Murad	 SRTC Aaron Obermann	
 MECC Irene Cavazos	 MES Susana Aguayo	 MIS Krystal Barten	 MMS Edith Martinez	 MHS Keith Parris	 SRTC Jennifer Hawkins	 District Robert McGuire

Board of Education Highlights

The February Board of Education meeting celebrated student achievement across Monett Schools. Monett Elementary students shared their focus on essential reading skills and a culture that supports growth and proficiency at every grade level.

Monett Intermediate School recognized students for reaching important reading milestones and honored outstanding art achievements, including selections for display at the Missouri State Capitol. Monett High School celebrated students who earned All-State and other prestigious honors during the Fall athletic season, reflecting dedication and school pride.

GO CAPS students and instructors also shared updates on the program's continued growth and regional impact, highlighting hands-on learning experiences that help students explore careers and build professional skills.

The evening reflected the strong work happening across our district and our commitment to helping every student learn, grow, and succeed.



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.



monettschools.org | 417-235-7422