

FIRST ON FRONT RETURNS FOR 2026 SEASON — PAGE 4

MONETT COMPETES AT CUB RELAYS >>>

PHOTOS: Jameson Barnes hangs on to win 1600-meter race. — PAGE 3

MONETT



Monthly

MAY 6, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY



CITY OF MONETT

What: Ordinance passed to put charter commission on April 6, 2027 ballot
For: Switch to charter form of government
More: Ground broken at dog park; ribbon cut at new playground

City continues charter pursuit

Groundbreaking held for Dog Park; ribbon cut at new playground

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The city of Monett is continuing to move forward with plans to restructure city government.

In the regular council meeting April 9, the city again approved an ordinance posing the question, "Shall a Commission be chosen to frame a charter?" and a list of candidates running for the 13 seats as charter commission members be submitted.

The original proposal was canceled during the February 2026 meeting after failing to meet needed criteria.

The goal was to place a 13 member charter commission, which would form the charter that would become the guide for Monett's new government.

When the matter was first presented during the council meeting in September 2025, Mayor Randy Burke said it means the city will operate under its own constitution "inside" the state constitution.

He said that a charter style government is afforded to cities with a minimum threshold of 5,000 residents and Monett has twice the population required.

Council members discussed how the new charter government would afford more members on the council and more flexibility within the city government and allow more accurate representation for residents.

They had also noted that even the city's own school board and planning and zoning commission has more representatives than the city government.

During the first attempt, 25 applications were taken, only 14 were submitted. Of the 14 submitted, 2 applicants withdrew and one was denied due to insufficient signatures.

The list of candidates for the commission is now set for placement on the next scheduled meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Board changes after election

Lunch prices to go up 20 cents next year, beef prices a concern

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett School board looks slightly different following the April 16 board meeting with the exit of two board members and the introduction of two new members.

The board honored Annie Smith and Ashley Bailey as

MONETT SCHOOL BOARD

What: Held monthly meeting on April 16

Change: Ryan Nestleroad and Jennifer Lewis join board after election, Annie Smith and Ashley Bailey depart

More: School lunch prices to increase 20 cents next year

they left the board. Bailey was not present at the meeting, however Smith said a few departing words as board

members thanked her for her service.

Smith, who served on the board for the past four years, said that while Bailey was not present due to a sporting event, she did ask Smith to express her gratitude to the board.

"It's an honor to be chosen by the community to be trusted by the community to support the schools. It is a pleasure to celebrate in all of these things," said Smith, adding that the goal is always to put children first. "So I'll just say for our new board members.

My encouragement to you is that you're not alone. You have a support team here with you. So, you have to work together.

"That's also a privilege is being able to come together with different people that have different attitudes, different opinions, different life experiences and working together to make choices for the district and listen to each other and respect each other fully."

The board then welcomed Ryan Nestleroad and Jennifer Lewis, elected in the April 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Eggs fall, then found at annual Eggstravaganza



Monett Fire and Rescue dropped the eggs for this year's Eggstravaganza event held at New Site Church April 4 in celebration of Easter. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Football players volunteer at Monett Historical Museum

Curator hopes experience piqued the students' curiosity

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett Historical Society and Museum is getting work done to connect Monett residents to the town's history as new displays and projects get underway.

The museum recently welcomed the help of football players from Monett High School on April 25 to

MONETT MUSEUM

What: High school students volunteer

Who: Monett football players

More: None of players had visited museum prior

aid in rearranging items in the museum's collection as part of the team's community clean up day.

While some of the teens' projects were simply moving items to make room for new displays, the young men also helped place heavier items in the new displays themselves.

On top of moving archived newspapers from The Monett Times out of the school dis-

play room to help create more space in the existing school display and begin contemplating a newsroom display for the future, the volunteers also helped with displays already in the works.

One display will feature an antique barber's chair which had been waiting to be relocated. The idea in place is a planned barber shop and beauty salon display featuring items used in local shops of the past.

"They have made the impossible possible for us," said Jan Rowell, curator. "They have gotten months worth of work done in two

hours," she explained.

Rowell said she learned that none of the football players had ever visited the museum prior.

"I thought, you know what, what a great thing for them to come in and see the history of Monett, where they come from," said Assistant Coach Jonathan Mauk, when he learned the boys had not visited yet.

"What I really wish is that I had had more time with them to really give them a real tour to tell them all the real stories, because there are tons of stories in here,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FOCUSED ON MONETT — NEWS, SPORTS, COMMUNITY DELIVERED MONTHLY

★ **REVIVE**

**WE WASH,
YOU SHINE.**



867 E. HWY 60, Monett, MO



www.revive-carwash.com



LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

100+ Women quarterly meeting on May 7

The 100+Women of Barry and Lawrence Counties will meet on May 7 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.

Trivia on May 7

The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host Trivia on May 7 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Prizes are provided by Gentiva Hospice, of Neosho. All ages are welcome.

Bingo on May 8

The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host Bingo with Access Family Care on May 8 from 12-12:30 p.m. Free activities will be on the second Friday of each month at noon.

Kings Prairie Cemetery Annual Meeting May 11

The Kings Prairie Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. on May 11 at New Liberty Church on Highway Z, southeast of Monett. All who are interested are urged to attend. Contributions for mowing and upkeep of the cemetery may be mailed to Kings Prairie Cemetery, c/o Dan Shelton, 2541 Farm Road 1120, Monett, MO 65708.

Open House Series at Drury on May 21

The Drury GO - Monett Campus, located at 400 4th St. in Monett, will host an Open House on May 21 from 3-6 p.m. The event is for those who are curious about Drury Monett's educational opportunities. There will be a mini class at 3:30 p.m., with magic, and attendees can get a free drink from Quenchers.

Free line dance class on May 21

The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host a free line dance class at 12:30 p.m. on May 21, with instructor Maella.

Monett Community Blood Drive on May 26

The Community Blood Center of the Ozarks will host a Monett Community Blood Drive on May 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monett Area YMCA, located at 115 S. Lincoln Ave. All successful donors will receive a Giv & Go Fun Pass, which contains vouchers to numerous CBCO partners, a total value of more than \$245 in free admissions and activities. Donors will also receive a 3/4-sleeve All-American T-shirt. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged to minimize potential wait times at the drive. Call 417-227-5006 or click here to book an appointment: <https://tinyurl.com/3ctxnwat>.

Ice Cream Party on May 30

An Ice Cream Party will be held on May 30 from 2-4 p.m. at the new Monett South Park playground. The free ice cream is sponsored by Arona Home Essentials in Monett, which will offer in-store promotions on its Facebook page from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on May 30.

Kids' Fishing Day on May 30

SWMO Wild Game Feed will host a Kids' Fishing Day at Monett South Park on May 30 from 8 a.m. to noon. There will be prizes and a grand giveaway for youth 15-and-under. Hot dogs, chips and after will be provided by Walmart, and the Monett YMCA pool will be open for swimming after the event. Donations are welcome, and all proceeds benefit Children's Miracle Network.

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

Fits dazzle at Monett Prom



Monett High School held its annual Prom recently, with students attending dressed to impress. MHS Yearbook photos

School: Beef becoming expensive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Municipal Election, to the board, joining Ken Gaspar, Walter Branch, Jared Wormington, Matt Batson and Mike Whannell.

The new structure includes Gaspar as president, Branch as vice president, Ana Espinoza as Secretary, Kristin Umfleet as treasurer and Branch and Gaspar as MSBA Delegate and Alternative, respectively.

The board also heard updates on facility improvements and financial updates.

Work continues in the demolition of the district's "south building" after ensuring proper asbestos removal. Plans were reportedly on track to have the building removed in the coming months.

It was also reported that there is now increased police presence around bus stops to provide security to students approaching and departing buses. The board expressed their gratitude to the Monett Police as they reported parents have shared their pleasure with the increased safety measures at risky bus stops.

The board acknowledged an increase to lunch prices for the upcoming school year as food prices continue to rise across the



Anna Espinoza, left, administers the oath of office to Monett School Board members Ryan Nestleroad, Jared Wormington and Jennifer Lewis. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

country. While the district normally raises lunch prices by 10 cents each year to keep up with the national and global prices, a 20 cent increase is to be implemented for 2026/2027 school year.

The board discussed that the price of beef alone has been a noticeable challenge across the state for schools, with some programs that allowed for local purchase running out.

"The farmers are a lit-

tle more reluctant and to be honest with you," Superintendent Mark Drake said. "The price of beef that we have to purchase, we have used all our beef. This year, we're offering other options. That's so expensive. We would offer a burger to the kids every day until a few weeks ago. Now, we're looking at other options."

As school nears its end, graduation was the most notable upcoming events discussed.

All events discussed include Celebration of Schools on April 30; Senior Walk on May 1; Senior Awards Night at the PAC on May 4, Baccalaureate at 6 p.m. on May 6; Senior Caravan at 5:30 p.m. on Broadway on May 7; and finally Graduation at 7 p.m. on May 8.

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.

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.

FOCUS ON MONETT — NEWS, SPORTS, COMMUNITY DELIVERED MONTHLY

Troutman Media LLC
Troutman Media LLC is family owned and operated.

KYLE TROUTMAN, OWNER/PUBLISHER
JORDAN TROUTMAN, OWNER/GENERAL MANAGER

P.O. Box 486 • 600 Main Street • Cassville, MO 65625
Phone: 417-847-2610
Email address: monettmonthly@outlook.com
Website: www.facebook.com/MonettMonthly
For ad placement, call Sheila Harris at 417-669-3667

May 6, 2026 — Volume Two — Number 5

ABOUT
Monett Monthly is delivered on the first full week of each month to numerous businesses in Monett. The publication is free, and additional copies are available at the Cassville Democrat office.

STAFF

Kyle Troutman Editor/Graphic Designer
Jessica Breger Reporter
Sheila Harris Sales Executive
Jared Lankford Sports Reporter

QUICK DRAW GUN
ESTD 2013
MONETT, MO

BUY ★ SELL ★ TRADE

- Mil-Surp
- S&W
- Colt
- Ruger
- Marlin
- Winchester
- Remington
- Browning
- & More

NOW BUYING FIREARM COLLECTIONS

601 S. KYLER STREET, MONETT MO
QUICKDRAWGUN@GMAIL.COM • 417-354-8633



JARED LANKFORD

The bell curve of Big 8 football

It wasn't until college that I fully understood what grading on the curve meant, or even the fact that there were different kinds of curve-style grading systems.

There was the straight curve grading method, which I preferred. That basically meant that if a test was worth 100 points and the highest score a student in the class received was 95, then everyone's score would be shifted by five points.

So my 75 score, which would normally be a solid C, became a 80 and a B.

Then there was the one I absolutely despised – the bell curve.

Some of the best professor reviews I ever authored were in classes that used this method of grading – trust me, because they were anonymous – and they were both glorious and epic.

The basic principle of a bell curve-style is that it adjusts student scores to fit a normal distribution, ensuring a predetermined percentage of high, average and low grades regardless of raw score

For example, the top 10% in the class would receive As, the next 10-20% get Bs, the middle 60% receive Cs, and the bottom 10-20% receive Ds or Fs.

In effect, I could work my tail off in a difficult class, score 80s and 90s on every test and assignment (assuming they are worth 100 points) and still be saddled with a C or possibly worse.

Conversely, a student could just cruise through course, scoring 50s or 60s on tests and assignments, and still receive a B or a C if the class average was low enough (I would not mention that if it had not happened).

So, what does the bell curve have in common with the Big 8, and more specifically, Monett football?

In April, there were more conference realignments that occurred.

Essentially, what was the Central Ozarks Conference large division dissolved and the reconstituted as the Ozark Conference with Camdenon, Lebanon, Rolla, Springfield Central, Springfield Parkview and Waynesville.

Schools that are effectively the same size and will help fill a schedule and provide coveted points for district playoff seeding.

In the past five years, we have watched numerous conferences be created, restructure, contract and expand for various reasons – the Big 8 Conference was not excluded.

I appreciate history and tradition, and the Big 8 has both in abundance. However, under the current district formula in football, Monett gets punished by the metaphorical bell curve.

Since its state title a decade ago, the Cubs have hosted exactly two home district playoff games.

The Big 8, and we're dealing specifically with football, is diverse in school size from Class 2 Lamar to Class 5 McDonald County.

Yet, with the point system the Cubs can go 9-0 or 8-1 and still be just a No. 3 seed in their Class 4 district behind a West Plains team that loses three games.

Meanwhile, Lamar can go 0-9 and still host an opening round game in its district due to playing up every game. The bell curve strikes again.

When it comes to football, Monett at least needs to think about its future. The Cubs seem to be on an up-swing again, taking a step forward in development last year. And, the conference does have great teams to help Monett get better, but what happens when the Conference takes a dip again?

It may be a bitter pill, but Monett may need to look at alternatives if they want to host district football games.

Of course, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) could help by making the district pods the regular season matchups instead so we aren't playing a championship right before Christmas too.

This is just some food for thought— I'm trying to help raise awareness and GPAs.

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

Monett turning heads on area links

Experience, high expectations drive Cubs golf

BY JARED LANKFORD

Special to the Monett Monthly

With a blend of experience, confidence and unfinished business, the Monett boys golf team is in the midst of a season with lofty expectations and the talent to match.

The Cubs this year

CUBS GOLF

What: Enjoying successful season

How: Won Reeds Spring, Cassville tournaments, top 5 in Carthage

More: Four returners with state-caliber skill leading squad

have already claimed the Reeds Spring invitational and Cassville Invitational titles, as well as a top-five finish at the loaded

Carthage Invitational.

After capturing a Big 8 Conference championship a year ago, the team has its sights set on even bigger goals this spring. Among them: Repeating as conference champions and earning a spot at the state tournament – not just to qualify, but to compete.

"They learned they can compete with the big schools," said Brian Cox,

Monett coach. "That confidence will give them a big boost this year."

Leading the charge is a seasoned group of returners, including seniors August Black and Parker Howard, junior Bryce Hoyt and sophomore Brady Rhea. All four were key contributors to one of the area's top teams last season and bring valuable experience after compet-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Monett hosts Cub Relays



Monett's Meredith Merriman lets a shot go during the shot put competition at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Wilson takes the helm at Monett

New coach aims to build up-tempo, family-oriented program

BY JARED LANKFORD

Special to the Monett Monthly

A new era is beginning for the Monett girls basketball program.

Justin Wilson steps into the head coaching role, bringing with him a vision centered on intensity, unity and long-term growth.

LADY CUBS HOOPS

What: New coach

Who: Justin Wilson, former Diamond head coach

Philosophy: Fast-paced style of play paired with a strong defensive mindset

there," Wilson said. "I've always seen a great pride in the Monett team, even when I've coached against them. They've always worked hard with their kids, and I want to step in and continue that."

Living in Aurora, Wilson noted that the move allows him to invest more time into building relationships within the program while staying close to his community. More importantly, he sees potential in the younger

players already coming through the ranks.

"I'm looking to build a program," he said. "There are some good young groups and kids getting ready to come through."

On the court, Wilson's team will reflect his high-energy philosophy. Fans can expect a fast-paced style of play paired with a strong defensive mindset.

"I like to push the pace," Wilson said. "I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE

Andy Brandt

855 E. US Hwy. 60, Ste. A2

417-235-5603 (Call or Text) | ShelterInsurance.com



First on Front returns for 2026 Season

The highly anticipated First on Front event series is back for 2026, continuing a beloved tradition that has brought the community together since 2018.

Designed to celebrate local businesses, families, and connection, First on Front has grown into a staple event focused on creating a welcoming space where the community can gather and enjoy live entertainment and variety of food trucks.

The season kicked off on May 1, with the first event will take place in downtown Monett, featuring performances by Ty Harlan Music of Freistatt, Missouri, and Jeremy Phillips Music of Neosho, Missouri. Headlining the evening was DEK of Hearts, known for most recently placing third on NBC's The Voice and performing in the 2026 Rose Parade.

another exciting evening on June 5, once again in downtown Monett, highlighting the best of the community and local businesses.

First on Front will also host a special pop-up event in Cassville on July 10, expanding the experience and bringing the same vibrant atmosphere to a neighboring community.

In 2026, the event's sponsor, First State Bank of the Ozarks, is also using First on Front as part of a rebranding celebration, making this year's series even more meaningful for both the organization and the community it serves.

"First on Front is all about supporting local, creating connections, and giving families a fun place to gather," said Amanda Lee, event coordinator. "We're excited to continue this tradition and celebrate alongside our com-

munity in a big way this year."

Attendees are encouraged to come out and enjoy the community atmosphere. Event organizers remind attendees to bring a lawn chair or lawn blanket and plan to stay for the evening. "The variety of music and variety of food available throughout the night makes it truly a fun, local experience," food truck coordinator Angi Vanderbol said.

More details, including food truck, information and additional entertainment lineups, will be announced soon.

Event Dates:
 • May 1 – Downtown Monett
 • June 5 – Downtown Monett
 • July 10 – Pop-up Event in Cassville

All events begin at 6 p.m. For updates and more information, follow along on social media or contact event organizers.

Barry County Health Corner



Car Seat Program

When it comes to child passenger safety, proper car seat installation can help your child ride safer while in a vehicle.

However, studies show that 6 out of 10 car seats are not installed properly.

Many parents assume that if a car seat is buckled in, it's secure. But improper installation, loose straps, using the wrong seat for a child's age and weight, or using a damaged or expired car seat can reduce its effectiveness in a crash.

At the Barry County Health Department, our certified Car Seat Technician can examine each seat, making adjustments to ensure it is the proper seat for your child with the correct adjustments. This is a free check-up that includes hands on demonstrations to ensure your little one is riding as safely as possible.

Our car seat technician has provided this service to over 50 care givers during 2025 alone.

Make sure your child is in the proper car seat and schedule a free car seat inspection in Cassville or Monett by calling the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114.

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.



Old archives of the Montt Times and furniture are being moved for displays in the Monett Historical Society and Museum. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett School's Assistant Coach Johnathan Mauk is surrounded by football team members Linton Laitak, Mayson Wilson, Jackson Heseman, Ben Tate, Dominick Anderson and Jose Garcia at the Monett Historical Society and Museum as part of the team's community clean-up day. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

New displays are being arranged at Monett's Museum with help of local students. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Local Death Notices

- David Wayne Young • Monett • June 20, 1969 – March 14, 2026
- Laverne Hayes • Purdy • June 18, 1940 – March 29, 2026
- Pat Myers • Pierce City • Nov. 30, 1941 – March 30, 2026
- Josephine Isbell • Monett • Oct. 15, 1938 – March 31, 2026
- Louise Shepherd • Bentonville, Ark. • Sept. 1, 1933 – April 2, 2026
- Jason Bartley Sayre • Kansas City, Mo. – April 16, 1976 – April 4, 2026
- Kathie Jean Browne • Monett • Dec. 13, 1949 – April 8, 2026
- Donna J. Stross • Neosho • July 11, 1962 – April 10, 2026
- Shirley Ann Lasiter • Ritchey • March 21, 1951 – April 10, 2026
- Gus Lyon • Monett • March 28, 1941 – April 19, 2026
- Za Hnin Bik • Mt. Vernon • Jan. 20, 1981 – April 19, 2026
- Patti Jo Ireland • Wentworth • Dec. 28, 1957 – April 20, 2026
- Raena Carpenter • Monett • June 3, 1959 – April 23, 2026
- Mary Sue Fox • Monett • Jan. 16, 1932 – April 23, 2026

BUCHANAN
Funeral Home

director@buchananfuneralhomemonett.com
 www.buchananfuneralhomemonett.com
 www.facebook.com/BuchananFuneralHomeMonett

P.O. Box 424
 301 Euclid
 Monett, MO 65708
417-235-3188
 Fax: 417-235-3117

Museum: Staff thrilled to have player volunteers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and it's one thing to look at old things, it's another thing to put a story with it," Rowell said. "And that's what makes all this come alive."

She added that her hopes are that this experience piqued the students' curiosity and will promote the students

not only who came to help, but those they talk with, to come experience Monett's history for themselves.

This was only one stop the team members made on their Saturday outing as they sought out community members who needed help.

"Coach Mauk just contacted some people in the community," said Keith Parris, assistant coach. "See what they needed to help with. Because it's important for us to give back to the community. He wants the kids to understand that people that's coming there.

"The games on Friday night are also the same people that we see every day that we as part of our community, and we're not just building football players, which, because that's going to end at some point in time in their life when

they have to be citizens, they have to be good community members. So why not help the community?"

Rowell said the whole staff at the museum were thrilled to have the boys help and see the community involvement not only with the museum but all of the places they visited, explaining that this type of involvement is what fosters a sense of community.

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

Journey Of Massage And Spirit

101A N.Elm St. Pierce City, MO

JodiJill "Joma" Marsh

Licensed Massage Therapist

In-Office & Mobile Therapy 607-778-0287

TOMBSTONE SOLUTIONS, LLC

- Preserving your loved one's legacy
- Monument Sales
- Monument Leveling & Cleaning

Jeremy & Angi Vanderbol — Owners

305 Euclid Ave., Monett, Mo 65708

Call for an Estimate • 417-737-0839

— Serving Southwest Missouri —



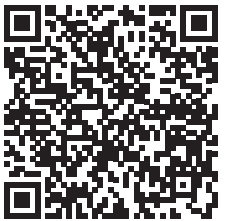
VB Hall Antique Mall & Flea Market

30th year in business — Oldest, longest-running flea market in Monett

201 W. Main, Monett • 417-235-1110

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.



The Rib

"WE SPECIALIZE IN STEAKS!"

Our steaks are cut from grass fed, grain-finished Black and Red Angus beef, certified by E3 Ranch in Kansas, and have never been subjected to antibiotics, steroids and added hormones.

Lounge opens at 3:00 p.m.

Open: Wed-Sat 4-9 p.m. for Dinner

497 State Hwy 76, Cassville
417-847-3600
 Hours: Wed-Sat, 4-9 — Lounge, 3-10

DREAM CASA REAL ESTATE

Elsa Porras
Broker/Owner

Jennifer Rodriguez

Henry Sustaita

Maddy Flummerfelt

Se Habla Español ♥ 417.772.1700

Monett hosts Cub Relays



Monett's Jameson Barnes pushes in the final few meters of the 1600 meter run to take first place at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Addison Cole, left, takes a baton handoff during a relay race at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Breylin Gann keeps pace with another runner in the 100-meter dash at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Bella Haskins leaps over the bar in the high jump competition at the Cub Relays. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Golf: Cubs' dedication individually and as team a strength this season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing against larger schools in Class 4.

Despite being the smallest school in their classification, Monett held its own. Black advanced to the state tournament, while Hoyt and Rhea narrowly missed qualifying.

Black, a four-year varsity player, headlines the senior leadership. Cox praised his athleticism and relentless work ethic, he emerged last season with some of the team's top scores. Alongside him is Howard, whose rapid rise in the sport has been nothing short of remarkable.

Having played golf for less

than two years, Howard has become one of the team's most dedicated players. His commitment, Cox said, is evident in the countless hours he spends on the course, a testament to how quickly hard work can translate into success.

The team will also look for contributions from a promising group of newcomers. Freshman Connor Bailey is expected to make an immediate impact with a polished swing and mature mindset. Additional newcomers Keegan Snodgrass, Luis Serrano and Jose Garcia bring long-term potential and could develop into key contrib-

utors in the years ahead.

One of Monett's greatest strengths lies in its dedication — both individually and as a team.

"The golfers push each other in practice and understand the importance of every stroke in tournament play," Cox said. "They don't just play for themselves. They play for the team. Even on a bad day, their score can be the difference."

Still, like any team, there are areas for growth. The mental side of golf remains a constant challenge, particularly the ability to move past mistakes and focus on the next shot. Putting

is another key area of emphasis, especially with the variety of courses and green conditions the team will face throughout the season.

Monett will not lack for competition. The schedule has featured some of the top tournaments in the region, including a match play event in Cassville and a tournament in Sedalia — the site of this year's state championships. The team also hosted its own invitational, featuring a unique Maxwell format that emphasizes team scoring.

"What truly sets this group apart, however, is its depth,"

Cox said. "Few teams can boast five golfers capable of shooting in the 70s on any given day. That's a testament to both talent and experience. More importantly, the team represents its school and community with pride.

"This is a very special group. Not only are they one of the best teams in the area, they're great kids who represent MHS the right way. I'm proud of them every day."

If their experience and determination translate to the course, Cox believes that Monett could be in for another championship-caliber season.

Coach: Will host all-ages open gyms, do team activities to build chemistry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

really enjoy the defensive side of the ball. We're going to apply pressure — full court and half court — and play a lot of man defense. Of course, that depends on personnel, but I think we'll be able to push tempo pretty well."

Beyond strategy, Wilson emphasized that culture will be at the

heart of his program. He aims to foster a tight-knit environment where players trust one another and grow together.

"I really like a family atmosphere," he said. "I want us to be connected as one, build togetherness, and trust one another."

With his first meeting with the team scheduled

for this week, Wilson is already planning ways to establish that culture before the season begins. A full slate of summer activities — including games, open gyms, youth involvement, and team bonding outings — will play a key role.

"We're going to have a lot of summer programs," Wilson said.

"We'll host open gyms for all ages, and even do some team activities like bowling or Top Golf to help everyone get to know each other."

Wilson's coaching journey includes assistant roles at New Covenant Academy and Aurora, followed by head coaching stops at Billings and Diamond.

Each experience, he said, has helped shape his approach as he takes over at Monett.

Now, with a new challenge ahead, Wilson is

focused on laying the foundation for sustained success — one built on effort, connection and pride in the program, he said.

RANDALL, MASRI & RANDALL, PC

Reliable and Responsible Attorneys for Skillful Legal Representation

405 E BROADWAY ST, MONETT, MO 65708
417-235-8688

DUMPSTER SOLUTIONS LLC

305 Euclid Avenue
Monett, MO 65708
417-737-9912

Jeremy & Angi Vanderbol
OWNERS
Serving Southwest Missouri

Rollo INSURANCE

MONETT, MO

Scott Thrasher, Associate
1001 E. Broadway, Ste. D • 417-708-5525
scott.thrasher@rolloinsurance.com
Home & Auto | Commercial | Life | Farm & Ranch | Boat

PAYDEN JAYNE'S BOUTIQUE

Women's and Children's Apparel and Accessories

775 Chapell Drive, Ste. C
Monett, MO

Payden Jayne's Boutique

VALLEY VIEW MOTORS LLC

Cars | Trucks | SUVs
Campers | Boats | ATVs

Monday-Friday 9-5
After hours & Saturdays by appointment.
10489 Old Exeter Road, Cassville
valleyviewmotors@mail.com

417-847-2091
Jill Ware

Congratulations to Monett GRADUATES of 2026

A-LIST PROPERTIES Premier

218 E. Broadway, Suite A, Monett, Mo.
417-635-1190 | alistpp.com



Monett Area Fuller House volunteers, including Katy Velasquez and President Frank Washburn, join Asia Yost and her children, Aiden, Ezra, Leo and Skylar, to break ground on their new home. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Fuller house breaks ground on 16th home

Tyson employee heard about opportunity through Project R.I.S.E.

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly
The Monett Area Fuller House Center welcomed the community to join in breaking ground on House No. 16. The planning of this home began less than a year ago when House No.

15 had not even been finished. The location for House No. 16 had already been selected by the time they began the groundbreaking for House No. 15 last year. This year, the community came together to begin a home for local resident Asia Yost and her family. As an employee at Tyson Foods, Yost first learned about Fuller

through her participation in the Project R.I.S.E. program in partnership with Tyson Foods which suggested to her by Tyson's Chaplain Rebekkah Mahl. The R.I.S.E. program is an educational program focusing on financial, personal, and educational skills to help people move toward self-sufficiency. "I was at work walking down the hallway and Rebecca stopped me and she said, 'Look at this. There's a new class that we're going to do, the R.I.S.E. class, I think you'd really benefit from it,' Yost said. "I was skeptical at first, but I stuck it out. I was the only one in my class." Yost and her children, Aiden, Ezra, Leo and Skylar, broke ground on their new home surrounded community as representatives of Fuller House, Tyson and the city of Monett gathered to kick-off the project. The non-profit organization helps to build homes for families to provide adequate and afford-



Asia Yost and her children, Aiden, Ezra, Leo and Skylar, to break ground on their new home. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

able housing for local families through volunteer work and zero interest home loans. Qualifying families are those whose income may not allow them to secure a conventional loan, but have a solid work history.

The families work for their no interest loans, however, they help build their own homes. They have to put in two hundred hours of work. Beginning in 2002 as a Habitat for Humanity affiliate, the organiza-

tion converted to a Fuller Center in 2023. To volunteer or seek assistance from the organization, the Monett area Fuller House Center for housing can be reached at 417-235-8437.



Nickle's Flooring
Making Your Home Beautiful Since 1990!



ROOFING • DECKS
REPAIRS • ADDITIONS

LUXURY VINYL • CARPET
HARDWOOD
CUSTOM SHOWERS • BLINDS

WWW.NICKLESFLOORING.COM
470 STATE HWY 76, CASSVILLE • 417-847-2484

Masterpieces
for Remembering.



Monett

201 West Broadway
(417) 235-3444
1-800-346-9879

Other Convenient Locations

Aurora	1-800-346-9877
Monett	1-800-346-9879
Springfield	1-800-346-9875

& selected representatives throughout the Ozarks

- * The #1 Choice of area families
- * Missouri's Largest
- * Custom Design by our Artist
- * Quality granite and bronze
- * Serving the Ozarks since 1954
- * Complete written guarantee
- * Ship Anywhere in the U.S.
- * Solid Permanent Foundations
- * Recommended by Cemetery Officials
- * Personalized design and lettering

Wommack



Monument Company



Becky Ward from Monett Ward serves food at the annual Stake dance. Contributed photo



Blair Powell, President of the Young Single Adult Branch, showed folks how to rope at the annual Stake dance. Contributed photo

Stake hosts annual dance in Carthage

On April 18, the 3,000 member Monett Missouri Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints held its annual dance at the Civil War Ranch in Carthage. More than 175 adult members and friends, including from Cassville, attended the event — coming from as far north as Cedar County and as far south as the Arkansas border — to enjoy line dancing, square dancing and swing dancing. This year's added bonus was dinner, horse-

shoes, bean bag throw, hay bale throw, corn hole and roping, all without charge. A Stake in the Church of Jesus Christ is similar to a Catholic diocese, covering a large area and overseeing smaller units where members regularly worship and hold activities. The smaller units are called Wards or Branches, depending on their size. The Monett Missouri Stake has nine such units. Why does the Church sponsor dances? "The reason why

wholesome recreation is part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is because having fun helps bring the Spirit," said Blair Powell, President of the Monett Stake Young Single Adults. "Getting to know people personally is what Jesus did. We're more relaxed in a setting where we are having fun and being ourselves." Becky Ward, Monett Ward Relief Society President, answered another way. "The reason why wholesome recreation is part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is because man is that he might have joy, and when you have wholesome recreational activities with your church family, it brings that joy," she said. Becky Ward and her husband, Robert, and Blair Powell and his wife, Lauralie, drove over to Carthage for that purpose, to have fun and joy with others.

Event Center Coordinator

The Monett Historical Museum currently has an opportunity available for an individual to manage the scheduling and facilitation of our Event Center. The successful candidate should have experience in managing independent projects with a high degree of responsibility and good communication skills. A strong commitment to and interest in promoting the Museum and Event Center would be a requirement. You must be 21 years of age to apply. For details, please contact Jeanne Ann, 417-669-3975.



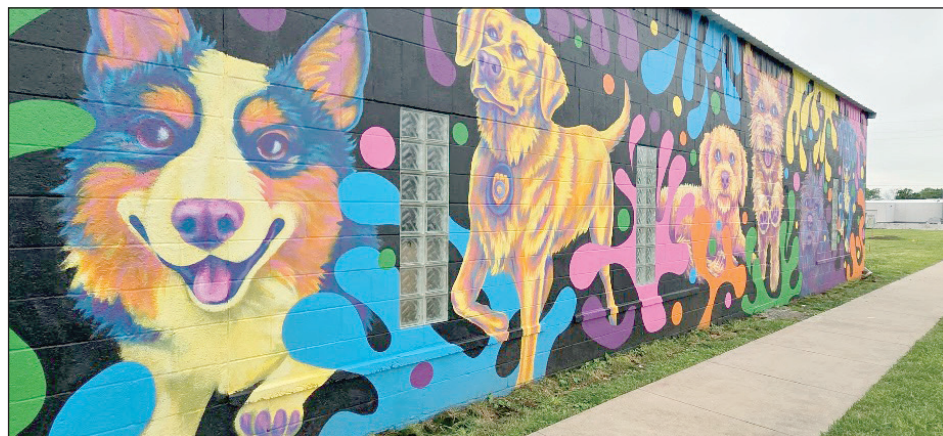
New playground equipment stands ready for Monett children to visit at Monett South Park. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Main Street President Alyssa Vaughn, Commissioner Darren Indovina, Mayor Randy Burke and Commissioner Ken Gaspar were joined by members of The City of Monett and Monett Main Street, along with the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce to break ground on the city's new dog park at 901 E. Broadway St. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



A new Mural by Sandra Pemberton of Sandra Dawn Murals will add a pop of color to Monett's dog park now in development. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



A new Mural by Sandra Pemberton of Sandra Dawn Murals is brining attention to Monett's dog park now in development. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



A new Mural by Sandra Pemberton of Sandra Dawn Murals marks the spot of Monett's dog park now in development. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

City: Playground project represents \$106K investment in city park system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

uled city election on April 6, 2027.

A second public vote officially changing the form of government and adopting the proposed charter created by the commission will still be required and would be slated for the following election ballot in April 2028, when the terms of the current city council members expire.

Attorney Holly Dodge, with the Lauber Municipal Law firm, was present to explain the parameters of the commission and process of selection.

She explained that by starting the process early this time around, residents will have time to make informed decisions about who will sit on the commission to form the charter.

"Everyone has time to get things thought through, have meetings, explain what a charter is versus the other options that you guys have," Dodge said to the council.

She went on to say this will allow residents to get together and decide how they want to configure their government.

Burke confirmed that while applications will not be submitted until September, those wanting to serve on the commission can solicit names for their positions to serve as soon as they would like.

Dodge did say potential candidates would be responsible for making sure those who sign the positions will still be a resident and registered

voter come time to submit the positions to the city in February 2027.

Burke said public meetings to explain the process would be held in September and next spring so candidates and voters can be well informed this time around.

The city has had its focus on park development recently as residents begin to notice changes and additions to public spaces.

A resolution authorizing the City Council to name city-owned property to Freedom Park for the purpose of downtown greenspace was passed at the meeting, creating a new park for Monett on the north side of Front Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, just east of the city pavilion.

The area is already designated as a green space which cannot be built on. City Administrator Mickey Ary recommend-

ed making the property part of the city's park system.

Council Member Ken Gaspar suggested the name officially become Monett Freedom Park, adding the city name to the original proposal.

This would make the park consistent with other city parks and alleviate confusion for people searching online for the Freedom Silo or the park itself.

The city also held a groundbreaking ceremony for the newly approved dog park on March 27 at 901 E. Broadway Street.

The City is partnering with Monett Main Street on this project and is currently working to complete infrastructure work, including running water and electrical, and constructing a pavilion on the property. The next step will be to turn the project over to Monett Main Street to construct a fence around the park.

On April 29 the city held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new playground at Monett's South Park.

This project represents a \$106,770 investment in the city park system and was funded through the voter-approved park tax.

The new playground structure is situated near the tennis and pickleball courts, with two established parking lots nearby and will include Ecoturf surfacing at its base.

The projects are all part of the city's commitment

to expanding green space and community spaces throughout the city.

Regular City Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each

month at 6 p.m. at the Monett City Annex located at 100 South Maple St., with video available on the city's website the following day.

STIHL®

MONETT COAST TO COAST 500 S. KYLER MONETT, MO 65708 (417) 235-7161

Authorized Local STIHL Dealer

WHITE FUNERAL HOME

CREMATION ON SITE

- Loved one stays in our care
- Only crematory in Barry or Lawrence Counties
- Caring & compassionate staff
- Lowest cost in area

WE ALSO HAVE A PET CREMATORY

196 Sale Barn Rd., Cassville, MO • 417-847-8400
Shell Knob — 417-858-8400
Skip White

Remember our history!

The Monett Historical Museum brings local history to life.

Frisco Room • Main Exhibit Hall • Gillioz Theater replica
Event venue available for rental — 417-235-9030

Museum hours: Sunday & Monday - closed;
Wednesday through Saturday- 10 am to 4 pm

422 Broadway, Monett, Mo.
www.monetthistory.com

Eggs fall, found at annual Eggstravaganza



The children at the Eggstravaganza egg drop event rushed to gather their Easter Eggs as soon as they hit the ground. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Fire and Rescue dropped the eggs for this year's Eggstravaganza event as children raced to collect them all. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Crowds at the Eggstravaganza event in Monett this year were greeted by local farm life following an egg drop to celebrate Easter. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Children at the Eggstravaganza event in Monett this year got to know local farm life following an egg drop to celebrate Easter. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Pre-arranged Planning...
 ... THE MOST *Important* THING
 YOU CAN DO FOR
Your FAMILY & FRIENDS.

FOHN FUNERAL HOME
 —•—
 McQUEEN FUNERAL HOME
 www.fohnfuneralhome.com

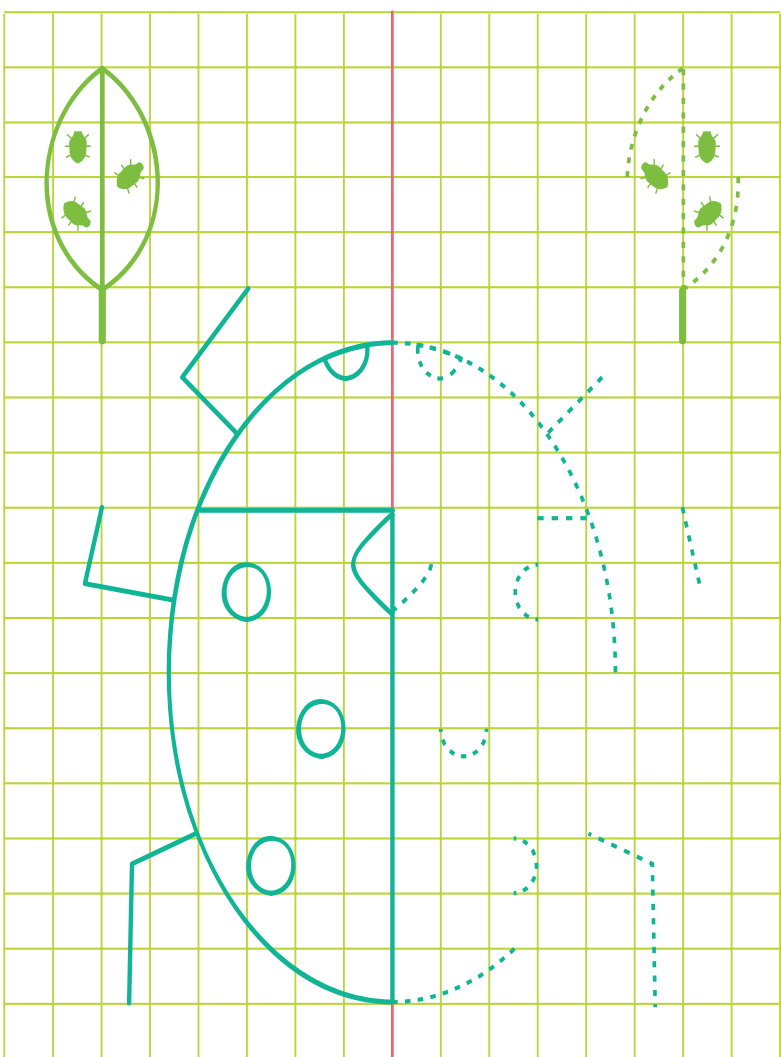
FOHN FUNERAL HOME
 CASSVILLE, MISSOURI
 417-847-2141

McQUEEN FUNERAL HOME
 WHEATON, MISSOURI
 417-652-7268



MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



JUST kidding

Q: What bow can't be tied?

A: rainbow



JUST kidding

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A: Spring time



JUST kidding

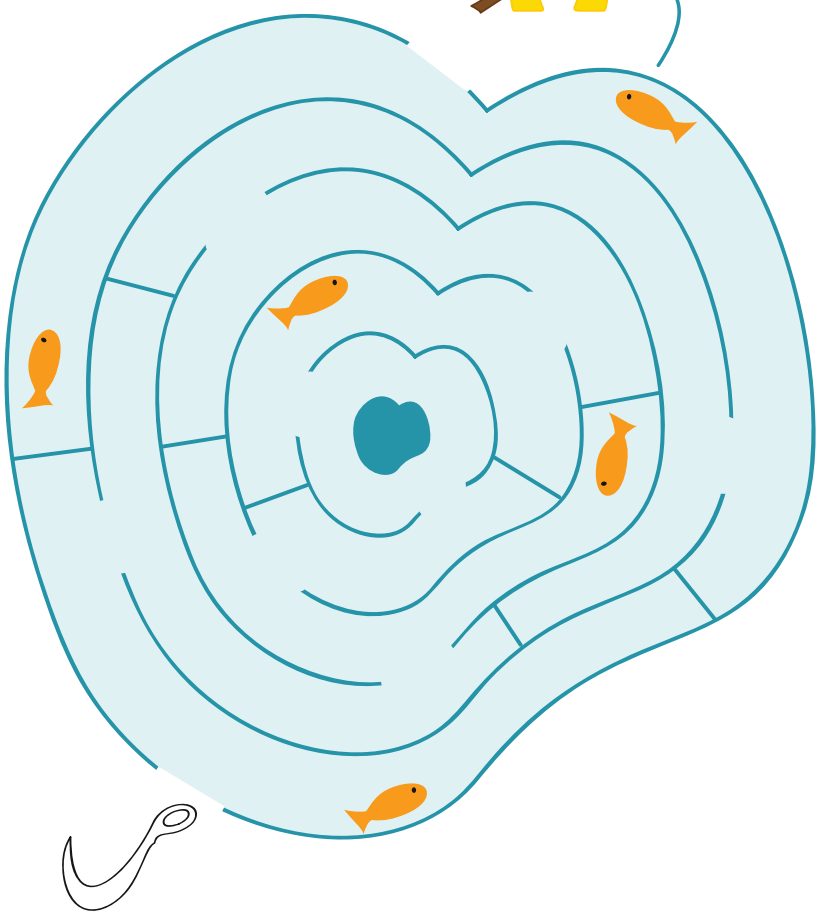
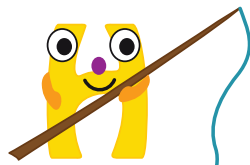
Q: Where did the computer go to dance?

A: To a disc-o



Amazing maze

Help Mr. H find the HOOK for his fishing rod.



For the up-and-coming artist



Visit us online at: <https://www.cassville-democrat.com/monett-monthly/>

Sudoku 6 x 6

2		5			
6		4			
	4	2			5
5			2	4	
			3		2
			6		4

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

4	5	9	1	2	1
2	1	1	9	5	4
1	4	2	1	9	5
5	9	1	2	4	1
1	2	5	4	1	9
9	1	4	5	1	2

BANK LOCAL WITH SECURITY
SB SECURITY BANK
 OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

10408 Farm Rd 2180, Cassville, MO 65625 • (417) 847-4794

www.sbswmo.com



Call today to get our latest CD rates



MONETT SCHOOLS

STUDENT FOCUSED. FUTURE DRIVEN.

Purple Reign

2025-2026 School Year

May 2026

Monett Schools Recognition Gala 2026

This year, the Monett School District introduced a new tradition centered on its people. The first-ever Monett Schools Recognition Gala recognized the teachers, staff, and partners who contribute to student success each day.

The evening was created to provide an opportunity to slow down and celebrate the individuals who give so much to students and the schools each day. While this work often happens quietly, the Gala brought it to the forefront, recognizing teachers and staff in a way that reflects the difference they make. The event was held at the Casino at South Park on Saturday, April 25, 2026, with more than 200 guests in attendance.

Those recognized represent the heart of the district. Through their dedication, consistency, and care for others, they help create an environment where students feel supported and learning thrives. More than a celebration, the evening reflected the district's commitment to valuing the people who make its work possible.

The Gala also included recognition of Cubbies of the Year, Excellence Award recipients, retirees, years of service honorees, and Business Partners of the Year, highlighting the many individuals and organizations who contribute to the district in different ways.



Excellence Award Recipients



Cubbies of the Month 2025-2026



Years of Service



Business Partners of the Year

