

BEES, BEEKEEPING TIPS SHARED AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY — PAGE 10

CUBS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE SET >>>

Monett opens season with Barry County Brawl. — PAGE 3

MONETT



Monthly



JULY 1, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY

Biking across America

Monett native Andrew Rausch is riding coast to coast

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Monett Monthly
A dream to sustain a family legacy has inspired former Monettan Andrew Rausch to take his bicycle this summer and ride across the country. Rausch, a 2015 Monett High School graduate, is the

son of George and Ann Marie Rausch of Monett. His father, in 1976, took on the Adventure Cycling Association's coast-to-coast bicycle ride, going from Astoria, Oregon, to Yorktown, Virginia. Fifty years later, Andrew is repeating the trip on his own, only he's going from east to west.

"I grew up hearing about riding bikes," Andrew said. "In college, I fell in love with riding by bicycle and camping. In 2019, I biked from Rolla to Montana. I always want-

ed to do the whole thing [the cross-country trip]. I figured if not this year, I was never going to."

His parents knew of Andrew's love of biking, but naturally had reservations about this trip.

"They knew I've been planning this for a long time," Andrew said. "My mom worried, like any mother. Still, they're happy to see me do what I love."

Like his father, Andrew is a graduate of the University

of Missouri's school at Rolla, now the Missouri University of Science and Technology, then the University of Missouri-Rolla. Andrew took a job designing concrete trucks for the Osh Kosh Corporation in Osh Kosh, Wisc., which owns Pierce Manufacturing, the firm where the City of Monett buys its fire trucks. Andrew subsequently switched to Pierce, where he accumulated "a lot of vacation time," making his trip possible. He nonetheless has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

LIONS CLUB

What: Celebrating 80th anniversary

Mission: Vision assistance, community events and fundraisers

More: Club typically meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Angus Branch

Lions roar into 80th year

Monett Club celebrates continuous impact in community

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly
One prominent organization in Monett is celebrating this year, as the Monett Lion's Club celebrated its 80th anniversary in late May.

Following recognition by the Monett City Council during May's council meeting, the Club's annual banquet was also geared toward recognizing and celebrating 80 years of the Lion's Club in Monett.

"This year has been one of many celebrations," said Stacey Fillinger, Club president. "Last fall marked our 40th year of selling apple butter, and this year will be our 70th Annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser on the Fourth of July at Monett South Park. We feel blessed to have been able to serve our community for so many years and look forward to many more years to come."

Officially chartered on April 23, 1946, with 36 charter members, the Monett Lions Club has provided vision and hearing screenings and services to those in need for 80 years.

The club receives referrals from local schools when a child needs glasses and the family is unable to afford them to provide the needed eyewear.

All donated eyeglasses collected locally are recycled and distributed during vision missions. The Lion's Club also provides transportation and assistance for those in need of vision surgery.

Over the years, the Lions have also donated funding for athletic scoreboards at Monett schools, contributed the Lion drinking fountain located at the city pool, and helped fund the large fish tank at Mercy Children's Hospital in Springfield.

In addition, they offer an annual scholarship for a student pursuing a technical trade and support numerous organizations, including Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), KidSight, Saving Sight,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

JACK HENRY MARKS 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS



Jack Henry senior officials gathered on June 3 to place a time capsule in honor of the company's 50th anniversary by the memorial bench for company founders Jack Henry and Jerry Hall. Pictured, front row from left, are: Kevin Sligar, CEO Greg Adelson, Mary Stluka, and Brian Hunter. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Nearly 500 attend Associate Town Hall in June

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

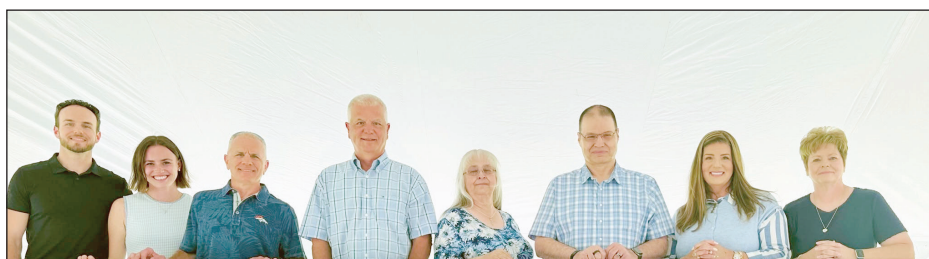
Special to the Monett Monthly

On June 2 and 3, the financial technology company Jack Henry in Monett marked its 50th anniversary with special activities and commemorations.

On June 2, the company held an Associate Town Hall gathering. A total of 480 Jack Henry associates attended in person in Monett, and more than 4,700 tuned in across the country to watch the livestream. CEO Greg Adelson dressed in a gold jacket for the occasion. Monett Mayor Randy Burke and City Administrator Mickey Ary were guests of honor, as were the widows of both co-founders, Brenda Henry and Pat Hall.

That day it was announced the Monett campus, which started in 1981, would be formally named the Jerry Hall Campus, in honor of co-founder Jerry Hall. The name was placed on the sign off the Eisenhower Street exit.

The Monett campus started as a gamble on 52 acres on the southwest corner of Monett. According to company legend, Jack Henry had the J-1 building erected for offices, but planned that if the company failed, he would convert it into a house and move in.



jack henry
The Jerry Hall Campus

As part of festivities marking the 50th anniversary of the Jack Henry company in Monett, the Monett campus, which opened in 1981, has been renamed the Jerry Hall Campus in honor of the company's cofounder, Jerry Hall. Pictured are members of Jerry Hall's family and Jerry's wife, Pat, with the new sign by the Eisenhower entrance. Contributed photo

Fortunately, the company thrived. The campus has since grown to 154 acres and eight buildings.

The next morning after the Town Hall, Adelson gathered a team to cre-

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NEWS BRIEFS

Freedom & Fireworks on July 4

The annual Monett Freedom & Fireworks event is set for Saturday, July 4 at Monett South Park. The Monett Lions Club will host its annual 4th of July BBQ Chicken Fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A \$10 plate includes half a chicken, baked beans and chips. People may dine in or drive through. Tickets are available at Bruner's pharmacy, UMB Bank, Freedom Bank, First State Bank or from any Monett Lion. Freedom & Fireworks features unlimited ride bracelets for \$15 ahead of time or \$25 at the gate, with adults and children able to participate. Live music will then give way to one of the area's largest fireworks displays.

Monett Main Street hosting Downtown 4th of July Celebration

Monett Main Street will host the Downtown Monett 4th of July Celebration from 9-1 a.m. on Saturday, July 4. The Monett Area Farmer's Market will be set up, including fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, local vendors, live music and activities. The 4th Annual Pancakes for Parkinson's will serve up pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice from 9-11 a.m. The Freedom Show & Shine car show will be held on Broadway from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bingo at Senior Center July 10

The Monett Senior Center, in partnership with Access Family Care, will host Bingo on Friday, July 10, from noon to 12:30 p.m. The Center is located at 405 Dairy Street in Monett.

Panel discussion on Monett cave on July 21

The Monett Historical Society will host a Monett Cave panel Discussion on Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m. at the Monett Museum, located at 422 Broadway in Monett. The event will be an open panel discussion on the history and topic of the Monett muddy cave, featuring E.A. Hilton, author of "Beneath Missouri's Lakes."

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

Dropping by, flying in



Aircrafts were put on display for guests at the Monett Regional Airport in June for the annual Fly-in event. The event invites the Monett community to enjoy breakfast provided by the Monett Lion's Club and learn about aviation at a local level. Jessica Breger/special to the Monett Monthly



Guests at the fourth annual fly-in event in Monett got a show as sky divers descended on the airport to kick off festivities. Jessica Breger/special to the Monett Monthly



Crowds at the fourth annual fly-in event in Monett got to explore numerous aircrafts that frequent the airport this June. The event opens the airport up for residents to explore different aircrafts and allows children from 8-17 to ride in one of several aircrafts at the airport. Jessica Breger/special to the Monett Monthly



Crowds at the fourth annual fly-in event in Monett got to explore numerous aircrafts that frequent the airport. Jessica Breger/special to the Monett Monthly

CORRECTIONS

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



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ABOUT

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The stars of the crown

For Eliza Hewitt, becoming an educator was her life's ambition and passion.

Her dream came true, and she began her teaching career in Philadelphia, Penn.

A few years later, Hewitt developed a spinal condition that caused her to become bedridden for long periods of time. She was forced to leave her passion and dealt with bouts of depression from being unable to do the one thing she loved — teaching.

One day, Hewitt was approached by her minister and asked to assist in preparing the educational curriculum for the church's Sunday School program.

With a renewed purpose, Hewitt embraced her second chance. Her health recovered enough to allow her to teach a weekly class. Additionally, she furthered her own education by earning a literary degree. Along the way, she discovered a talent for writing poetry.

In 1897, she authored a poem, later turned into a popular song, that reflected on some of her darkest days when she wondered whether any of her efforts as an educator and a Christian had made a difference in the lives of others.

Hewitt wrote:

*"In the strength of the Lord let me labor and pray,
Let me watch as a winner of souls;
That bright stars may be mine in the glorious day,
When His praise like the sea-billow rolls.
Oh, what joy it will be when His face I behold,
Living gems at His feet to lay down;
It would sweeten my bliss in the city of gold,
Should there be any stars in my crown?
Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown,
When at evening the sun goeth down?
When I wake with the blessed in the mansions of rest,
Will there be any stars in my crown?"*

Last month, we laid to rest my uncle, Dr. Ronald Lankford. To say that he dedicated his life to public education and serving others would be a gross understatement of his accomplishments.

He began as a social studies teacher and counselor in the Harrisburg School District. He then accepted a teaching position at East Newton, where he advanced to the role of assistant principal. From there, he moved to Webb City and, over the next 33 years, climbed the administrative ranks to become the district's superintendent.

Three Monettans actually helped shape Dr. Lankford's path along the way. Burl Fowler and Benny Lawson taught him while they were at Seneca. Meanwhile, longtime Monett Superintendent Dr. Ralph Scott provided Dr. Lankford with advice during his tenure as superintendent at Webb City.

Upon retirement, he served as deputy commissioner at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where he managed the state's nearly \$4 billion budget.

One might think that a man who achieved such heights would be difficult to approach or would possess an ego equal to the authority of his position. But that wasn't the case with my uncle.

What he cared about was something Ms. Hewitt wrote about so long ago — his stars.

What were his stars? They were the lives of those upon whom he had an impact.

He loved to brag about the accomplishments of his former students, faculty, staff, and family members. Their successes were a priority to him. Their achievements were the victories he most loved to celebrate. He found comfort in knowing that long after his own life-light had faded, they would continue to shine brightly.

At the high school level, we have a tendency to judge coaches by wins and losses or to use a letter grade as the sole measure of a student's potential.

Former Monett football coach Chad Depee once said that he viewed his job as creating better sons, men, husbands and fathers. He simply used coaching to help accomplish that mission.

Dr. Lankford used education in a similar way. He wanted those for whom he was responsible to have every opportunity to become the best version of themselves and to reach their full potential.

My uncle was fortunate enough to witness much of his educational labor bear fruit and to see many of those stars glitter in his crown. He was never braggadocious about his role but instead found comfort in knowing that he had made a positive difference.

He understood that education provides one of the keys to a better quality of life.

We often speak of the American Dream, and I know for a fact that it is real and has blessed my family.

My grandfather, Ronald's father, had only an eighth-grade education. My grandmother was a one-room school teacher and homemaker. Yet they put three children through college while scratching out a living on 140 acres, determined to ensure that the next generation of Lankfords would have a better future.

In fact, my uncle founded a perpetual scholarship at Webb City called "Continuing the American Dream Scholarship."

Caring for others, valuing family, serving God, and working hard were principles that shaped and guided my uncle, along with the belief that you should leave things better than you found them.

I strongly support the role educators and schools play in the lives of our youth. Part of that support comes from witnessing the joy those stars brought to my uncle.

Educators matter.

When the days seem dreary, and when the darkness of frustration, sickness, depression, and self-doubt begins to creep in, remember to look up for it takes the darkness of night to reveal our stars.

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



JARED LANKFORD

CUBS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE SET



Carson Nestleroad brings in a catch during the Barry County Brawl last season. The Cubs open the 2026 slate against the Wildcats on the road. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Monett opens season with Barry County Brawl

BY JARED LANKFORD

monettsports@gmail.com

After finishing the 2025 season with a 5-6 record, the Monett football team will look to take another step forward in year three under head coach Ben Mauk.

Monett's 2026 schedule features a challenging mix of longtime rivals, conference battles and a notable trip to the St. Louis area.

The Cubs will open the season on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. in the annual Barry County Brawl, traveling to face Cassville. The following week, Monett welcomes Mount Vernon to Burl Fowler Stadium for its home opener on Sept. 4.

Road tests follow as the Cubs travel to face Nevada on Sept. 11 before making one of their longest trips of the season on Sept. 18. Monett heads to St. Louis to take on Lutheran North. It will be Monett's first football trip to the St. Louis area since the Cubs' memorable 2016 Class 3 state semifinal appearance.

The Cubs return home on Sept. 25 for one of the most anticipated games on the schedule, renewing their rivalry with Aurora.

October brings a difficult stretch of opponents. On Oct. 2, Monett travels to face defending Class 3 state champion Seneca. The Cubs then return home on Oct. 9 to host McDonald County



A host of Cubs take down a Cassville runner in the Barry County Brawl at Monett last season. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

before traveling to take on East Newton on Oct. 16.

The regular season concludes on Oct. 23 with Senior Night at Burl Fowler Stadium, as Monett hosts perennial powerhouse Lamar.

Monett Cubs 2026 Schedule

Aug. 28, Cassville, Away
Sept. 4, Mount Vernon, Home
Sept. 11, Nevada, Away
Sept. 18, Lutheran North, Away

Sept. 25, Aurora, Home
Oct. 2, Seneca, Away
Oct. 9, McDonald County, Home
Oct. 16, East Newton, Away

Oct. 23, Lamar, Home
With several traditional rivals on the schedule and a unique matchup against Lutheran North, the 2026 season presents an opportunity for the Cubs to build on last year's progress and continue the development of the program under Coach Mauk's leadership.



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A new way of seeing

In recent times in the latter days of the second half of my life, God has opened my eyes to a new way of seeing.

I regard it as a further step toward spiritual maturity. Not that I am perfect or will ever be perfect. It is simply my conviction that it is God's desire to remake all of us in his image, in the likeness and fullness of Christ Jesus. This transformation is at God's initiative and with our permission.

For many years now, I have seen most things as pretty complex and conflicted, many sides, good or bad, black or white, etc. From these I had to choose, take a stand, decide one way or the other, acceptable or not. It was all a part of my identity and what I thought being a Christian required. Early on I accepted paradox as a way of dealing with the con-

flicts. Only God was one. The new way of "seeing" involves the wholeness, interrelatedness and inclusiveness of all things physical and spiritual. It is the way God sees things or at least relates to them. Even the worst of us or the worst of things is a positive possibility. For God sees not the way things are, but rather for what they may become or what good may result from them. Everything in life is included—good and bad, beautiful and tragic, saint and sinner. God uses all of them and us to establish his kingdom as a new heaven and a new earth.

Everything and everyone is included. That is the wholeness. When one suffers, we all suffer together. When one rejoices we all rejoice together. That is the interrelatedness. We and all things are included in God's plan because God can and does use

everything and everybody to fulfill his purposes. Every sin can be forgiven if something good can be learned from it. God can bring something good out of every tragedy, even natural disasters. No experience is wasted.

It is within God's power to transform the ugly into something good and beautiful. It is not that God is responsible for the negative, it is simply a matter that God sees all things not from the perspective of what they are, but rather for how they were created and what they may become. There are no exceptions. Everything will become as God created it to be.

If this is the way and what God sees, and I believe it is, then what does this say about my vision, new and improved. If God is for everyone and everything and for the good that can be realized

in them, who am I to exclude anyone or any thing?

The choice is not and has never been mine to make. If God loves everything created, how can I love anything less. Now we see life only dimly, not as it will become.

Of course, there are now many things in our world for which we may weep. Even God, I suspect, sheds a tear or two over what he sees. But the end is not here yet. We can see better as God sees; not only with our minds but with our hearts. Seeing with the heart is the way God sees.

Rev. Raymond Ticknor is a retired Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) pastor living in Monett. He may be reached at rudith.ticknor@yahoo.com.

Barry County Health Corner



A bad septic system is a crappy problem

Septic systems are the unsung heroes of public health, treating wastewater for roughly one in five U.S. homes.

When functioning properly, your septic system safely filters dangerous bacteria, viruses, and excess nutrients out of household sewage before recycling the water back into the environment.

The Barry County Health Department helps ensure onsite septic systems are sized and designed to allow for proper treatment of wastewater to protect our community by permitting new systems, replacement systems and repairs.

To protect your household, community and the environment around you contact the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114 before repairing, replacing or installing a septic system.

Septic neglect stinks – literally

No septic system is designed to last forever, but proper maintenance can greatly extend the life of your septic system.

A properly functioning septic system will safely filter dangerous bacteria, viruses and excess nutrients before waste is recycled to the environment. To maintain your septic system septic tanks should be pumped at least every 3-5 years. Pumping a septic tank helps the system by removing grease and solids that build up in the tank.

When grease and solids are not regularly removed from a septic tank, they can end up flowing in to your lateral field leading to costly repairs. If you're unsure about your septic tank location, the Barry County Health Department has kept records of septic tank location for all permitted septic systems since 1996.

The Barry County Health Department strives to protect our community and the environment through issuing permits and maintaining detailed records for all new, replacement and repaired septic system in Barry County.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 417-847-2114.

Protecting our community starts

underground: Permit your septic system

Every time you flush your toilet, run your dishwasher or take a shower, your septic system goes to work.

When a septic system is designed and installed correctly, it safely treats wastewater and protects your family, community and the environment around you. Permitted septic systems are designed to ensure harmful bacteria, viruses and chemicals are properly treated to protect our community and the environment.

Contacting the Barry County Health Department to obtain a septic permit is a critical step in any septic project. The Barry County Health Department works to ensure only licensed professionals install or repair septic systems in the county, protecting homeowner's investment into their septic system and the health of our community.

Skipping a septic system permit to save time or money always backfires. Soil that cannot absorb wastewater will cause sewage to pool on the surface of your lawn.

Systems installed too deep may not surface, but won't receive proper treatment before wastewater is returned to the water table, potentially contamination nearby water sources, including wells.

Following proper permitting procedure and using a license and permitted professional installer works to avoid these issues.

Whether you are building a new home or replacing an aging system don't skip getting a permit.

For more information please contact us 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.



Past Lions Clubs International Director Don Noland speaks at the Monett Lion's Club 80th Anniversary Celebration. Jessica Bregger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Incoming Monett Lion's Club president Sue Blakely is recognized by Lion Don Noland at the Club's 80th Anniversary celebration. Jessica Bregger/Special to the Monett Monthly



History was on display at the Monett Lion's Club 80th Anniversary celebration as past club jackets hung for all to see. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Lions: Host multiple fundraisers and events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Leader Dogs for the Blind, Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service, and World Services for the Blind.

The motto of the

International Lions Club is "We Serve" and the Monett club strives to embody this motto.

"From beauty pageants, carnivals,

Halloween hayrides with s'mores, and costume contests to apple butter production and sales, Chicken BBQ fundraisers, and steak dinners, you could always find the Monett Lions actively serving and engaging with the community," Fillingier said. "The Monett Lions Club has a rich history of fellowship, service, and community involvement, and I am proud to be a part of that legacy."

The annual banquet

was filled with honors, awards and kind words from local and state representatives as both Mayor Randy Burke and Steve Wise read proclamations celebrating the club's 80 years.

Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting to see if the Monett Lion's Club is a good fit for them.

The Club typically meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Angus Branch.

Local Death Notices

- Barbara Sperry • Monett • May 10, 1940 – June 2, 2026
- Charles B. Garrison • Monett • Feb. 4, 1937 – June 3, 2026
- JoAnn Hankins • Monett • Sept. 11, 1945 – June 11, 2026
- Charlene Bennett • Monett • Aug. 8, 1943 – June 16, 2026
- Ricky Harris • Monett • Sept. 4, 1951 – June 19, 2026

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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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City give inaugural Monett Matters Award

Council handles myriad of business, recognitions at June meeting

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The June meeting of the Monett City Council began with recognition of caring in the community as it presented new monthly recognition program established by the City Council.

Monett Cares was presented with the inaugural Monett Matters Award during the meeting.

The Monett Matters Award is meant to honor individuals and community organizations that demonstrate exceptional dedication to serving Monett residents through beautification projects, community development and other efforts that enhance the quality of life in the city. The award is part of the City's Project Curb Appeal initiative, which promotes community pride and beautification throughout Monett.

Monett Cares, a local civic organization, was selected as the first recipient in recognition of its ongoing efforts to revitalize the Monett Community Garden.

The organization continues to support the garden through weekly volunteer workdays held every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m., providing opportunities for residents to contribute to the improvement and upkeep of this valuable community resource.

The council also recognized yet another milestone in local business as they presented a proclamation in celebration of 50 years in business to Jack Henry which was received by Ken Gaspar been with Jack Henry for 33 years.

"If it weren't for Jack Henry I wouldn't be here," Gaspar said.

The proclamation states "For five decades, Jack Henry & Associates has been a cornerstone of innovation, technology, and economic strength in Monett, helping to shape the region's identity as a hub



A crowd gathers to unveil the new Freedom Park and restored Freedom Silo on Flag Day. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

for financial technology excellence."

According to the city, the financial technology business based in Monett, celebrated its 50th anniversary with activities on June 2 and 3 that included the burial of a special time capsule for the benefit of those who will open it in 20 years.

The time capsule contained 10 items. These included historical items such as a copy of the 1977 corporation income tax return signed by Jack Henry, and a copy of stock certificate from 1985, marking a pivotal point when the company became publicly traded. A copy of the biographical book detailing the creation of the company, "You Don't Know Jack (and Jerry)", signed by Brenda Henry and Pat Hall, was added.

The city moved forward on the establishment of a new fire station as they officially approved an ordinance accepting the donation of approximately three acres of real property located in the north portion of the city for the construction and operation of Fire Station

Number Three.

Which authorized the mayor and city administrator to execute the land donation agreement and set an effective date.

The project and donation were first presented in a first reading during the May city council meeting where the city approved the land donation by the Rauch family for the new station.

"I feel like what you have done tonight has really set the future for the city, public safety wise," said City Administrator Micky Ary stated.

Ary added that following multiple surveys and analysis, has long showed that a third fire station has been the most significant need in the area.

Based on work that the council had done during "strategic planning" in 2023, both the mission statement and vision statement were developed for the city.

The Vision Statement says "To be a safe, progressive, vibrant, and thriving destination community for all genera-

tions and backgrounds. A place to put down roots."

The Mission Statement says, "Professionally provide superior city services and economic development, while enhancing quality of life."

The city then gave the statements to the GoCaps program and tasked students with finding the "core values" in the statements.

The GoCaps students recently presented their findings to the council which were approved to be officially adopted by the council and city.

The core values were to be presented at the next town hall gathering in June.

During the city administrator's report, Micky Ary spoke on safety advancements in the city. Ary explained that the city has recently obtained new equipment for extracting people from accidents.

He also described the training firefighters went through to use the tools in life-saving situations. Ary went on to speak about a joint effort between the fire department and the

American Red Cross which held at the local Walmart to promote smoke detectors in homes.

Ary said over 30 residents signed up to have detectors installed. Another event was held on June 27 at Lowes to sign more residents up for fire detectors.

Ary also moved a storm siren to better aid the city from North Park to Central near the well house to give better coverage for the city. Another siren is still located at North Park for safety in that area.

Council members also gathered on Flag Day to unveil the city's newest addition to the park system, Freedom Park.

Situated between the city's pavilion and the newly restored Freedom Silo which is adorned with the image of a bald eagle and the American flag, the park offers a green space for residents to relax and recreate.

Commissioner Darren Indovina gave a statement as the marker for a future monument was unveiled.

"June 14th, we celebrate our flag, our own flag," Indovina said. "The original flag was introduced in 1777. Our flag has been carried by our patriots on foot, on horseback. It's a celebration when raised high in victory and is mourned, when draped over coffins of our defenders of our liberty. It is the most recognized symbol globally. It currently carries 50 stars and 13 stripes since the 4th of July 1960."

"This year, we celebrate 250 years of freedom, and I can't think of a more appropriate way to kick off the celebration of that 250 years at Flag Day than to dedicate freedom park and celebrate the full restoration of the Freedom Silo over here," said Mayor Randy Burk.

A permanent monument for the park will be placed at the location at a later date.

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.

Jack Henry: Jack and Jerry had way of creating loyalty in company

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ate one of his "Let's Go With Greg" videos next to the lake at the center of the campus, beside the memorial bench bearing the names of the company founders. He announced the occasion was to bury a time capsule to be unearthed in 20 years, in time for some employees already on staff to benefit from the insights of present leaders.

The time capsule contained 10 items. These included historical items such as a copy of the 1977 corporation income tax return signed by Jack Henry, and a copy of stock certificate from 1985, marking a pivotal point when the company became publicly traded. A copy of the biograph-

ical book detailing the creation of the company, "You Don't Know Jack (and Jerry)", signed by Brenda Henry and Pat Hall, was added.

Also included was a Jackerry, a mythical stuffed animal embodying the spirit of the founders. A 50th challenge coin, a token commemorating a shared dedication over five decades, a laminated letter to the future from Greg Adelson and the corporate leadership team, offering their perspective to those who will follow them, were added, along with a signed group photo. Fiftieth anniversary buttons, stickers, a T-shirt, a legacy mug, and "Dad Jokes," a collection of "words of wisdom"

from former CEO and current board chairman Dave Foss, were included.

Joining Adelson in the ceremony were Kevin Sligar, chief technical architect for banking, who has been with the company 43 years; Brian Hunter, vice president of travel, with Jack Henry almost 37 years; and Mary Stluka, executive partner to the chief financial officer, who is retiring this year after 31 years.

Adelson asked the three veteran employees to share some of their insights. Hunter spoke about the three core values that Henry and Hall stressed, known as the Jack Henry Way: do the right thing, do whatever it takes, and have fun.

Hunter noted he came on board as a pilot and for years served as the company's chief pilot. He added Henry himself was the first company pilot as the company from the beginning sought to reach out to a national clientele with its software solutions to the challenges faced by financial institutions as they converted from ledger books to modern databases.

"Jack and Jerry had a fantastic way of creating loyalty," Hunter said. "They treated you like part of the company. I didn't know it was a career opportunity."

Stluka recalled she started in the mail room and later became executive assistant to the chief

financial officer, a position she kept until retirement. Five months into her job, her father, who lived in Iowa, had a heart attack. Jack Henry flew her to his hospital the next morning. "What company does something like that for someone in the mail room?" she asked.

Sligar is now the company's longest tenured employee. He started installing equipment and software, working with Jerry Hall on the core system, managing integration as the core developed.

"Jack and Jerry instilled in us to make sure we did the right thing for customers, even if it meant working long hours," he said. "They told us to ask for help when you need it."

Sligar recalled Jack and Jerry encouraging associates to pass on what they knew to the next generation, which the time capsule offered to do.

"When you come to this company, you come to family," Adelson said. "Focusing on that culture will drive us into the next 50 years."

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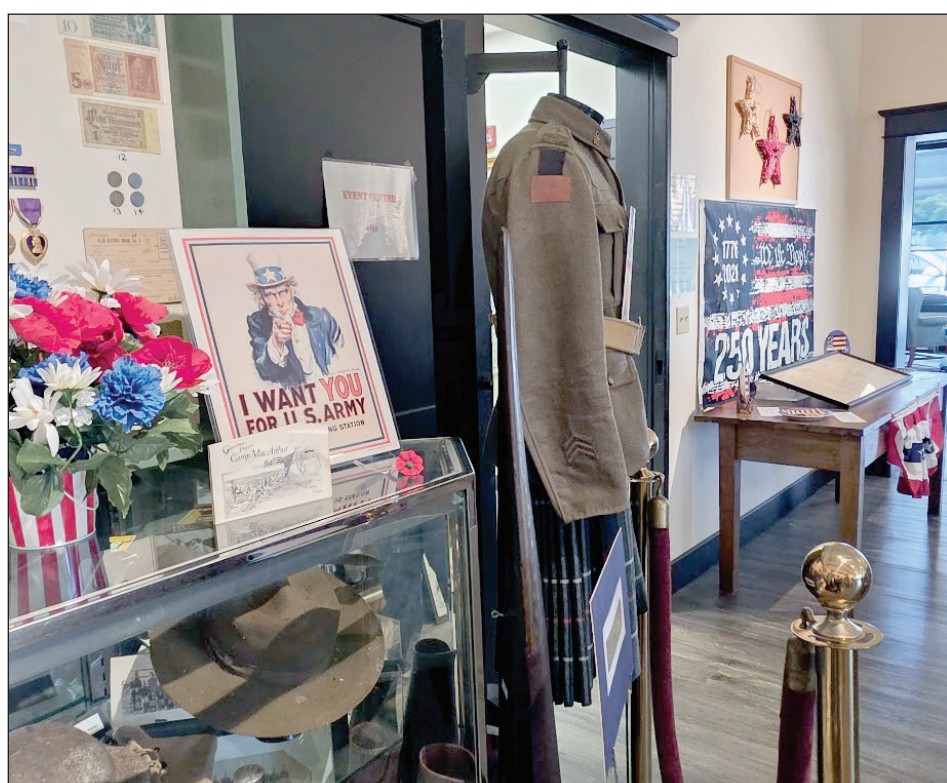
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Displays at the Monett Historical Society and Museum show tools used in the nation's past to promote and disparage political candidates throughout the nation's history. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Monett Historical Society and Museum displays 250 years of American history next to displays honoring those who have fought for the nation. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Flag displays throughout the Monett Historical Society and Museum show how the nation's color have been honored over the past 250 years. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Monett Historical Society and Museum displays a flag art tribute to the nation's 250th Anniversary this summer. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Museum celebrating 250th

Myriad of displays honor's nation's history

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly
The Monett Historical Society and Museum is focusing its displays on a wider community than the city this summer.

While displays usually focus solely on Monett and southern Missouri history, the museum has set up multiple displays on its first floor to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary for the summer months.

As patrons enter the museum this month, they are greeted by buttons and propaganda items used in past elections including both jokes and serious rhetoric.

Patrons can explore tools used in the past by presidential candidates during their campaigns, gaining a sense of history and common humor of past decades in our coun-

try's politics.

Coin displays bring a more sentimental tone to the anniversary. With several displays featuring presidents and key figures in America's history, patrons get a sense of who has shaped the nation over its 250 years.

Walking further into the museum, patrons will see several flag displays with local and non-local art featuring different variations of the nation's flag accompanied by the history each flag represents.

The prominent display sits amongst the museum's permanent display of military history and memorabilia driving home the reminder that the nation's freedom has not come free.

The display sits among those such as the display in honor of local Vietnam Airman Captain Thomas Wolfe who the local VFW Post 4207 is named after. Wolfe was shot down in his A-26 aircraft near the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the mountains of Laos. Wolfe was merely 28 years old

when he went missing on June 28, 1966.

The room also houses displays showing the role other local men and women have played in our nation's armed forces and historic moments.

Other permanent displays teach patrons about the role the city played in politics with a section devoted to Monett's role as a whistle stop for multiple presidents and candidates.

Guests are encouraged to explore both the nation's 250 year history as well as the part Monett played in that history over the city's 139 years.

Local residents are also encouraged to join the Monett Historical society or simply attend membership meeting to learn more about local history.

Monthly membership meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Museum.

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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Andrew Rausch marks the milestone in his cross-country bicycle trip, crossing from Virginia into Kentucky. Contributed photo



Here is Andrew Rausch at the start of his cross-country bicycle marathon at the Yorktown Monument, in Virginia. Contributed photo



Here is what Andrew Rausch described as a typical camping site where he stopped overnight on his bicycle trip from Virginia to Oregon. Contributed photo



Here is Andrew Rausch as he prepared to leave his parents' blueberry farm north of Monett on June 20, near the halfway point of his journey across America on bicycle. Contributed photo

Rausch: Riding a Salsa Marrakesh touring bike built for long distances

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his laptop in tow and is working one day a week, in a café or library, making his expedition possible.

Andrew chose to take the route backwards from his dad, the traditional route, over weather.

"I have a soft spot for the Rocky Mountains," he said. "I wanted to get there when it was warm."

He estimates arriving in Astoria in the first week of September.

The Adventure Cycling Association, which officially began as Bikecentennial in 1973, has over the years developed a map of the Trans-America Route, listing roads, elevations, and stops along the way. Many churches will allow bikers to stay overnight, and specific parks are listed where camping is

allowed. After a two-day stop to see his parents in Monett in mid-June, Andrew biked to Golden City. The map identified the eatery Cooky's there, which is "world famous" among bikers for its pies. From there, he traveled through Pittsburg, Kan., after which the road goes due west to Pueblo, Colo.

Andrew is averaging between 40 and 60 miles a day, depending on weather and where he can find a good place to overnight. The cost for such a trip depends on the rider.

"Some choose to sleep in hotels and eat in restaurants," he noted. "That can be quite costly. Some camp out nightly and buy local groceries. I'm somewhere in the middle. I try to eat out to experience local food and the people, experience where I'm at. I

do a lot of camping, which costs \$10 to \$30 for a campsite. It's not terribly expensive for a vacation that lasts four months."

Andrew admitted the trip carries its own challenges.

"If it rains, you get wet," he said. "I have a poncho and rain pants. Rain or shine, you've got to ride through it."

The first week, he continued, was the worst as his body adjusted physically to the daily demands. After that, the challenges largely become mental, especially keeping motivated and happy. Major challenges come from dogs not on leashes and traffic. Andrew has a mirror on his bike to watch out for passing vehicles.

"The mirror has genuinely saved my life on several occasions," he said.

"You've got to keep your wits about you and an eye behind you. There's no way to eliminate all the risks."

He's riding a Salsa Marrakesh touring bike, built for long-distance trips like this. He has panniers, or bicycle saddlebags, over the back, in which he carries his supplies and strategic bike parts, as well as tools. All his gear weighs "north of 100 pounds," plus his laptop.

"The route went through Virginia and Kentucky, touched Illinois and into Missouri," he noted. "I've not spent a lot of time out East. Virginia was interesting. Eastern Kentucky was all coal mining territory and pretty destitute. The interstate doesn't go through there. There's no reason to go there. Traveling through

to see how the country lives is eye-opening."

Andrew calls his mother once a week and is keeping a record of the trip.

"Friends from college convinced me to make an Instagram," he noted. "I'm posting photography. They encouraged me to take more pictures. I'm really enjoying that. Plus, I'm keeping a diary. I tried writing, but I switched to

voice recordings instead." When it's all over, what will he have? Andrew confessed asking himself that question.

"The prize is the experience itself, seeing the country, sweating, hurting, being too hot, meeting wonderfully hospitable people," he said. "The doing of it – that's the real treasure at the end of the rainbow."



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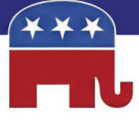
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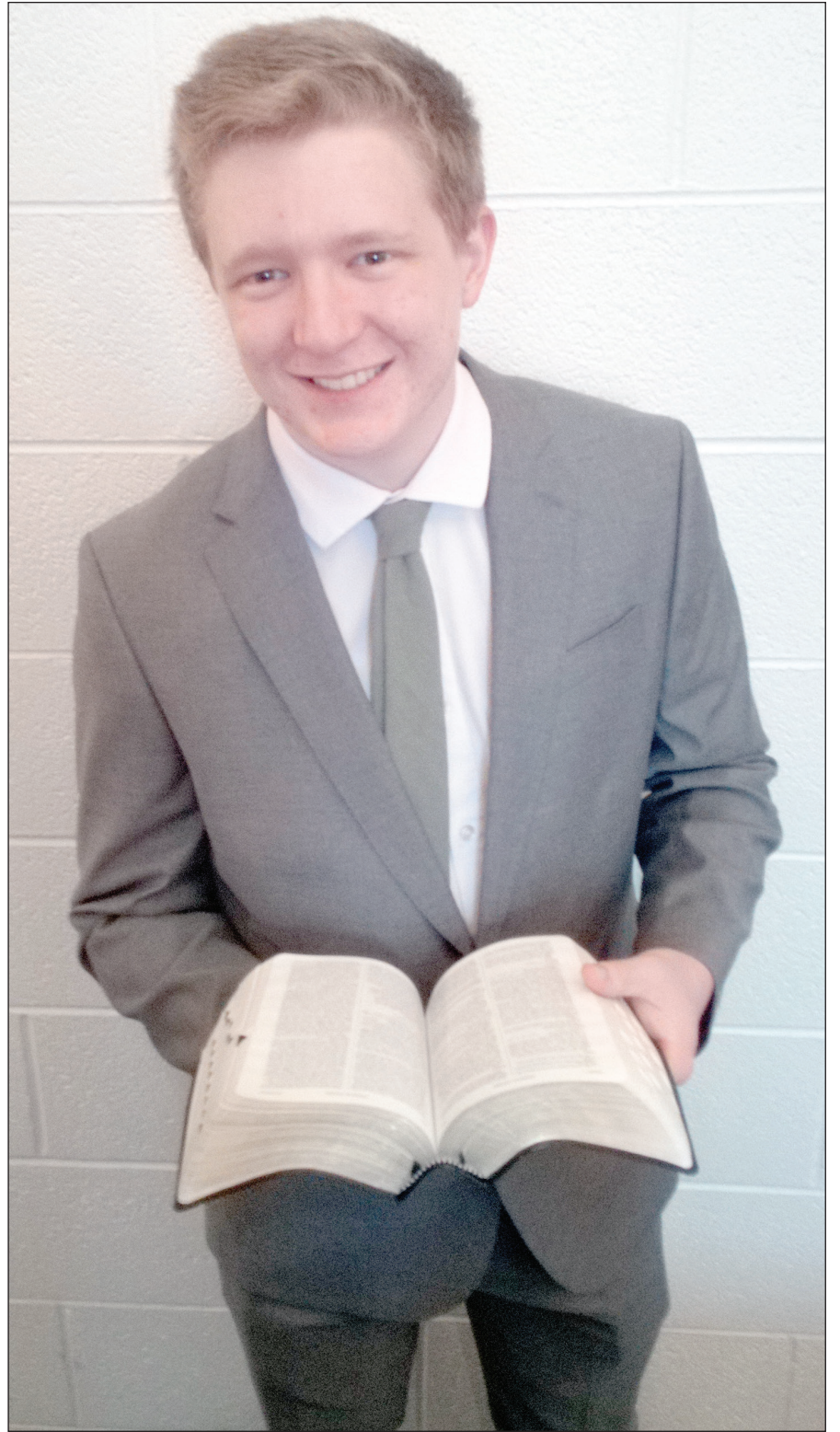
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Dearing to serve mission



Cooper Dearing, son of Amy Hoyt and Kevin Dearing, of Monett, will be serving two years in the Utah Saratoga Springs Mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "I'm going to do my best on my mission. I'm going off to further my relationship with Jesus Christ," Dearing said. Dearing graduated from Monett High School in May 2026, where he participated in the robotics club, managed the boys' swim team and had the lead role in the play, "The Giver." He also enjoys motorcycles and his three brothers, which will all be waiting for him upon his return. Contributed photo

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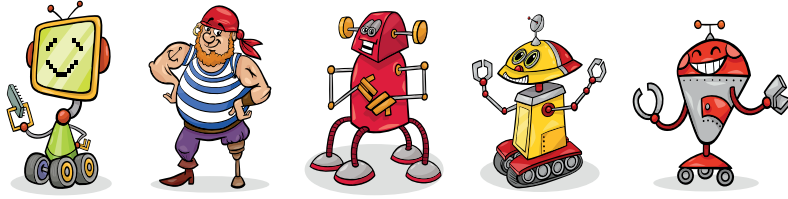
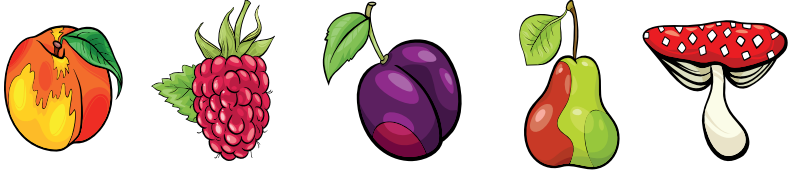
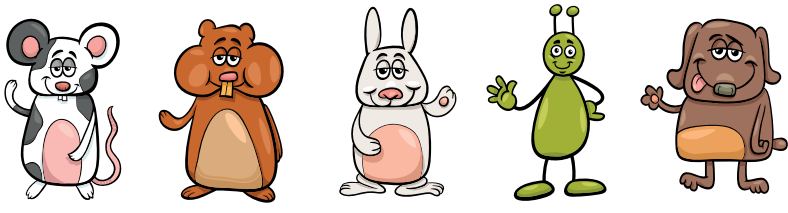
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A: A cat-tastrophe!

JUST kidding

Q: Where do sheep get their hair cut?
A: The ba-baa shop!

JUST kidding

Q: Where do hamburgers go dancing?
A: A meat-ball!

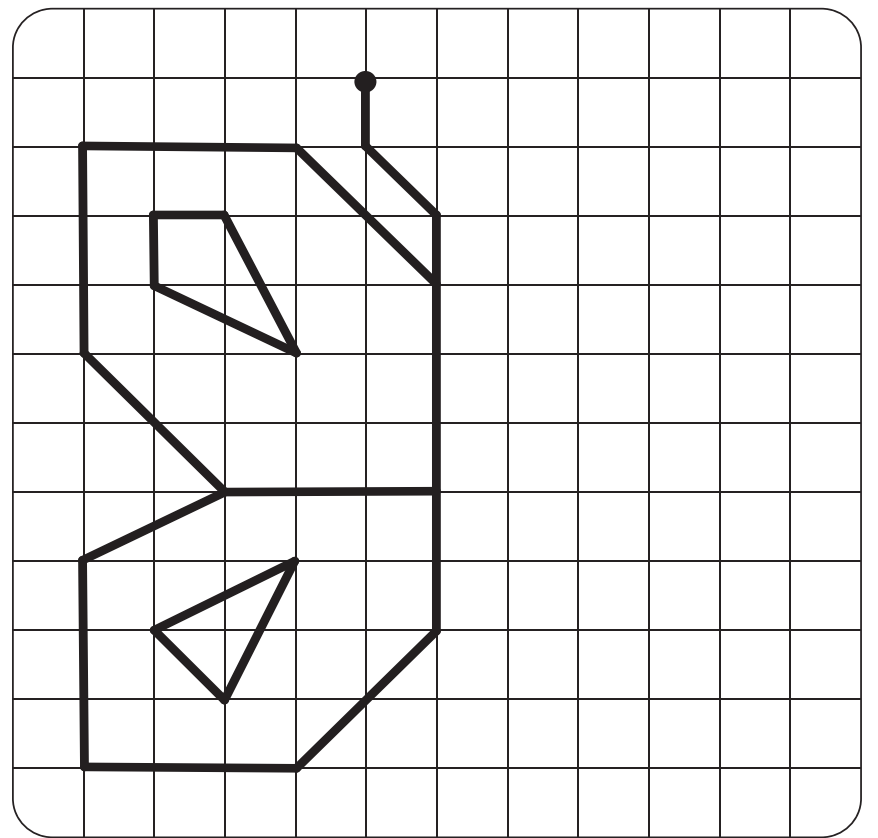
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△		×			
		○	+	△	
◇		+	△		
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COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS.

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

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+	○	◇	□	▽	×
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John Schmidt displays a man-made honeycomb that serves as a tray in a deep hive he uses as a beekeeper as he explained the craft to the Monett Historical Society. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



John Schmidt explained the life cycle of honey bees as he described the mysteries of these important insects to the human food chain. He noted more than 90 percent of food people eat relies on pollinators. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Bees, beekeeping tips shared at Historical Society

John Schmidt shares lifetime of insight

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Monett Monthly

The mysterious world of honey bees came to life for the Monett Historical Society's June 16 meeting.

John Schmidt, who has delved into their world as a beekeeper for most of his life, walked those attending the monthly session into their world.

Schmidt, 81, is a past president of the Southern Missouri Beekeepers of Monett, an organization that presently has 77 members.

Schmidt said there is much people don't know about how bees communicate, yet they share a great deal of information through dance, vibrating their wings, sharing smells and other ways yet unknown. Beekeepers have to know basics about how hives operate to maintain them.

Schmidt noted bees can travel three to eight miles to gather nectar. Flowers bloom at different times, providing a constant source of food, starting with dandelions in the early spring, then sugar maples, Catalpa trees, sweet clover, ending with fall ragweed. Pure honey is white, but gains color from different sources. Late-season honey may be a dark gold, but it has properties that can serve as anti-allergens to people eating it. Schmidt

said for the best medicinal results, people should buy honey grown within 25 miles of where they live.

Bees stay active as late as Thanksgiving and must maintain at least 40 pounds of honey in their hive to serve as food through the winter. Beekeepers cannot harvest more than that or the colony will starve.

Much of the activity in the hive focuses on the comfort of the queen bee. The queen is constantly laying eggs. The center of the hive has to stay at 97 degrees in the winter for the larvae to grow. To keep the hive from getting too hot in the summer, Schmidt said workers carry in water from nearby sources and vibrate their wings to spread the moisture like an air conditioning system. In winter, the bees form a circle around the center of the hive, rotating in shifts from the outside back to the warmer center to keep from freezing.

Hives can have 60,000 to 100,000 bees, Schmidt noted. Since each bee only produces a small amount, the hive needs quantity to thrive. Bees carry two ingredients from the field to the hive: nectar, which comes from plants and is regurgitated in the hive, and pollen on their bodies. Those two ingredients are combined in the hive itself to make the honey.

Schmidt brought beekeeping equipment with him. One box he called a deep hive up to 10 trays that serve as a hon-

eycomb, each with 600 imprints on each side that the bees could use, for a total of 1,200 usable spaces for storing honey or laying eggs. In a hive arrangement, bees are inclined to travel up, not down. On top of the deep hive, Schmidt places a half-sized box called the nucleus that serves as a rainy-day supply. On top of that, he places an even smaller box that serves as the honey reserve.

The main enemies of honey bees are mice and mites. Mice chew their way inside a hive to access the honey, but damage everything and poison the operation with their waste secretions. Schmidt showed a wire reducer that beekeepers place outside the hive with openings of an inch or less to keep out mice. Treated sheets can be placed twice a year inside the hive combs with a toxin that will kill the mites. Treating more often would build immunity and prove counter-productive, he added.

Queen bees can live up to four years, Schmidt said, but must be replaced quickly if they become ill or stop functioning.

"It takes 16 days to hatch a queen," he said. "We don't know how they know they need to make queen eggs."

If a virgin queen can-

not produce eggs, the workers start to make new queen cells, as many as five at a time. The first queen to hatch will proceed to kill the others to be the only queen. If two queens hatch at once, they may fight to the death, Schmidt added.

Workers hatch in 21 days and make up 95 percent of the hive population. How bees know to maintain that balance is another mystery, Schmidt said. They have a curious life cycle, spending two weeks as foragers, then cleaning out cells, feeding the young and old, and finally dying when they wear out their wings.

Drone bees take 24 days to hatch. Their sole purpose is to inseminate the queen. After August and in hot weather when drones are no longer needed, the workers kill them.

"Beekeeping is not for everyone," Schmidt said. "Some people are highly allergic [to bee stings]." "For me, a sting is like a mosquito bite. The poison comes out and I can scrape it off on the second day." More allergic people can have an anaphylaxis reaction where their windpipes will be squeezed shut. Carrying EPI-pens becomes crucial for those folks to administer an antidote.

Schmidt said it's not

unusual to pay \$1 an ounce for good local honey. Moisture may leave honey and it becomes crystallized, but warming it will restore its form. Honey found buried with Egyptian mummies, he noted, can be restored to quality. Good honey is no more than 18 percent liquid. Some vendors, especially those who import honey, pass off more watery honey by adding Karo syrup, which can pass by taste but not by a hydrometer measurement, he added.

The next membership

meeting of the Monett Historical Society will be at 7 p.m. on July 21 at the museum's event center. The legends of Monett's underground caves will be the topic.

Ericka Clark is the current president of the Southern Missouri Beekeepers of Monett and can be reached via email at somobeeks@gmail.com or by phone at 417-678-4065. Their next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on July 21 at the First United Methodist Church, 1600 N. Central Ave. in Monett.

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