

ART AND LIT DANCE IN MONETT MUSEUM DISPLAY — PAGE 7

MONETT BASEBALL SEASON WRAPS UP >>>

Big 8 All-Conference awards doled out. — PAGE 3

# MONETT Monthly



JUNE 3, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY



## MONETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**What:** Presentation by Beth Bazal, administrator for the Harry S. Truman Birthplace Historic Site  
**Items:** Bazal brought trunk of replicas of Truman artifacts  
**More:** The next Historical Society meeting will be June 16, featuring John Schmidt from the local beekeepers organization

## Truman tales told

Life of 33rd president shared by historic site admin

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Monett Monthly

For its May membership meeting, the Monett Historical Society welcomed Beth Bazal, administrator for the Harry S. Truman Birthplace Historic Site, located in Lamar and part of the state park system.

Bazal brought a trunk of replicas of Truman artifacts and walked the audience through the President's life.

Bazal, who has served full-time at the house for 26 years, reported the house was later occupied by descendants of Wyatt Earp. The state acquired the house in 1957 and it was designated as a National Historic Site in 1983. The house was built between 1880 and 1882, when the Trumans moved in and stayed from 1882-1885. They moved when Harry was 11 months old.

"The family moved a lot," Bazal said. "Harry lived most of his life in Independence."

She showed a photo of Harry on a farm implement working the land at a family farm in Grandview.

Bazal recounted how Harry's vision was so poor that he complained as a child about hearing July 4 fireworks but not being able to see them. Then his vision problem was discovered. Fearful of Harry losing or breaking his glasses, his mother restricted him from sports, so he played piano and read books. Bazal reported Harry claimed to have read every book in the Independence library.

Bazal showed a photo of Harry in his World War I uniform, a rare shot without his glasses. She said Harry took six pairs of glasses with him to Europe to remain capable on the battlefield.

Back home, Harry married Bess Wallace, whom he had known since age 5, as they attended the same church. Coming from different social strata – her father owned a mill and he was just a farmer – the couple moved into her family home. Harry and a partner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## New lane coming to MES

Lot where south building once stood will be used for parking

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett School Board met May 21 to discuss both finances and improvements for the upcoming school year during its regular board meeting.

### MONETT SCHOOLS

**What:** Monthly School Board meeting  
**Action:** New drop-off and pick-up lane at Monett Elementary School  
**More:** South building demolished, will provide for extra parking

The meeting resulted in the board approving not only renovations to parking for the new year, but also to the pick-up line at Monett Elementary

School.

Board members discussed parent and local resident concerns that have been long expressed over the traffic flow during pick-up and drop-off times near the school.

They stated that not only has the current arrangement been frustrating for guardians of students, but also for local commuters trying to use the streets near the school during those times.

In absence of any existing alternative route, the board

unanimously voted to create a new path for pick-up and drop-off at the school.

"If we'd have known they [bids] would have come in this cheap, I would have probably looked at this a long time ago because one of our number one complaints from the community, at least that live around MES and that pick kids up at MES, is the pick-up at the end of the day when the traffic gets back on County," said Mark Drake, superintendent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Monett High holds indoor graduation



Monett graduates celebrate their commencement with the traditional mortarboard hat toss. A total of 179 students turned their tassels on May 8 in a ceremony moved indoors due to inclement weather. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

## City updates requirements for charter member applications

Substation project near 4th Street, IOOF Cemetery moves forward

BY JESSICA BREGER

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett City Council held its regular meeting on May 14, discussing updates to local government policies and city projects.

The council began by updating requirements for applications for residents to join the charter commission, an ongoing effort to change the layout of city government to a charter style government.

### CITY OF MONETT

**What:** Held monthly City Council meeting  
**Action:** Updated requirements for applications to join charter commission  
**More:** New substation to be constructed near 4th Street on the South end of the IOOF Cemetery

Ordinance 9149 would allow applicants to provide a "short form" of personnel financial disclosure to be on the charter commission and "any elected official from there on" according to Monett Mayor Randy Burke.

The council also made updates to the city's Records

Policy for the Purpose of Updating the Code to Reflect Changes in the Sunshine Law.

An amendment was made to change incorrect numeration and wording.

"Missouri law has changed and now we have the right form so we are consistent with Missouri state law, and we've also cleaned up," Burke said.

The update also clarified that public notices are to be posted both at city hall and the newly added city annex where previously city hall was the only posting place required.

During the public comments portion of the motion, council was asked by resident Mike Randall to postpone the motion

on the ordinance to the next regular city council, as he said he felt the packet provided did not highlight all changes made to the policy.

Randall pointed to the packet provided to the public within the posted agenda, which contained the document as a whole, however did not specify changes within.

"Ordinary citizens have no way, to my knowledge, to be aware of what changes were made," Randall said. "There's two sets of changes that were made. One, the changes that were made by the state legislature. Certainly those ought to be highlighted, and my rec-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# LOCAL

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Bluegrass & Barbecue Fundraiser on June 7

Monett Nazarene Church will host a Bluegrass & Barbecue Fundraiser on Sunday, June 7, from 5-7 p.m. The event features the Flyin' Buzzards, and proceeds benefit the church's mission to enhance its worship experience. by updating sound and tech equipment, and redesigning the stage. There is no cost to attend, and donations will be accepted. The church is located at 2142 Hwy. 37 in Monett.

### Blood Drive set for June 8

The American Red Cross will host the Monett Area Blood Drive on Monday, June 8, at St. John's Lutheran Church's Meeting Room, located at 23237 Hwy. H in Monett. The Drive runs from 1-6 p.m. People may call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter "MONETT" to schedule an appointment. Donors will receive a \$15 e-gift card and be entered to win a \$7,500 prize.

### Grammar Games at Park on June 9

Classical Conversations of Monett Families will host Grammar Games at the Park on Tuesday, June 9, at 10 a.m. at the new Monett South Park playground. Children ages 8-12 will participate in active grammar games while families connect and enjoy time outdoors together. The event gives a glimpse into the Classical Conversations Essentials program, where children learn English grammar, practice arithmetic and develop writing skills. It is geared toward homeschool families or anyone looking for a fun, educational morning. People may register at <https://classicalconversations.com/events/?id=eMqLB>.

### Bingo at Senior Center June 12

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

### Park Takeover on June 13

Waymark Church will host a Park Takeover at Monett South Park on Saturday, June 13, from 1-7 p.m. The event will include a Wiffleball Tournament, Pickleball Tournament, food trucks and fellowship.

### Fly In at airport on June 13

The Monett Regional Airport Fly In will be held Saturday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. EAS Flight Training will be offering flights. The airport is located at 1215 Hwy. 97, south of Pierce City.

### Fire Department Poker Run on June 14

The Monett Fire Department will host a Poker Run Fundraiser on Sunday, June 14, at Monett Fire Station No. 2, located at 904 E. County Road in Monett. Registration starts at 2 p.m., with kickstands up at 3 p.m. The Poker Run will also feature a silent auction and 50/50 raffle, with proceeds benefiting Moving Mountains for MAV.

### Windmill Ridge hosting Skills Challenge on June 18

Windmill Ridge Golf Course in Monett will host a Skills Challenge on Thursday, June 18, starting at 5:30 p.m. There is a 36-participant maximum, and fees are \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members. Registration began on June 1 in person at the clubhouse. Payment must be made at the time of registration. Challenges include: Fairway Finder, Flop Shot, Up-and-Down, Target Ladder, Mini Par 3, The Real Deal, Ladder Chip, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Around the World. Windmill Ridge is located at 117 S. Lincoln Ave. in Monett.

### New Site Baptist Church VBS June 22-26

New Site Baptist Church will host Life In the Faith Lane VBS from Monday, June 22, through Friday, June 26, from 6-7:30 p.m. each evening. The VBS is open to children ages 3 through students entering fifth grade. T-shirts are \$12 each, and people may register their children at <https://newsitechurch.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/329>. The church is located at 1925 Farm Road 1060 in Monett.

### FUMC Galaxy VBS June 26-28

First United Methodist Church in Monett will host Galaxy VBS Friday, June 26 through Sunday, June 28. The VBS will be 6-8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, with families encouraged to attend a church service on Sunday celebrating what the children have learned. A party at the Glen and Sharon Garrett Pavilion on Front Street will also be held on Sunday night, including food, music, sno cones and fellowship. Families are encouraged to bring snacks and water gear for the splash pad. People may register their children for the VBS at <https://www.fumcmonett.org/vbs>. The church is located at 1600 N. Central Ave. in Monett.

### 100+ Women third quarter meeting on Aug. 6

The 100+Women of Barry and Lawrence Counties will meet on Thursday, Aug. 6, 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](http://cfozark.org/100monett), or by mail to Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Attn: 100 Women Monett, PO Box 8960, Springfield, MO 65801.

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



A meal was served at the Schreiber Foods 50th anniversary celebration. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



The cake celebrating Schreiber Foods' 50 years in Monett was cut by Dora Pinkley and plated by Stacy Lake during the company's anniversary party on April 22. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



This was the scene at the noon hour under a tent south of the Schreiber Foods plant. Staff and retirees mingled and reminisced for the afternoon. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

# Schreiber Foods celebrates 50 years

### Company hosts party with food, encouragement

**BY MURRAY BISHOFF**  
Special to the Monett Monthly  
Schreiber Foods celebrated its 50th anniversary in Monett on April 22 with a company-wide party.

The company, which now owns all of the Mid-American Dairymen plant that opened in 1947 as part of Producers Creamery,

now operates plants also in Mt. Vernon, Carthage, and Fairview. T-shirts declaring "50 years of doing good through food" were given to all the employees. Management cooked up a large barbecued steak dinner for all the Monett workers and retirees. Danny Moennig's macaroni and cheese, which won first place at a festival, was served as well. Raffle prizes were announced during the meal.

Nate Burbridge, plant manager, echoed those sentiments in speaking to employees. He thanked past and present staff for success, making a future celebration possible in another 25 years. Ron Dunford, chief executive officer for Schreiber, flew in from Green Bay, Wisc., to express his satisfaction and support for the efforts in Monett.

Nearly 50 retirees attended the dinner and posed for a group photo afterwards.

## 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](mailto:monettmonthly@outlook.com).



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### ABOUT

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### STAFF

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Jessica Breger ..... Reporter  
Sheila Harris ..... Sales Executive  
Jared Lankford ..... Sports Reporter

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**MONETT GOLF**

**What:** Took 7th as a team at Class 3 State Championship  
**Individual:** August Black highest finisher at 9th with a 150  
**More:** Coach believes team is set up well for futures season, only graduating two seniors

## Cubs take 7th in Class 3

Coach excited for the future of the program

**BY JARED LANKFORD**

Special to the Monett Monthly

In a season capped with long days, weather delays and plenty of uncertainty, in the end, the Monett Cubs proved exactly why they were one of the top golf teams in Missouri this spring.

Coach Brian Cox said the Class 3 State Championship in Sedalia became a test of patience and endurance as storms repeatedly pushed back tee times over the two-day event.

"We went up Sunday and did our practice round, and then Monday, everything just kept getting pushed back," Cox said. "Our earliest tee time was supposed to be around 8:40 a.m., then it kept moving because of the weather. We ended up doing a shotgun start at 3 p.m. and the last groups were coming in at dark."

The Cubs did not return to the hotel until nearly 10 p.m. Monday night before repeating a similar routine Tuesday morning.

"We got up again around 6 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. for early tee times, then it kept getting delayed because of rain," Cox said. "It was 12:30 p.m. before they teed off. We got home after 11 o'clock last night."

Despite the difficult conditions, Cox praised tournament officials for making sure the golfers were able to complete the full 36-hole championship format.

"They did an outstanding job getting all 36 holes in," Cox said. "For a state title, that's important. Over 36 holes, usually the best player and the best team rise to the top."

Cox, who has coached for 26 years, said the two-day format separates the truly consistent golfers from those who simply catch fire for one round.

"You can have somebody shoot one really great round," he said. "But it's hard to do it two days in a row with pressure involved. That's why I've always believed 36 holes matters."

The Cubs finished seventh overall in Class 3 with a 627 score (315 on day one and 312 on day two). Eldon won the event with a 596 (302 and 294).

The Cubs certainly proved their consistency throughout the season.

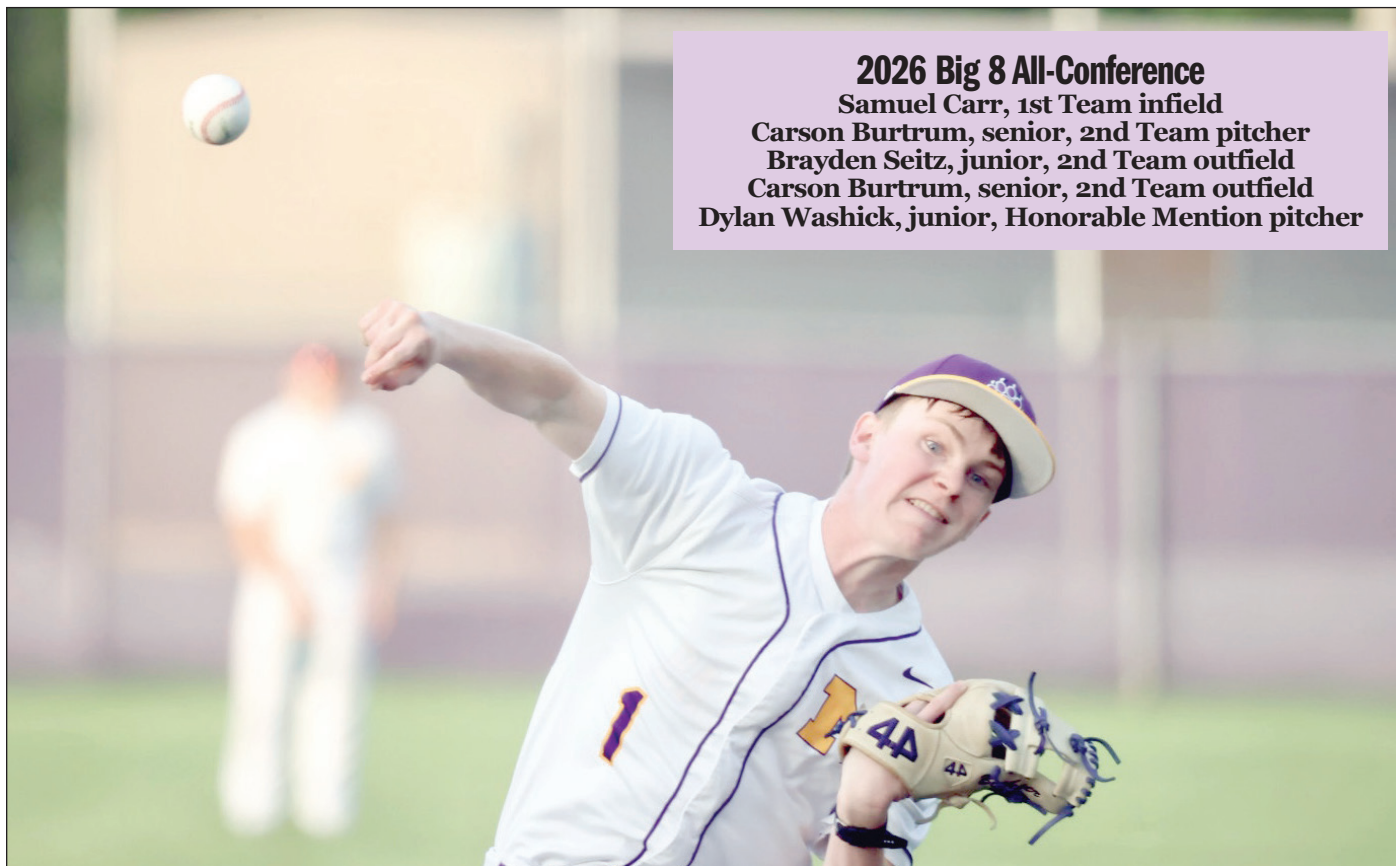
Monett won three tournaments, finished second in three more and captured the Big 8 Conference championship. Cox intentionally schedules challenging events, routinely placing the Cubs against larger schools such as Kickapoo, Nixa, Ozark, Jefferson City Helias.

As the season progressed, Monett consistently found itself paired with some of the best teams in the region.

"That was a big sign of respect," Cox said. "When tournament directors are pair-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Baseball season wraps up, Big 8 awards earned



**2026 Big 8 All-Conference**  
Samuel Carr, 1st Team infield  
Carson Burtrum, senior, 2nd Team pitcher  
Brayden Seitz, junior, 2nd Team outfield  
Carson Burtrum, senior, 2nd Team outfield  
Dylan Washick, junior, Honorable Mention pitcher

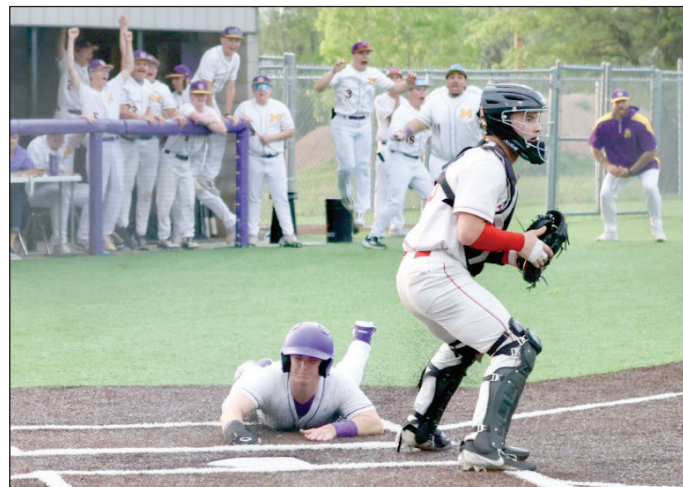
Monett's Tucker Goetz throws a pitch for the Cubs in a 6-5, 11-inning win over Aurora in April. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett's Dylan Washick connects on a pitch in a game against Aurora this season. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett's Tucker Goetz, Dylan Washick and Miles Young celebrate a walk-off win against Aurora in April. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett's Miles Young slides safely into home for a run during a 6-5, 11-inning win over Aurora in April. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

## Booster Club finds new footing

New leadership looks to continue strong tradition

**BY JARED LANKFORD**

Special to the Monett Monthly

For nearly a decade, the Monett Booster Club has quietly become one of the driving forces behind Monett athletics and student activities — though its roots stretch back much further.

According to records, the club has existed as far back as 1984, making it a longstanding part of Monett schools and the

**MONETT BOOSTER CLUB**

**What:** Leadership change  
**New:** Sean Kelley takes over as president from Scott Leach  
**Impact:** The Booster Club has distributed more than \$283,000 back into Monett schools

community.

According to records from 2016-2026, the Booster Club has distributed more than \$283,000 back into Monett schools, athletic programs and student organizations through facility upgrades, uniforms, equipment purchases, travel

support and direct group payments.

Outgoing Monett Booster Club president Scott Leach said one of the biggest accomplishments during his time with the organization has been its growth.

"When I joined Booster, we were in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year in sales," Leach said. "We've driven that to almost \$125,000 this current fiscal year. That's a huge change, and that's a lot of revenue and a lot of abilities for the Booster Club to do more."

The contributions have touched nearly every corner of

the district, from football headsets and wrestling warmups to soccer uniforms, golf simulators and baseball turf projects.

Among the largest investments were \$18,000 toward the baseball/softball turf project, \$16,053.57 for the baseball concession stand remodel, \$15,000 for improvements to the softball field, \$15,000 for Monett High School lockers, \$11,680 for a flash track timing system and \$5,995 for a golf simulator.

The football, baseball and softball programs received some of the largest overall

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# LOCAL

## LOCAL DEVOTIONAL

# Good, bad, and ugly

**H**ave you ever wondered if the God often depicted in the Old Testament is the same God that Jesus taught and modeled in the New?

At times they seem so different. The God in the Old Testament, for instance, requires raped virgins to marry their rapists, dishonorable sons to be stoned to death and conquering Israelites to annihilate the residents of the lands they have been promised by God to inhabit. It has led me to believe that Jesus might have been sent to earth to improve God's public image.

I suspect, however, that God hasn't changed as much as humankind's understanding of God has changed since Jesus and beyond. The Bible of

course is a reflection of what humankind thought at the time and under the conditions when it was conceived and written.

Is it true? Yes, at least it was when it was recorded. We must remember, we serve a living God, and nothing is necessarily known as it was yesterday. The only thing that doesn't change is change itself.

Old Testament folks had a different way of seeing the world than many of us today. They believed that God was the direct cause of everything that ever happened, the good, bad, and the ugly. Most of us have given up that notion, crediting God with only goodness and love, while the bad and ugly are caused by sin or our lack of knowledge or our inability to control the outcome of such things as

war or destructive weather.

There are many things that can happen here the cause is simply unknown; which is better than crediting God with the bad and ugly.

Many of us believe that God resides inside of us and knows everything, the good, bad, and ugly that can happen to us. Because God loves us, He shares all our joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, gains and losses, etc. God even has the will and power, when we let Him, to turn some of the bad and ugly experiences in our lives into something good and worthwhile.

The one thing God won't do is cause something bad or ugly to deliberately fall upon us as punishment for something we might have done wrong. God has no need

to punish us. We punish ourselves when we suffer the consequences of our misdeeds.

Even then, God forgives us.

While God isn't the cause of the bad and ugly, God allows such things to happen to us because God has given us free will to harm ourselves or others, either willfully or out of ignorance. There is simply a big difference between what God causes and what God allows. Cause and allow are not the same.

One day we shall know as we are known. (1 Cor. 13: 12) Therein lies the basis for our hope.

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

## Society: Next meeting on beekeeping on June 16

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would run a haberdashery business for a couple years in Kansas City before he achieved elected office as a county judge, the equivalent to a county commissioner, then as a U.S. Senator for 10 years. Once he won election as the U.S. Vice President in 1944, Harry returned to Lamar to give his acceptance speech. Bazal showed a photo of the marker showing that site.

Harry was vice president for only 82 days before Franklin Roosevelt died. Bazal noted Eleanor Roosevelt knew much more about the nation's position in the war and the atomic bomb development than Harry did when he took over as president.

Many World War II veterans visiting the Truman birthplace, Bazal said, have commented how Truman dropping the atomic bombs on Japan saved their lives from an invasion predicted to lose 1 million soldiers.

Bazal showed off several of Harry's hats: a Stetson for walks, a top hat for White House functions, and a white hat when they visited Key West. She added Harry had a particular fondness for Hawaiian shirts. Bazal also showed the kind of hat and purse that Bess Truman would wear. She



**Beth Bazal, administrator of the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site, with a trunk of goodies from the Lamar site to review the lifetime of Missouri's only US president.** Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

told stories of Pete the squirrel, who followed Harry on his walks at the White House. She showed a copy of Harry's "The Buck Stops Here" sign that sat on Harry's White House desk, now at the Truman library, noting the back said, "I'm from Missouri," a reminder of

his roots. The Trumans lived simply back in Independence after leaving politics. Bazal said their income came from Harry's World War I pension and his memoirs. He refused to profit from his service as president. Harry died at age 88 in 1972 and Bess died at age 98 in 1982. Their daughter Margaret died in 2008. All three are buried at the Truman library in Independence.

Bazal said she likes to travel to conferences with staff from all the presi-

dential sites, where colleagues exchange notes on their work. One of her best achievements, she said, happened recently when she hosted Harry's grandson, Clifton Daniel, who lives in Chicago, for a presentation.

While living at the White House, Harry directed a major renovation on the People's House after a leg from Margaret's piano fell through the floor, revealing serious deterioration. Harry lived in the nearby Blair House during much of his term. Bess spent much of the time at home in Independence.

The Lamar house also underwent renovations after the sandstone foundation had deteriorated. Bazal said the house was moved into the street when the foundation was replaced. An old façade was placed over the new foundation to make it look vintage. She expects the repair will keep the house viable for another century.

Bazal concluded by explaining that Harry's middle initial of S has no period nor stands for a name. He got it from his grandfathers, both of whom had first names starting with S - Solomon Young and Anderson Shipp Truman. Rather than pick a name, Harry got just the initial from both.

The next Historical Society meeting will be June 16, featuring John Schmidt from the local beekeepers organization.

## Barry County Health Corner



### Stay safe in the summer sun

Now that Summer is approaching and warmer weather is here, it is always important to remember how to protect yourself and practice smart sun safety. It's not always possible to avoid sunlight completely, but there are things you can do to ensure that you are not getting too much sun when you are outdoors:

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours. This is one of the best ways to limit your UV exposure from sunlight.
- Wear light-weight clothing that covers your arms and legs. This will help to protect your skin.
- Wear hats with a wide brim helps to protect your head, face, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that block UV rays to protect your eyes and the skin around them. Ideal sunglasses should block 99%-100% of UVA and UVB rays. Do not assume that sunglasses provide UV protection if they aren't labeled.
- Use sunscreen with at least SPF 30 to help protect skin that isn't covered with clothing. Remember to reapply frequently and as needed especially when swimming or sweating.
- Children are usually exposed more than anyone because they enjoy playing outside and participating in different outdoor activities. Parents and caregivers should protect children from excess sun exposure by using the steps above: seek shade, use protective clothing, apply and reapply sunscreen, and put on a hat and sunglasses. It's important to protect children as fully as is reasonably possible.
- Babies younger than 6 months should be kept out of direct sunlight and protected from the sun using hats, stroller covers, umbrellas, and protective clothing. Some experts don't recommend using sunscreen on babies. Check with your infant's doctor about using sunscreen and which type and brand might be best to use.

Everyone usually enjoys spending summer activities together with family and friends. Following these simple steps can help ensure that your summer is both fun and safe! If you have any questions or concerns about Sun Safety, please contact our office 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.*

## City: 3 acres donated

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commendation would be that the city mirror those changes."

Randall mentioned that he had watched the workshop meeting where the issue had been discussed and had concerns about added language, and he would like to see it discussed further at an upcoming workshop meeting to clarify who added the language and for what reasons.

He noted that the changes at the state level were made in August of 2025 without the city updating, therefore holding off the vote for one more month should not be an issue as urgency was not a priority.

The council voted to amend the policy as stated.

The council approved bids for work to move forward with construction of the City of Monett North Substation Project.

The new city-owned substation located near 4th Street on the South end of the IOOF Cemetery. The total estimated cost of the substation is approximately \$4 million, including components, engineering and construction.

According to the city's Facebook page, the new substation will increase the city's power capacity and provide redundancy should another city sub-

station be damaged or taken offline for maintenance.

Council members also approved an ordinance to allow the city to accept a donation of approximately three acres of real property located in the north portion of the city for the construction and operation of Fire Station No. 3.

This authorized the land donation agreement and set an effective date for the project. A fire assessment performed last year highlighted a need for more coverage in the north section of the city by fire and rescue. The city approved the land donation by the Rauch family for the new station.

The council also took time at the beginning of the meeting to recognize the anniversaries of two notable city establishments.

Council recognized the Monett Lion's Club's 80th Anniversary and the club's contributions to the city during that time, as well as the 50th anniversary of Schreiber Foods and its contribution to the city's workforce and industry.

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.

## Local Death Notices

- James D. Blaylock • Monett • Aug. 4, 1926 – April 30, 2026
- Frances Thomas • Monett • June 22, 1931 – May 3, 2026
- Ginny Landreth • Purdy • July 19 1944 – May 6, 2026
- Joe Garrett • Monett • April 6, 1049 – May 15, 2026
- Orville Alvin Meyer • Monett • Dec. 17, 1934 – May 17, 2026
- John David Birkenbach • Pierce City • May 24, 2026
- Phyllis Schaller • Monett • Aug. 25, 1936 – Jan. 25, 2026

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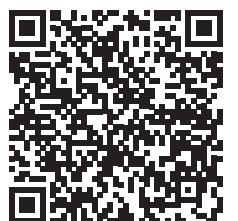
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 [kroutman@cassville-democrat.com](mailto:kroutman@cassville-democrat.com) or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.

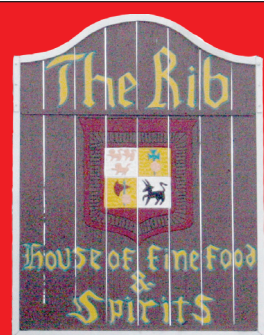


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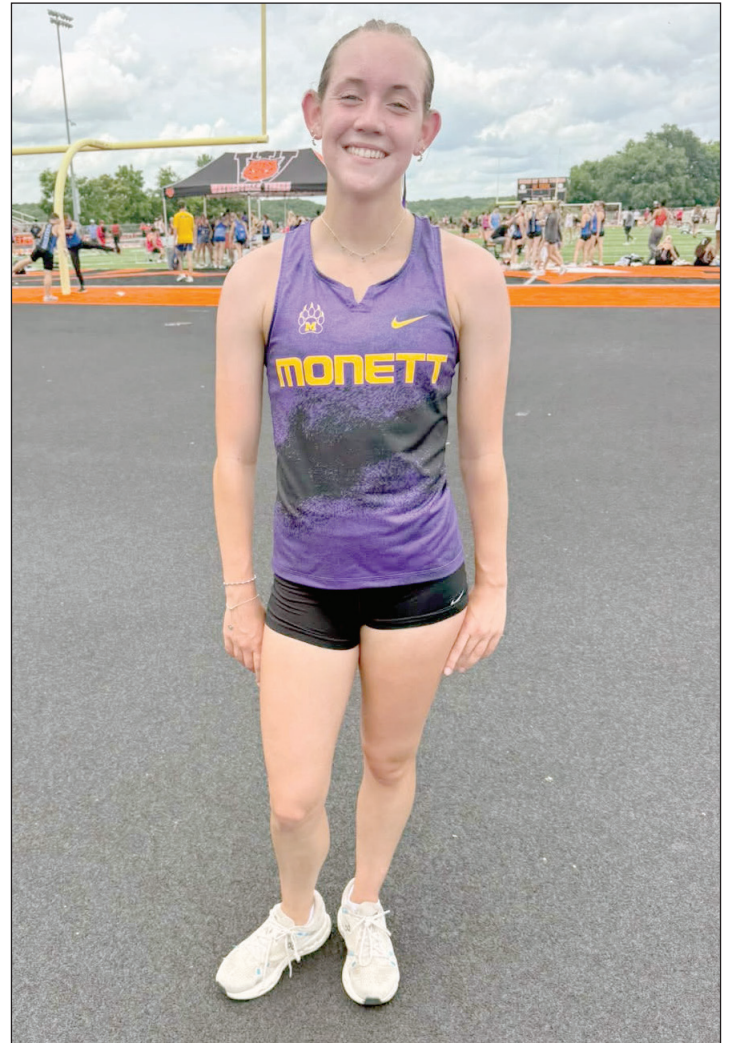
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## School records snapped at sectionals



The Monett 4x400-meter relay team broke the school record from 1971 (3:25.7) and took first place at sectionals, qualifying for state with a time of 3:24.36. The team includes, from left: Kasen Carr, Theo Smith, Braden Crowell and Alex Meeks. Qualifiers for Class 4 2026 Track and Field Championships other than the relay team include: Boys 300-meter hurdles, Theo Smith, 40.01; boys pole vault, Alex Meeks, 4.42m; and girls high jump, Peyton Brandt, 1.59m. Contributed photo



Monett's Isabell Coffey broke the 1,600-meter school record held by Amber Neal from 1996 (5:26.0). Coffey finished in 5:25.36 to take 7th place. Contributed photo

## Golf: Next step for program is finding younger players to develop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing you with schools like Kickapoo, Nixa and Ozark, it means they know you belong there."

What made this Monett team especially unique, according to Cox, was its balance from top to bottom.

"I've had some really good teams, but I've never had one quite like this," he said. "All five boys were right there together. Every one of them led us at some point this year, even our fresh-

man Connor Bailey. You just never knew who was going to step up that day."

The Cubs' lineup featured seniors Parker Doss and August Black along with junior Bryce Hoyt, sophomore Brady Rhea and Bailey contributing throughout the year.

At state, Black tied for 9th with a 150 (9 shots off the lead), Hoyt tied for 31st with a 156, Rhea and Bailey tied for 56th with 163s, and Doss tied for 78th with a 171.

Cox said the team's chemistry stood out as much as its talent.

"They competed with each other, but they also played for each other," he said. "They knew every score mattered."

One of the biggest surprises came from Doss, who only began seriously playing golf less than two years ago after previously focusing on baseball.

"I've never seen a kid like Parker," Cox said. "He started playing golf the

summer after his sophomore year and just played and played and played. To be shooting in the 70s in tournaments that quickly takes an incredible amount of work."

While Monett graduates several key seniors, Cox believes the foundation for continued success is already in place.

Hoyt, Rhea and Bailey all return next season with valuable state tournament experience.

"Bryce has learned so

much," Cox said. "His course management has improved tremendously, and that only comes with experience. Brady and Connor have gained a lot too."

Cox said the next step for the program will be finding younger players willing to dedicate themselves to the sport in the offseason.

"It takes a love for the game and a desire to get better," he said. "You can't get enough offseason days

with a coach to replace kids just going out and playing on their own."

Fortunately for Monett, Cox believes the local golf culture gives the Cubs a chance to continue building strong teams.

"One thing I was always jealous of before coaching at Monett was having a good course right there in town," he said. "You'd always see kids out there playing. We've just got to find the next group ready to step up."

## Booster: Club announces new slate of officers, led by President Sean Kelley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

support totals during the 10-year stretch. Baseball and softball programs combined to receive more than \$63,000 in funding, while football-related contributions topped \$45,000. Basketball programs received more than \$31,000, while track and cross country programs received approximately \$29,000. The wrestling program also benefited significantly, receiving nearly \$18,000 through uniforms, warmups, national competition support and equipment purchases.

Beyond athletics, the booster club also provided funding for cheer, dance, robotics, FCCLA, NJHS, yearbook, academic clubs and middle school activities through group payment distributions.

One of the more unique aspects of the

booster club's efforts has been the group payments program, which distributed more than \$105,000 over the decade to participating organizations and support groups.

Leach said the booster club's impact extends beyond financial contributions.

"It's a tremendous program, and it does put a lot back into the community and into the school district," he said.

The organization recently faced uncertainty as leaders sought additional volunteers, raising questions about its future. Leach said a new group has stepped forward to continue the booster club's work after his departure, something he said brings reassurance.

"It means a great deal to know that it's going to continue on and that we're

not folding up shop," Leach said. "But, I know that group would greatly appreciate any additional help or additional headcount. More hands make for less work."

Leach was also quick to credit the many officers and volunteers who helped build the Booster Club over the past decade and beyond.

"No one person does this alone," Leach said. "The Booster Club has always been about people stepping up to support kids and our schools."

During his 10 years with the organization, Leach worked alongside numerous officers and volunteers who helped guide the club's growth and success, including Eric Merriman, Jennifer Allcock, Jeff Pachner, Ty Goetz, Michael Calhoun, Daryl and Carrie Bradley,

Jennifer McBroom, Lace and Julia Withnell, Terri Poole and Katie Hohensee, along with countless others who volunteered their time and energy behind the scenes.

The 2025-2026 financial year marked the largest single-year contribution total in the records at more than \$47,000, highlighted by the completion of the baseball/softball turf project, concession stand renovations and new track warmups.

As one Monett Booster Club chapter closes, another begins.

The organization recently announced its 2026-2027 officers and board members, who will carry the mission forward of supporting Monett students, athletes and school organizations.

The 2026-27 Monett Booster Club officers are:

President — Sean Kelley

Vice President — Richie Rhea

Treasurer — Doloris Merida

Secretary — Ashleigh Crowell

Communications — Traci Rhea

Board members include Cynthia Nunez, Gretchen Moore, Tina Kelley and Winter Washick.

The incoming leadership group takes over following a decade of substantial growth and investment under Leach and previous booster volunteers.

While fans often see the finished products on

Friday nights or during championship runs, the numbers show the Monett Booster Club has played a major behind-the-scenes role in helping provide resources for student-athletes and organizations throughout the district.

As Leach prepares to step away from his leadership role, the legacy of the past decade — and really the past four decades — is clear: a booster club with roots dating back to at least 1984, more than \$283,000 invested into Monett students and programs over the last 10 years, and a community of volunteers committed to continuing that mission for years to come.

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# Monett High holds indoor graduation



Seniors from the MHS Choir led the singing of the School Toast as graduation ceremonies neared closing. From left are: Morgan Wright, Zoey Stellwagen, Mia Gripka, Kyrie Stephenson, Ada Bluel, and Daniel Wecker. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Graduation speaker Adriana Reyes delivers her address at Monett High School's graduation. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett High School graduate Colin Umfleet receives his diploma at the school's commencement ceremony in May. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett High School graduate Kallie Hohensee receives her diploma at the school's commencement ceremony in May. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



Graduation speaker Carsyn Goetz delivers her address at Monett High School's graduation. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

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First graduate Braden Cendroski handed a card with his name and honors to Jesse Van Hoose to announce him. Around a dozen students managed to lose their cards with their names, prompting Van Hoose to pause until the students repeated their names to him. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



The top 10 percent of the class, seated in a row in front of the rest of the graduates, linked arms and swayed to the singing of the School Toast, though very few sang along. Honor graduates from right to left were: Braden Cendroski, Carson Burtrum, Miles Young, Parker Doss, August Black, Lizzie Smith, Hannah Parris, Taylor Bryan, Mackenzy Cutbirth, Sophia Soriano, Mia Gripka, Ada Bluel, Reena Johnson, Kyrie Stephenson, Matthew DaSilva, and Braxton Jackson. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

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Bronze and books are featured in one the latest displays at The Monett Historical Society and Museum with this local collection current on display. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



American bronze art is current on display at The Monett Historical Society and Museum. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

# Art and lit dance in display

## Monett Museum features bronze statues, celebrates literature

**BY JESSICA BREGER**  
Special to the Monett Monthly  
The Monett Historical Society and Museum is mixing art and literature with a recent display in its front lobby as it brings stories to life with

bronze sculptures. One display in the entrance of the museum has recently been housing a collection of bronze figurines borrowed from a local resident. While the collection is local, the figurines have been collected from various parts of the country. The collection consists mostly of tabletop or cabinet bronzes and protocol from the romantic era of the 1870s through 1930s, crafted by

American Women artists. While not all of the figurines were not originally created to directly reflect any particular work of literature, the collection displayed is set up with stories in mind. Featuring such figures as a reflecting pond and Satyr or Faun, the collection was paired with quotes from the stories of the Chronicles of Narnia. Local collections are often displayed at the museum fea-

turing such eclectic items to not only display what local residents have shown interest in, but also to connect local residents to the wider world of art and history. This display celebrates both American art and British literature, bringing the stories of C. S. Lewis to life with bronze images reflecting Missouri. The museum is also gearing up to change displays for the summer season when it will be celebrating the nation's 250th

anniversary with new patriotic displays. While these displays have not yet been assembled, staff encourage residents to make the Monett Historical Society and Museum a stop in their summer vacation plans to help explore American history and celebrate the nation's birth. The Museum is open five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.



Demolition is underway at the Monett School district's South Building. The building is now set to be replaced with addition parking for the upcoming school year. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Included in the May 21 School Board packet, an illustration demonstrates where a new pick-up lane is to be constructed at the Monett Elementary School. Contributed photo

## School: New avenue to be one-way and specifically for school traffic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"People that have to pass on County in the left lane, trying to get around us, we're blocking driveways. We would have guessed the bid would have been far higher than what this is to be honest." Currently, guardians must use County Road and Learning Lane to line up drop-off and retrieve students during high traffic times especially at the end of the day, causing delays for guardians, staff and local commuters. The new path would divert the school traffic

by having school traffic come in by the daycare facility, past the daycare where they will turn right at the daycare and follow the back woods where there is an outdoor classroom and to the front of the elementary building. The new road will be a one way avenue strictly for school traffic, clearing the road congestion at the end of the day. "It's going to alleviate a lot of traffic issues on County," Drake said. "That lane going on the back edge of the woods,

and then down the west side of MES will hold most of the cars that get lined up, and if not, they can go into the neighborhood a little bit, so it will essentially take all the traffic off of County and Learning Lane." The board also approved paving and striping for a south parking lot to be established where the South Building once stood. The building is currently being demolished per recent action by the board. Drake said that while many community

members have recently been reminiscing on social media about the building, it has seemed to be a general consensus that it was outdated and the public has agreed it was the right move to demolish it. The new lot will provide additional parking for staff, faculty and guests near the administration building. The projects will cost approximately \$260,000 and will come out of the 2026/2027 school budget. Drake said the vote is being taken early so that

the work can be completed over the summer and be ready for the upcoming school year. 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.

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LOCAL

# First on Front jams out in Monett



DEK of Hearts thrills crowds as the First on Front concerts kick off in Monett for the 2026 season. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly



Crowds gathered at Monett's Downtown Park for the first 2026 First on Front concerts held May 1. The concert series runs throughout the summer months with shows held on the first Friday of each month. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

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Jeremy Phillips and band lead up the first concert of the First on Front concert series held at Glen and Sharon Garrett Pavilion for the 2026 summer season. Jessica Breger/Special to the Monett Monthly

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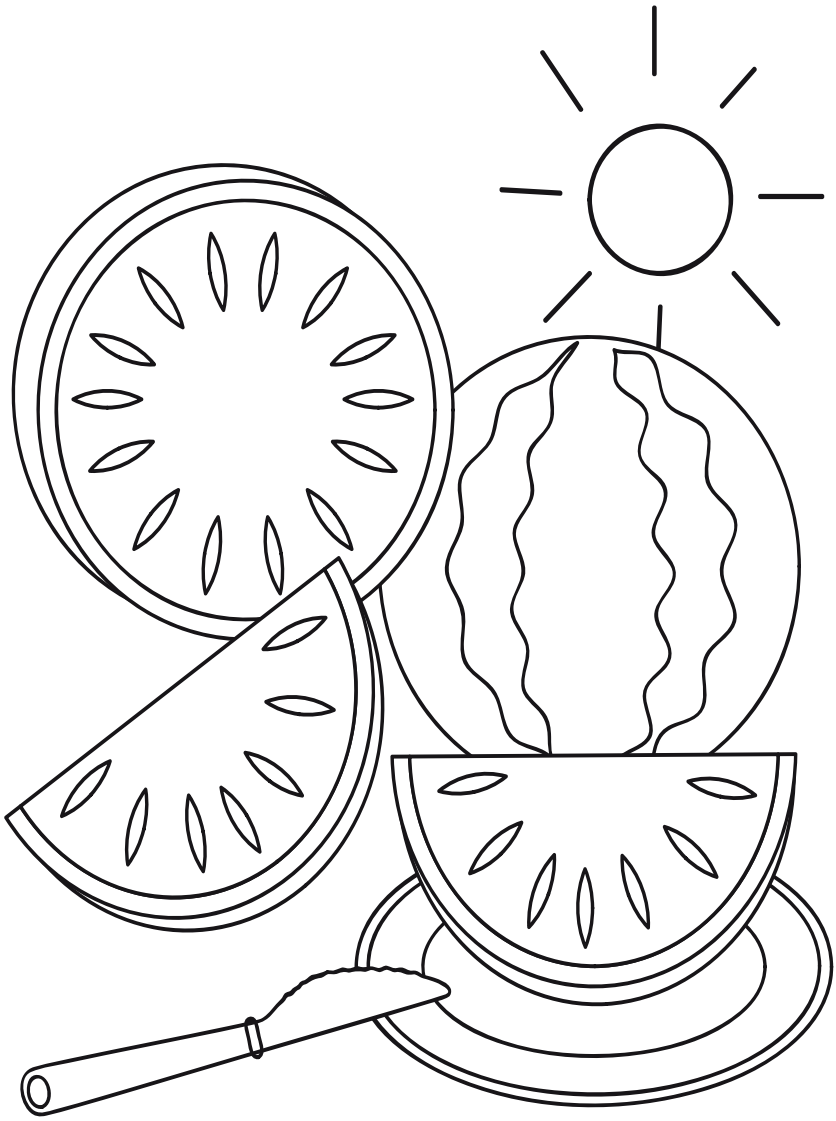
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A: Firecrackers.



## JUST kidding

**Q:** What has one horn and gives milk?  
A: A milk truck.

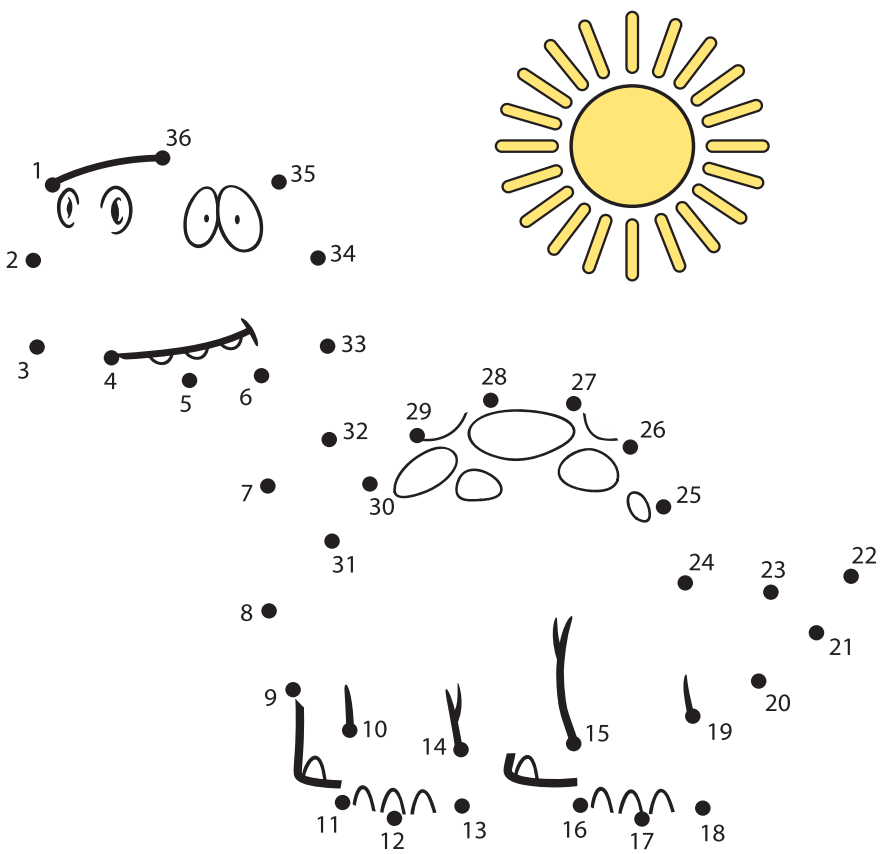


## JUST kidding

**Q:** Where does a tree store its stuff?  
A: In the trunk.



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4	9	5	1	2	3
1	3	2	5	9	4
9	5	4	2	3	1
3	2	1	9	4	5
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## Congratulations Class of 2026

The Monett High School Class of 2026 crossed the stage on May 8, 2026, surrounded by cheers, celebration, and years of hard work. Graduation marked the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another as students celebrated this milestone with classmates, staff, and loved ones.

### Monett High School Top 10%



Sophia Soriano

Carson Burtrum

Braden Cendroski

Reena Johnson

Matthew Da Silva

Parker Doss

Kyrie Stephenson

Mia Gripka

August Black

Braxton Jackson

Ada Bluel

Hannah Parris

Elizabeth Smith

Taylor Bryan

Miles Young

Mackenzzy Cutbirth

### Honor Graduate Speeches

Presentation of the Class of 2026

### Beyond Graduation



Carsyn Goetz

Adriana Reyes

Ruby Smith

The Class of 2026 represents many different journeys, goals, cultures, and life experiences. While graduation marks a shared milestone, each student's path after high school looks unique. Some graduates are continuing their education at four-year or two-year colleges, while others are pursuing certifications, apprenticeships, military services, or entering the workforce. The numbers on the right reflect the many ways Monett students are preparing for their futures and building lives that align with their goals and aspirations.

#### Student Pathways

- 179 Graduates
- 47.77% Four Year Colleges
- 17.83% Two Year Colleges
- 14.01% Certifications
- 5.1% Apprenticeships
- 7.01% Workforce
- 3.18% Military
- 5.1% Other Pathways

