



MONETT Monthly



SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY

RETIREMENT

Who: George Daoud, Monett Police Chief
History: Daoud has 29 years in law enforcement, 26 in Monett
More: Sgt. Dennis Camp sworn in as Interim Chief

Monett Police Chief retires

After nearly 30 years, Daoud hanging up cuffs

BY MELONIE ROBERTS

Special to the Monett Monthly

After nearly 30 years of fighting crime and keeping the residents of Monett safe, Chief George Daoud has hung up his handcuffs.

City officials hosted a reception in his honor on Friday, July 31, at the Monett Park Casino.

“Thank you so much for the overwhelming support that’s here,” Daoud said. “If it wasn’t for the support from the community, from the City Council, from our staff, especially from my family, I couldn’t be here today. In the 26 years I’ve been here, I don’t usually talk about myself; I’m not going to start now. But I will tell you a little bit about how I got here, right?”

“Ten years ago, the Chief of Police position came open, and Tim Schweder left. I was lucky enough to be able to test with about 14 other people from seven states, and the Council had enough belief in me that they selected me to take over this organization. I hope I fulfilled my obligations to them successfully. My goal was to make this place better than when I received it, right? Even if it’s just one step, that’s the right way.

“Our staff is absolutely phenomenal. This community couldn’t be luckier to have the people that they have working in the Police Department, serving you, the community here, in public safety, and keeping you guys safe through your support of them, helping them do their jobs. That has led to great leadership within the department, and a long, sustainable police department that I think will make this community proud to serve them throughout the remainder of time, long after I’m gone.

“So, what I’m telling you is, I thank you for everything you guys have done. I thank you for this group of people here who are present, who have sent me messages, and I look forward to the future opportunities of myself personally growing, and to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Flock cameras controversial

Monett uses 4 cameras that read license plates

BY SHEILA HARRIS

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Kyle Kuhn, of Cassville, a military veteran and a past employee of local law enforcement agencies, is not bashful about vocalizing his distrust of the interconnected Flock digital camera systems being used by law enforcement agencies across the nation.

Flock is a brand name for a linked, digital camera system known generically as “Automated License Plate Readers,” or ALPRs.

“People are going about their own business, and are generally unaware that their individual rights are slowly being stripped away,” Kuhn said.

Flock appears to have a large share of the ALPR market. According to its website, the company offers “a complete solution with one accountable partner” – itself. The system,

states Flock, is capable of integrating ALPR, video, audio and drone technology, with every component designed, installed and supported by Flock.

Flock ALPR cameras can be accessed by local law enforcement subscribers across the nation.

A recent investigative report states that high-tech Flock systems currently pool data collected from over 120,000 cameras in 6,000 law enforcement agencies across 49 states (<https://tinyurl.com/bde6ctx4>).

“American citizens don’t want to be watched all the time, especially not by a private company gathering data,” Kuhn said.

Richard Asbill, Cassville city administrator, said the Cassville Police Department does not contract with Flock, nor does it use ALPR cameras.

Asbill believes that ALPRs are an effective tool for public safety when used appropriately. With a background in public school administration, Asbill said most people would agree

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New Monett fire truck christened with push-in ceremony



To make the push-in ceremony realistic, firemen hosed down the new fire truck to set up the wiping down ritual before the push-in. Chief Brandon Pennington explained the history of the ritual to start the event. The ceremony reflects an old fire service tradition, replicating the old practice of unhitching a wagon of firefighting equipment from horses, wiping it down, and pushing it back into the station, ready for service again Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Stepping back in time to a place called home

Wilson House reflects 1960’s-era way of life

BY MELONIE ROBERTS

Special to The Monett Monthly

Stepping into the Wilson House Airbnb, one almost feels as if the Apollo Lunar Landing is just a future dream, that the world revolved around the new music, featuring the British Invasion, rock and roll, Motown, and folk-rock, making its way around the world, and at any moment it would be time to switch on the television to watch Bonanza, Bewitched or The Andy Griffith Show.



Dennis Childress indicates a painting of The Last Supper, on display in the dining nook of The Wilson House in Monett. The painting was found among some other framed items belonging to the Wilson family. Melonie Roberts/Special to The Monett Monthly

But it was in 1957 that Ron Wilson started building a home for his beloved Martha, at 1505

Sheilah Lane in Monett. Now owners, Dennis and Beverly Mayer Childress, who

grew up in Monett and attended school with the Wilsons’s daughter, Ronnie, bought the home in May 2024, and found a treasure trove of memorabilia. Between the three, they were able to recreate the authenticity of the original home.

“Ron had fought in Korea, and married Martha while he was home on leave in 1953,” Beverly said. “So, when he finally came home in 1954 and started working for Friend Tire, he decided to build this house for Martha, and everything she wanted, she got.”

“And, she was a very stylish lady,” Dennis said. “She

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Stadium to feature
giant new
scoreboard

BY JARED LANKFORD

Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett students, fans and local businesses will soon benefit from a new video board planned for Burl Fowler Stadium.

Monett High School Activities Director Ty Goetz said the idea began after seeing other school districts install video boards at their athletic facilities. The district's current scoreboard was installed in 2012 and is now approximately 14 years old.

"Seeing other high schools starting to get video boards got the wheels turning about what that possibility could look like for us," Goetz said.

Goetz partnered with students in Monett's GO CAPS business class to research manufacturers, request proposals and compare project costs. After reviewing the options, the district selected Nevco to provide the new board.

Goetz said the project is being funded without public tax dollars. Instead, local businesses are being offered advertising opportunities through sponsorship packages.

"When I approached businesses, I wanted to present it as an advertising opportunity rather than simply asking for a donation," Goetz said.

The board will be positioned in the south end zone along the heavily traveled state highway, giving sponsors visibility beyond football games and other stadium events.

Goetz worked to obtain traffic information for the intersection near the football field. The data showed a significant amount of daily traffic passing the stadium.

Anchor sponsors will have permanent logos displayed along the bottom of the board throughout the year. Anchor and gold-level sponsors will also have advertisements shown electronically on the board at scheduled times each week.

Businesses could use the advertising space to display logos, promotions or employment announcements.

Goetz said four gold-level sponsorship opportunities remain available.

The new board will provide more than advertising and athletic-event functions. Goetz said the project includes a new speaker system designed to improve sound throughout the stadium.

The current speakers are located behind the home stands, making announcements difficult for some spectators to hear. The new system will project sound across the length of the football field and provide more consistent audio for both the home and visiting sides.

"One of the things I am most excited about is the speaker system," Goetz said. "The new system will run the length of the football field, so both the home and away sides will have approximately the same sound."

The board could also be used during graduation ceremonies

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CUBS RELOAD AFTER 14 SENIORS DEPART



Monett's Fidel Valenciano takes a ball upfield during a home contest against Cassville last season. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett soccer experiencing
large youth movement

BY JARED LANKFORD

Special to the Monett Monthly

The Monett Cubs soccer team will have a much different look on the field this fall, but longtime head coach Cristobal Villa believes the foundation of the program remains strong.

Monett is coming off a 14-6 season. But, for the first time in a while the Cubs return only four varsity players — all lettermen — after graduating a massive senior class of 14 players. Despite the turnover, Villa enters his 14th season at Monett encouraged by the combination of veteran leadership and a promising group of newcomers.

The youth movement will be particularly noticeable with a freshman class that has plenty of experience playing together.

"These freshmen have been playing

together since they were 8 years old and have competed at high level competition," Villa said.

Among the freshmen expected to compete for time at forward are Jose Duran, Donavic Salas and Eric Arreola Duran. The midfield could also feature several newcomers, including freshmen David Perez, Daniel Perez and Felix Rodriguez.

They will be joined by sophomore midfielders Giovanni Mejia and Carlos Lazalde and seniors Darey Ibarra and Fidel Valenciano. Salas could also see time in the midfield.

While Monett will be inexperienced in several areas, there is little uncertainty in goal.

Senior Alex Patino returns after earning Big 8 Keeper of the Year honors last season and gives the Cubs an experienced

presence behind a defense that will feature several new faces.

"Goalie, in my opinion, is one of the biggest challenges a player can have and Alex makes it look easy," Villa said. "His experience will play a big role. His confidence and focus this year is what I want him to pass on to his teammates."

Patino's competitiveness and athleticism separate him from many keepers. Villa praised his quick hands and feet, ability to move within the penalty area and willingness to come off his line to cut down shooting angles.

"Alex is going to be a key player for us this season," Villa said.

Junior Gabriel Barrientos provides Monett with another option in goal. He has played keeper in the program for the

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Lady Cubs volleyball ready for challenge

Squad looks to
build momentum
on district title
appearance

BY JARED LANKFORD

Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett volleyball enjoyed one of its best seasons in recent history in 2025, and the Lady Cubs hope a talented group of returning upperclassmen can help carry that momentum into the new season.

Monett finished last year with a 21-7-1 record before falling to Mt. Vernon in the district championship. For head coach Courtney Bauer, however, the season's success went beyond the final record.

"One of the biggest takeaways was seeing the growth of our players from match to match," Bauer said. "Their willingness to learn, compete and make adjustments allowed us to consistently play better volleyball as the year pro-

gressed. We are excited to build on the momentum from 2025 and carry those lessons into the 2026 season."

At the center of Monett's returning lineup is senior outside hitter Peyton Brandt.

Brandt earned all-state honors following a standout junior season in which she recorded 421 kills, 311 digs, 49 aces and 17 blocks. She enters her senior campaign within reach of another major accomplishment, as she is on pace to surpass 1,000 career kills this season.

"Peyton is coming off an outstanding junior season," Bauer said. "She finished the 2025 season with 421 kills, establishing herself as one of the area's premier offensive players. In addition to her ability to score, Peyton brings outstanding leadership, defensive consistency and a competitive mindset that our team will rely on throughout the season."

Brandt will be surrounded by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Monett's Kylee Holloway serves a ball during a home contest last season. MSL Photography/Special to the Monett Monthly



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LOCAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Trivia on Sept. 3
The Monett Senior Center, located at 405 Dairy St., will host Trivia on Aug. 6 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Prizes are provided by Gentiva Hospice, of Neosho. All ages are welcome, and there is no charge to play.

Bingo at Senior Center Sept. 11
The Monett Senior Center, in partnership with Access Family Care, will host free Bingo on Friday, Aug., from noon to 12:30 p.m. The Center is located at 405 Dairy Street in Monett.

CBCO Blood Drive on Sept. 15
The Community Blood Center of the Ozarks will host the Monett Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Monett Area YMCA, located at 115 S. Lincoln Ave. While supplies last, anyone who donates blood, plasma or platelets to CBCO will receive a free otter T-shirt and a voucher redeemable for two free admissions to the Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, a \$38 value. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged to minimize potential wait times at the blood drive. To make an appointment, call 417-227-5006 or visit: <https://dslnk.co/rwrweipgncje>.

Monett Cave Exploration meeting on Sept. 15
The second meeting of the Historical Society — Let's Shape the Future of our Cave Project will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Monett History Museum, located at 422 E. Broadway. The Second Meeting with the Monett Historical Society involves the organization and mechanics of The Monett Cave Project. Author E.A. Hilton will also be on hand to sign copies of Beneath Missouri's Lakes and Beneath Missouri, books that will also be on sale for \$10 each.

Home school opportunity on Sept. 22
Classical Conversations of Monett will host an Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Site Baptist Church, located at 1925 Farm Road 1060 in Monett. The event is intended for home school families with students ages 4-13 and is a come-and-go style event. Families may meet tutors, see students learning, explore the curriculum, ask questions and get a feel for the program. RSVP is required due to limited space, and people may RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/bdf8u448>.

Pierce City Fall Festival Sept. 26
The Pierce City Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pierce City South Park, located at 100 S Elm Street. This is a family-friendly community event with food trucks, art and craft vendors, bounce park, junk art for kids, farmer's market, live music, wine garden and more. The vendor booth fee is \$40. Those interested may call or text Becky Golubski at 417-489-3041.

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



Beverly Childress displays copies of old newspaper articles featuring Martha Wilson, for whom The Wilson House was built. Melonie Roberts/Special to The Monett Monthly



Beverly Childress holds up a copy of one of her favorite childhood stories, The Happy Hollister's and the Cuckoo Clock Mystery, near the clock formerly owned by the Wilson family. The series of books, on display in the dining nook of the home, is one of the Mayer family contributions to the renovation of The Wilson House in Monett. Melonie Roberts/Special to The Monett Monthly



Ron Wilson, original owner of The Wilson House in Monett, is pictured at the dry bar at the home he had built for his bride, Martha. The original bar stools remain in the home today for guests at the renovated Airbnb to use. Melonie Roberts/Special to The Monett Monthly



Martha Wilson is pictured with her two children, her son, Brent, about 3 years of age, and daughter, Ronnie, about three months old, for a Mother's Day 1966 or 1967 photo spread in The Monett Times. Melonie Roberts/Special to The Monett Monthly

House: Bedrooms feature furniture from 1960s

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
ran clothing stores down on Broadway and all this. But anyways, she had this brown tone on the backsplash, and she had a brown oven and a brown cooktop, and I wanted to keep them, but I couldn't.”
The couple found a company called Big Chill, that specializes in replica furnishings, and replaced the stove, dishwasher and refrigeration units in the kitchen. The remainder of the interior, including the brown backsplash, remain original.
“You know, from a repair standpoint, take them out,” Beverly said. “You have to balance with Airbnb. You want to stay vintage, but you have to be safe. The research that we did, this goes back to I think April, May of ‘24 when we bought it, and by April, May of ‘25, we refurbished it and opened it. It was really a labor of love. I mean, we just enjoyed it. I was over here quite a bit, did most of the work myself with the exception of some wiring and some other things like that. But um we enjoyed working on it.”
The kitchen is stocked with original Reverewear cookware and both Melmac and ceramic tableware, as well as a vintage coffee maker. The display shelves in the dining nook feature a mix of Wilson and Mayer memorabilia.
“Guests obviously use the

stuff,” Dennis said.
He indicated a framed painting in the kitchen.
“The Last Supper,” he said. “We were going through a bunch of old pictures and stuff, and we ran onto this thing. And it had a piece of a fishing line on the back of it, and the frame was masking tape. And they hung that in the kitchen, I think. But we took it because we always thought every kitchen needs a picture with Jesus in it during this day and time. It truly is an original picture.”
What the duo couldn't find in the combined Wilson-Mayer stores, they searched out in vintage resellers across the state.
The wiring and some of the refurbishment went to local businesses.
“We are very much committed to doing as much business in Monett as possible,” Beverly said. “So when it came to this house, we used a Monett electrician, we used a Monett plumber, we used a Monett landscaper, we, you know, we were just, you know, like Sherwin-Williams, I mean we really did everything that we could to stay in Monett if we could.”
The old loop shag carpeting hid a beautiful wood floor.
“I took all the carpet up, took all the staples out, and cleaned the floor up, and we had the floor refinished,” Dennis said. “From

when they built it in 1957 until about 1963 or 1964, it was hardwood. They adopted their first child, Brent, in ‘64 and Martha did not want her baby crawling on hardwood floors.
“Dennis took it all out, on hands and knees, staples, everything,” Beverly said.
“I hired out the refinishing of this floor, and the restaining of it, and the resealing,” Dennis said.
“So, this is the original color,” Beverly said. “It's white and red oak, it's a mix. If you notice, the slats are not the same. It's a total mix.”
Bedrooms feature 1960-era furnishings and soft goods continuing the theme throughout the home. A later addition featured a dry bar, containing glassware and stemware featuring the Wilson monogram. The room also contains the original bar stools and lamps from the mid-to late 1960s.
“About 75% of the decor is from the Wilson family,” Beverly said. “The rest is from my family, the Mayer family, or from vintage shops that we visited during the renovations.”
The screen door is from Monalco (Monett Aluminum Company), which later became Wells Aluminum, the company that supplied goods to a majority of Monett homes in that era.
“Nearly everyone here had

Monalco doors and windows,” Dennis said.
Landscaping included the removal of a 7-foot tall hedge that surrounded the property and several elm trees that had sustained damage. Only a portion of the original hedge remains on the property's corners.
From original kitchen, living and bath fixtures and authentic decor, the Wilson House Airbnb offers guests a trip down Memory Lane and the chance to live, briefly, back in a time when daily life was simpler and pleasures included family time crowded around a single television set or a trip to the drive-in movies.
“We've had repeat guests,” Beverly said. “And people have come from all over. There is a map in the recreation room where people can place a pin in their home city, if they want to. We've had guests from everywhere, for work, family events, reunions and more. So many of them say this is like stepping into their childhood homes, and that is exactly what we were hoping to achieve.”
“This isn't the Childress House. We may own it, but it has always been, and always will be, The Wilson House.”
Rental information about the Wilson House is available at <https://evolve.com>.

CORRECTIONS

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

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September 2, 2026 — Volume Two — Number 9

ABOUT

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

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Barry County Health Corner

Show Me Healthy Women offers free screenings

Show Me Healthy Women (SMHW) offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings for Missouri women who meet age, income and insurance guidelines.

SMHW began in 1992, and is Missouri’s implementation of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). SMHW is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and several national, regional and local partner organizations. There are provider locations throughout the state, including local public health agencies, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, private physician offices and not for profit health centers.

Screening Services Provided: Clinical breast exams (CBE), Screening mammograms for women age 50-64, Screening mammograms for women 40-49 using donated funds (if available), Pap tests, and Pelvic exams.

Diagnostic Services Provided: Specialist consultation (breast and cervical), Diagnostic mammograms, Ultrasound, Fine needle aspiration, Cold knife conization (diagnostic purposes), Breast biopsies, Loop electrode biopsy (LEEP), and Colposcopy (with or without biopsy).

Cervical Cancer Screenings for Women who have had a Hysterectomy: Due to cervical cancer or dysplasia are eligible for CBE, pelvic examination and Pap test, or due to any reason other than cervical cancer or dysplasia are eligible for one Pap test and pelvic examination to determine the absence or presence of the cervix, or due to conditions other than cervical cancer or dysplasia and the cervix is absent are eligible for a CBE.

Age Guidelines: Women Age 21-64 are eligible for cervical cancer screening services, clinical breast exam (CBE) and diagnostic follow-up for abnormal results. Women Age 40-64 are eligible for breast and cervical cancer screening services, clinical breast exam (CBE) and diagnostic follow-up for abnormal results. Women Over Age 64 who do not have Medicare Part B may also receive services through the program.

Income Guidelines: Clients must have a household income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines. Adjusted gross income on tax return or net amount on pay stub determines income eligibility.

Women with MO HealthNet, Medicare Part B or HMO health coverage are not eligible for SMHW.

Anyone with questions or wanting to schedule an appointment may call the Barry County Health Department at 417-847-2114. The Department is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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



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<https://www.cassville-democrat.com/monett-monthly/>

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 kttroutman@cassville-democrat.com or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.





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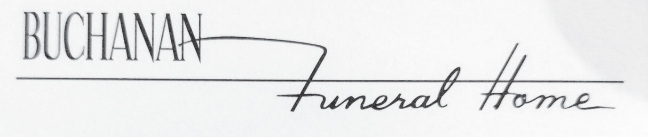
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Frances Krueger • Ste. Genevieve (Monett) • March 1, 1935 – Aug. 13, 2026
John Williams • Summerville, S.C. (Aurora) • Aug. 22, 1953 – Aug. 14, 2026
Dwight James Patterson • Aurora • July 14, 1050 – Aug. 22, 2026



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LOCAL

Flock: Cameras do not use facial recognition

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with using whatever technology is available to keep children safe.

However, Asbill is also a strong proponent of privacy.

“Most people have expectations of privacy when they’re [in their own cars], driving down the road,” he said. “While the use of ALPR technology is an important tool in tracking a stolen vehicle, or tracking a stolen child with an Amber Alert, unfortunately, that technology has been misused. It’s created public mistrust, and rightfully so.”

In recent headlining news stories, personnel with access to Flock systems have used the cameras to unlawfully track or stalk wives, ex-wives, romantic interests and citizens who voiced criticism about government policies.

In northern Barry County, the Monett Police Department (MPD) uses four fixed Flock cameras in strategic, high-traffic-flow locations.

While the Flock website indicates that mobile and portable Flock applications are also available from the company, the MPD does not use them.

Dennis Camp, Monett interim chief of police, said Monett’s cameras are in fixed locations and record only still images of vehicles and their license plates.

“The cameras cannot record video, nor is there a feature that can be ‘turned on’ to allow for video,” Camp said. “The cameras are motion-activated by cars only — not people or bikes — and they do not take images at regular intervals [aside from motion activation by autos].”

Det. Sgt. Scott Landreth, with the MPD’s investigative unit, calls the Flock system one of the most useful pieces of technology the department has.

“It’s an investigative tool, but only a tool,” Landreth said. “Flock can generate leads, but those leads must be verified by human law enforcement agents.”

Landreth cited the case of a local vehicle break-in, where the perpetrator was tracked and arrested because of the vehicle he was driving, which had been rented in Florida.

“Local crimes used to be committed by local people,” Landreth said. “But now, we’re seeing more people from out of state. ALPRs just point us in the right direction.”

Camp said before an enforcement action can be taken, an officer must independently locate the vehicle, verify the plate through the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES), and consider the circumstances observed.

“A Flock alert by itself is not a substitute for an officer’s judgment or investigation,” Camp said.

The criteria for an ALPR search must include the vehicle’s license plate number and a reason for the search, Landreth said.

“The cameras cannot record video, nor is there a feature that can be ‘turned on’ to allow for video. The cameras are motion-activated by cars only — not people or bikes — and they do not take images at regular intervals [aside from motion activation by autos].”

DENNIS CAMP, MONETT INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

“If we don’t have a license plate number, we can’t do a search,” he said.

Landreth said the Flock cameras do not use facial recognition.

“Our Flock cameras cannot see inside vehicles, nor identify drivers,” Landreth said.

The cameras record an image of the exterior of the vehicle and limited details such as the license plate, vehicle characteristics, date, time and the camera’s location.

Camp said Monett has eight employees with access to the city’s four flock cameras.

“We conduct monthly audits on the system to ensure that employees are not abusing it,” he said.

Camp said suspicious activity that might indicate abuse could include multiple searches for the same license plate number within a relatively short time span.

“We’ve never found any abuses within our own system,” he said.

Camp said the Monett Police Department has used the Flock ALPR system since 2024.

“We keep search images for 30 days, unless they’re involved with an active investigation,” Landreth said.

Due to concerns from the public, Flock announced on Aug. 13 that it will now recommend that law enforcement records be retained for only seven days, although the retained plate information of current customers could be kept for the previously agreed upon term.

Landreth would like residents to know that the MPD is on their side.

“We’re not blanketing the city with surveillance cameras that we sit here and watch, because there’s nothing to see,” he said. “We just have individual, still images, retained for a specified time.”

While many residents might be comfortable with local police departments using ALPR systems, they often have second thoughts when local access by law enforcement agencies across the nation enters the equation.

Christie Hebert, an attorney with the Institute for Justice who spoke to KCUR news in Kansas City, doesn’t believe there are enough guardrails for ALPR systems, and that individual police officers have too much leeway to query a vast and growing database of vehicle information (<https://tinyurl.com/3pewk69z>).

To complicate matters, the use of ALPR cameras is not limited to law enforce-

ment. Flock cameras can also be purchased independently and used by private businesses, residential subdivisions, shopping centers, schools and many other entities.

An ALPR FAQ handout from the MPD indicates that courts have generally recognized that there is a reduced expectation of privacy [when] license plates [are] displayed in public.

“Like any investigative technology, however, ALPR systems must still be used in a manner consistent with the United States Constitution, applicable court decisions, and federal, state and local laws,” the handout states.

Some say that ALPRs have the potential for causing violations of the U.S. Constitution’s Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures.

There are no federal laws governing ALPR use, however, according to KCUR’s report, federal law enforcement would like in on ALPR capabilities.

The FBI wants to buy access to ALPRs, “Which would likely allow the agency to track the movements of vehicles — and by extension people — across the country without a warrant,” according to 404 Media, as quoted by KCUR (<https://tinyurl.com/y9p5v4uw>).

In Monett, Camp said Flock cameras are not — and cannot be — used for immigration enforcement.

However, according to KCUR, the city of Dayton, Ohio, discontinued the use of Flock’s data “after it found more than 7,000 searches relating to immigration enforcement made by outside entities.”

In Missouri, House Bill 3192 was introduced by Representative LaKeySha Bosley, D-St. Louis, in February 2026.

The bill detailed what purposes ALPRs could be used for, including criminal investigations when there’s reasonable suspicion a crime has been committed, as well as for investigations involving missing or endangered persons. The proposed bill stated that the cameras could not be used for general surveillance, immigration enforcement or to monitor people who [weren’t] breaking the law.

The bill gained headway, but was referred to the “Emerging Issues” committee in May, to await further action.

Asbill believes safeguards for ALPR use are important.

“We can’t benefit from Flock if we don’t maintain the trust of the public,” he

said.

Kuhn said he’s not trying to be a stick in the mud by speaking out against Flock cameras.

“Today, it’s hard to know what’s real and what’s not when you’re online,” he said. “Using AI technology, [any of us] could be made to appear as though we had committed a crime that we didn’t commit, so why hand someone the added ability to follow us around if they don’t like what we say?”

However, in spite of ALPRs’ current uses and its potential for abuse, Kuhn, Asbill and the MPD all agree that Flock technology, in its current state, is far less invasive than a Smart phone and its apps: a device that most people carry around.

According to the MPD, a smart phone knows who you communicate with and the internet searches you conduct, and often knows where you are, knows where you shop and sells or shares information for advertising purposes.

An ALPR camera, on the other hand, only collects license plate information to be retained for 30 days, unless it’s retained as criminal evidence, the MPD said.

An ALPR’s primary purpose, according to a printed FAQ handout from the MPD, is for public safety and criminal investigations.

“The goal should never be choosing between liberty and public safety,” the MPD handout states. “Communities should expect both.”

Paris Lewbel, Flock spokesperson, told KCUR news that last year, “The company supported more than 1 million criminal investigations and incidents, assisted an estimated 20% of solved cases in jurisdictions where its technology is deployed, and helped locate more than 10,000 missing persons.”

In spite of ways that ALPRs are used to benefit communities, members of some of those same communities are weighing the cameras’ benefits against the risks to their personal privacy.

In southern Barry County, the Seligman Police Department recently cancelled its contract with Flock after a public poll was conducted to gather community feedback.

A cancellation letter addressed to Flock was included in minutes from Seligman’s Aug. 10 Board of Alderman meeting. The city’s Flock contract, which included three fixed cameras, was cancelled, in part, because of “overwhelming opposition to continuing the use of [the system],” the minutes state.

The cities of Purdy, Wheaton and Washburn do not use ALPR cameras.

Danny Boyd, Barry County sheriff, said the Sheriff’s Office does use the Flock system. Boyd was unavailable for further comment before press time.



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Monett's Brycelynn Courtois digs a ball during action at home last season. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Volleyball: Experienced

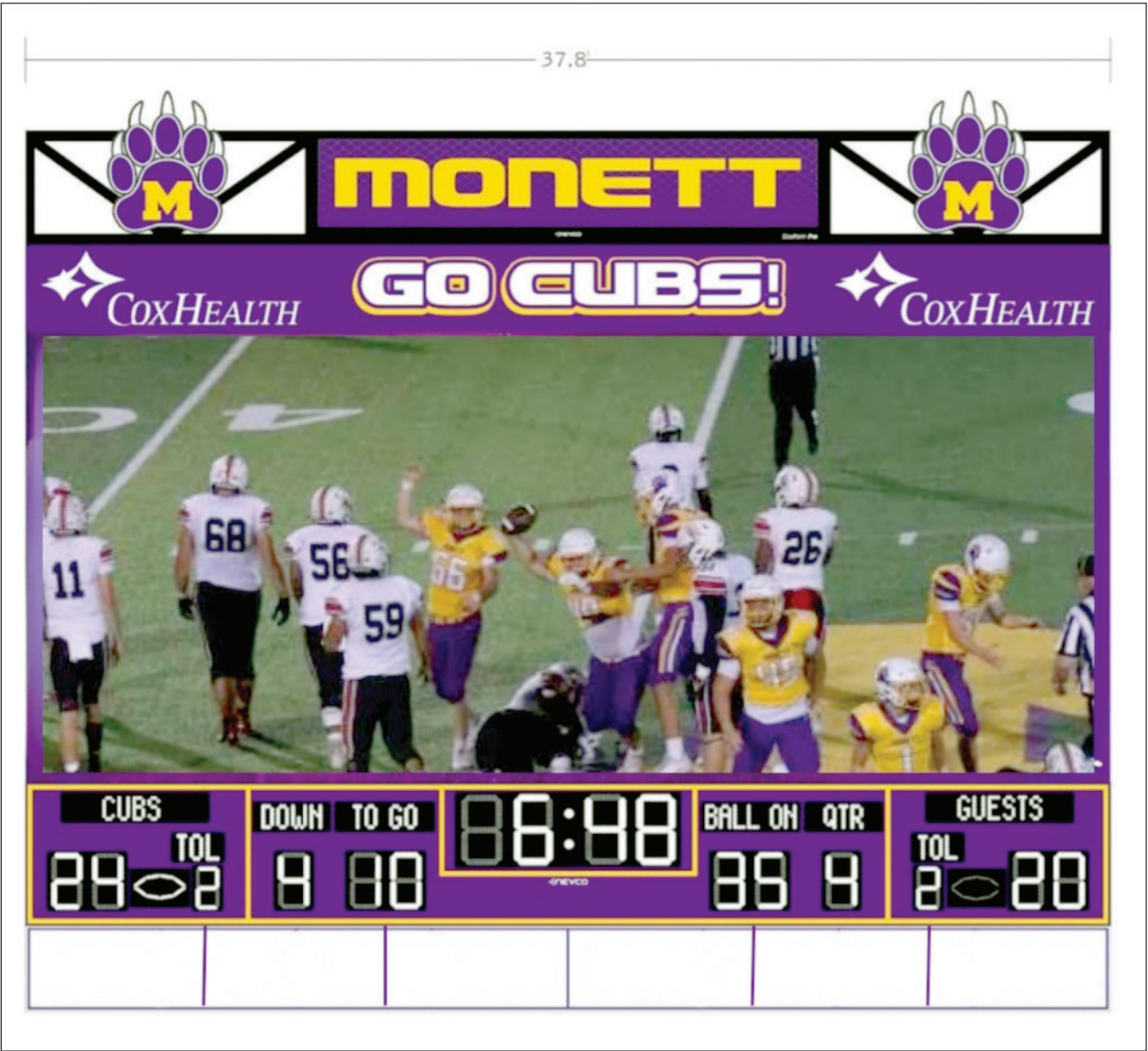
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

an experienced returning group that includes Addison Branch, Kylee Holloway, Yoselin Alberto, Brycelynn Courtois, Khloey Shelton and Gabriella Apolstol.

Branch, a senior defensive specialist, will provide experience in the back row after collecting 135 digs and 18 aces last season.

With Brandt providing a proven offensive weapon and a solid group of returning players surrounding her, Monett will look to build upon last season's 21-win campaign and once again position itself for a postseason run.

For Bauer, the challenge will be taking the lessons learned during a successful 2025 season and turning



A new scoreboard is set to be installed at Burl Fowler Stadium this fall, funded by digital and static advertising opportunities. Contributed photo

Scoreboard: Goal to be operational this season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to livestream the event, show photographs and display student information.

Goetz said students

could eventually help operate the board and create videos, graphics and announcements. That experience could benefit students interested in multimedia production, communications or related college programs.

"We want to use it as

much as possible," Goetz said. "There are many opportunities beyond simply using it as a scoreboard on Friday nights."

Other possible uses include student-organized movie nights and special community events.

Goetz said the project

is intended to benefit the entire student body and community, rather than serving only the school's athletic programs.

The goal is to have the new board installed and operational by the Cubs second home game this season.

Soccer: Possession a team strength

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

past two seasons and continues to develop.

Patino won't be the only decorated senior leading the Cubs defensively.

Jose Garcia returns after earning second-team all-conference honors as a defender. His speed, timing and soccer IQ make him difficult for opposing attackers to beat, and Villa expects Garcia to take on an even larger leadership role as a senior.

"His work ethic is good, and continuing to do that puts the expectation for the rest," Villa said.

Garcia will be joined on the back line by sophomores Jabier Albarez, Edgar Lucas and London Barter; senior Juan Guadarrama; freshman Denilson Paxtor; and senior Fernando Salas.

Lucas is one player who has made a noticeable

jump since last season.

"He feels more comfortable every time he steps on the field as a defender," Villa said.

Albarez also brings valuable experience despite being only a sophomore. He started every game as a freshman and has continued to play at a high level.

With so many young players stepping into various roles, Monett's seniors will be asked to provide leadership throughout the field.

Villa pointed to Ibarra and Valenciano on the attacking side and Garcia, Cale Flynt and Guadarrama in the midfield and defensive areas as players capable of setting the example.

"My seniors are a great group of boys that have been showing a lot of respect to their teammates," Villa said. "They

are also bringing a lot of experience in all positions on the field."

Villa expects that group to lead through its work ethic both on and off the field.

Despite the roster turnover, Villa believes one of Monett's biggest strengths will be its ability to control possession.

"Our strength is going to be ball possession," Villa said. "Our boys are very comfortable with the ball and they can keep it in their feet and move it around."

Developing chemistry will be important, particularly with so many young players entering the lineup. Villa wants the Cubs to become more cohesive in both directions — learning to attack as a unit while also defending together.

The goal is to work through those growing pains early in the season and have the team playing its best soccer when the most important games arrive.

More than anything, Villa wants the identity of the 2026 Cubs to extend beyond wins and losses.

"We want our identity to be family," Villa said. "One big family."

He also wants Monett to be entertaining, competitive and represent the program with good sportsmanship every time the Cubs take the field.

"We want this team to be fun to watch when they play, show good sportsmanship and be willing to compete every game," Villa said. "We want our team to have fun playing the beautiful game."

Villa enters his 14th season at Monett with a 225-129-1 career record coaching the Cubs' boys program.



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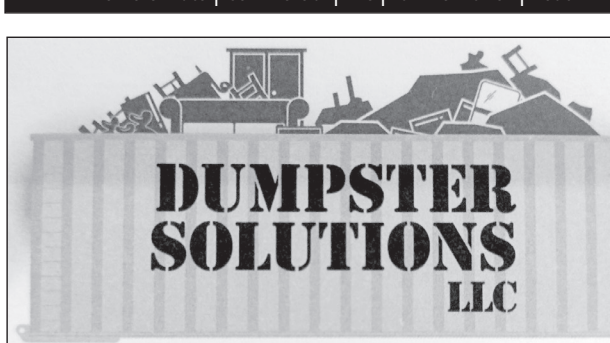
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Monett Athletic Booster Club mission shared for Historical Society

Volunteers welcome to support school sports programs

BY MURRAY BISHOFF

Special to the Monett Monthly

The mission and upcoming plans of the Monett Athletic Booster Club were shared with the Monett Historical Society for its meeting on Aug. 18.

Sean Kelley, current Monett Athletic Booster Club president, spoke about the storied history of the organization. Kelley served an earlier stint in the job in 2016-2017. The organization began as the Monett Quarterback Club around 1960. According to stories around The Monett Times office, Dick Brady, who served as the newspaper's sportswriter since 1954, started the club and served as its first president. Kelley credited Jack Kelley, a past Monett High School standout athlete, with early leadership in the group.

Eventually, the group changed its name. Former coach Jerry Hudson commented he thought the name changed around 1984 in an effort to offer a broader umbrella than just football. Rod Anderson speculated the change was pushed by federal Title 9 introducing women's sports in public schools.

"[High school athletes] weren't playing for themselves," Kelley said. "They were playing for pride, for their community."

In that same spirit, the Boosters rose to support the athletes, raising money to help the programs and the coaches in their mission. Today the Athletic Booster Club is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

"The heart never changed," Kelley said. "It's always been to help Monett kids."

Sports events left a memorable mark in the community, especially milestones. Kelley recalled the state football championships and the state softball title. More than that, he stressed the atmosphere, especially walking as a teen to Burl Fowler Stadium before a game, tailgate parties in the parking lot,



KELLEY

seeing teachers gathered together, John Cheary leading the band.

"It was a neat, fun experience," Kelley said. "I recall the experience, if not the game."

A big part of the Athletic Booster Club's role has been running the concession stand, initially at football games but now also at other contests.

"I thought this all just happened," Kelley said. "I found there's more to it, buying food all week, staffing the concession stands. It takes lots of volunteers. We could always use more. None of this just happens. It's hard. We do it because we love our kids."

In the past 10 years, the Athletic Booster Club, according to Kelley, raised \$283,000 that has gone back into the school program. Community groups and school clubs, in addition to the Boosters, have provided labor for the concession sales. In return, they receive a portion of the proceeds. In 10 years, that has added up to \$105,000 going back to those groups.

Kelley observed some of the notable contributions from the Boosters have included \$18,000 toward turf on the baseball field at North Park, \$15,000 toward softball improvements, high school lockers, \$6,000 for golf simulators, and a pole vault stand. The Boosters have made it possible for students to make trips.

"That's not to say the [school] district doesn't have money," Kelley said. "The district provides. There's always going to be what we have to provide and what we'd love to provide, things that are not budgeted for. The Booster Club says, 'What can we do to figure it out' and make it happen."

Kelley emphasized that selling hamburgers alone will not pay for all of what the Booster Club tries to do. Businesses provide projects and volunteers. He noted the town's long association with Easley's Dr. Pepper left a lasting memory and remains the most popular drink sold.

"That's part of Monett," he said. "We need those individuals. It's thousands of small acts that eventually becomes \$283,000. Supporting our kids never stops. It's what makes Monett great. It isn't a finish line. Isn't that the job of the community?"

Kelley noted the Booster Club tries to do more than maintain the programs, and hopes to make them better. He would love to find something exciting to stimulate interest in the basketball program, like the time Jackie Stiles and the Missouri State Lady Bears played an exhibition game in Monett in the late 1990s.

Kelley recalled that years ago, he talked to then Monett school superintendent Dr. Charles Cudney about what it would take to get artificial turf at Monett's football field.

Cudney responded, "The first time we hear Mt. Vernon is getting turf, we will get turf. Then, years later, Mt. Vernon got turf. Jack Fox called me. Four weeks later, we had turf. Jack got it done."

Other big ideas on the table now include an indoor practice facility, proposed by Ben Mauk, Monett's current head football coach. Kelley admitted that is a big undertaking, but not out of reach. "If we don't have dreams, it's not going to get done," he said.

Likewise, Kelley would like to see a competition track behind Monett's middle school so students aren't running three blocks from the high school to Burl Fowler Stadium after classes adjourn.

Joining the Booster Club is open to individual memberships, starting at \$50, and comes with a season pass. Business sponsorships are also available.

"The Booster Club is very dear to my heart," Kelley said. "The school provides. We provide more, making Monett a great place."

The Monett Historical Society hosts a monthly meeting at the Monett Museum's Events Center at 422 East Broadway. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Sept. 15 and will feature the second presentation of Monett's caves, led by enthusiasts promoting further exploration.

Second K-9 joins MPD

Jax sworn into service Aug. 13

BY MELONIE ROBERTS

Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Mayor Randy Burke administered the oath to a new police officer at the Aug. 13 City Council meeting.

K-9 Officer Jax took the oath via his owner and handler Ethan Youngblood.

"I, Ethan Youngblood and my K9 partner Jax, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and the government of the United States, and the State of Missouri, against enemies both domestic and foreign, and that I will bear allegiance and loyalty to the same, to any law ordinance, or resolution of any state. I promise that I will perform all the duties of the office of a police officer on which I am about to enter and to which I have been duly appointed so help me God," he recited.

"After both Jax and Thor came on the job, they were key elements in about three cases in their first week," Burke said. "This is a unit. When they are working together, they have the same protections and authority of a police officer."

As the regular meeting got underway, commissioners heard from Melissa Cole, a Monett resident with concerns about the lack of a recreational venue for youth.

"I'm here tonight to talk about expanding our local recreational options," she said. "Currently, our community lacks indoor, year-round entertainment spaces that cater to everyone. I would love to see the city explore bringing a skating rink and a bowling alley to Monett. These facilities would give our youth a safe, positive place to hang out after school and during the weekends. It would also give families and seniors a fun, accessible way to stay active and socialize close to home."

"Right now, residents have to travel to other towns to enjoy these activities, which means Monett is missing out on local economic spending. Investing in multi-generational recreation will strengthen our community spirit and make Monett an even better place to live. I encourage the council to look into



Monett Mayor Randy Burke issued the oath of office to Officer Ethan Youngblood and K-9 officer Jax at the Aug. 13 meeting of the Monett City Council. Melonie Roberts/Special to the Monett Monthly

potential spaces, grants, or public-private partnerships to bring these ideas to life. Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our town."

"We'll see what we can do," Burke said. "No promises there. You've got to remember, we've got to have someone to come in — the city can't build it itself. So, I appreciate your comments."

Burke and Commissioners Darren Indovina and Ken Gaspar joined Kip Cullers, who received the Monett Matters Award.

"I first realized what was going on here when I drove on Kyler, south past Tyson's, and I noticed one by one, it seemed like in just a few months, all these houses were in really bad shape," Burke said. "But all of a sudden, there were things where they looked good, and they were rented. That's what Monett needs. We need those smaller homes, and instead of them building all new homes, we're able to repurpose what's already existing. And that's what I'd like to see more of in Monett."

Cullers not only renovated the four on Kyler, but has also renovated between 70 and 80 others in the city.

"Now with the number of homes that you've done, and you've done a lot for the city of Monett," Burke said. "So, I'd like to present you with the Monett Matters award, and thank you very much for what you've done for Monett."

Commissioners discussed the city's Comprehensive Plan, a 160-page document outlining the city's history and future planning.

"It's hard to summarize a

plan in just a few words, but it's our roadmap of where we want to be in 20 years," Burke said.

Commissioners approved both the second reading and the ordinance adopting the plan.

The plan is available for download at MonettMo.gov.

Commissioners also approved a bill regarding vacant properties within the city limits.

The move allows for creation of a database of vacant buildings and properties within the city, and then also provides a mechanism for those property owners to work with the community development department to put together a plan of action to mitigate vacant buildings, especially those that have vacancy as well as code violations, and ultimately move those properties to a higher and better use, and increase the overall curb appeal of Monett.

Commissioners also awarded a bid contract award for the Chapell Drive overpass to Hartman and Company. The cost estimate on this project was \$7.6 million, and the bid came in at \$6,078,000.

In other business, commissioners approved an ordinance authorizing an agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for state block grant funding regarding improvements at the Monett Municipal Airport.

Issued a reminder the season was winding down at the Monett Municipal Pool.

The next meeting of the Monett City Council will be at 6 p.m., Sept. 10, at the Monett City Annex, 100 S. Maple in Monett.

Daoud: Thanked family for sacrifices over course of his career

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

department there.

"I want to thank my family. They gave up more than anybody else. The personal time that you guys have for weekends, nights, holidays, all those things, family gatherings we don't get to see...and I'm ready to see them a little bit more. So, with that, I'm saying thank you to my wife, to my family, that's put up with that. Thank you to them. Thank you, you guys, for everything you've done. I couldn't ask for a better group of people. Monett's given me more opportunities than I deserve, and I know that, and I appreciate it. So, thank you all."

Monett Mayor Randy Burke then shared his thoughts with those in attendance.

"Today, we're here to do two things. The first is to honor Chief Daoud's commitment, his professionalism, his integrity, but most of all, his leadership," he said. "'Now, Missouri State Law tells cities what they can and cannot do, but the one thing — one of the few things they say you must do — is provide public safety."

"Now, in Monett, it's the Police Department, it's also the Fire Department, and it's also Emergency Management. It's the heart of city government, and it's the heart of Monett. And we have exceptional public safety here in Monett. And Chief Daoud, more than anyone, by a large margin, and he's been doing it for a long time, deserves the credit for that here in Monett. So, thank you, Chief Daoud."

Burke went on to note

some of the best attributes of the department.

"When I think of the Monett Police Department, I think of integrity, and I think of professionalism," he said. "And it's not because they just give off that impression, but it's because that's who they are. And it takes an exceptional leader to be able to instill that. That leadership in the department, I want to thank you guys for all that you do for the City of Monett. And I thank you for your leadership that goes across, not just emergency services, but all of Monett. So, I appreciate it, you're an exceptional leader."

Burke then invited Daoud to make his final call, a tradition in many military and public safety organizations. Daoud keyed his radio for the final call.

"301 Central, end of tour of duty," he said. "Have a great afternoon."

A dispatcher responded. "Barry County Central, all cars, all listening stations, stand by for 301 retirement last call for 301. Barry County Central, all cars, all listening stations: Chief George Daoud, 301, after 29 years of honorable and dedicated service in law enforcement, your final watch has come to an end. Of those 29 years, 26 were proudly served with the Monett Police Department, including the past 10 years as Chief of Police."

"Throughout your time with Monett, you protected the citizens, served the community with integrity, professionalism, and



Retiring Monett Police Chief George Daoud, left, received a token of appreciation for his 26 years of service to the City of Monett from Mayor Randy Burke during a reception in Daoud's honor on July 31, at Monett Park Casino. Melonie Roberts/Special to the Monett Monthly

unwavering commitment. Beginning your career as a patrolman in the Sarcoxie Police Department, continuing with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, and ultimately making your home with the Monett Police Department, you dedicated your life to protecting others. Your hard work, leadership, and perseverance earned you every rank, serving as Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, Detective, and ultimately, Chief of Police.

"On behalf of Barry County Central Dispatch, your fellow officers, first responders, and the citizens whose lives you've touched, thank you for your 29 years of faithful service. It's been an honor to serve alongside you."

"Chief George Daoud, 301, your final call has been answered. You may go off

duty, secure in the knowledge that your legacy will continue through those you have led, mentored, and inspired. Enjoy your next chapter, Chief. We'll take the watch from here."

"301 off duty for the final time, 13:44."

Sgt. Dennis Camp was then sworn in as Interim Chief, vowing to support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Missouri, and the ordinances of the City of Monett.

"Now, while it's interim, the authority and the confidence of myself and the Council is now transferred to Chief Camp," Burke said. "I present Chief Dennis Camp, Chief of Police of Monett."

Guests, city officials and representatives from area police departments, the



Monett Mayor Randy Burke, left, administered the oath of office to Dennis Camp, named as Interim Police Chief during a July 31 retirement reception for former Chief George Daoud. Melonie Roberts/Special to the Monett Monthly



Former Monett Detective Greg Brandsma, left, reminisced with retiring Police Chief George Daoud during a reception in Daoud's honor, held July 31, at the Monett Park Casino. Representatives from several areas police departments, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Barry County Sheriff's Office, along with city officials and community members, turned out to honor Daoud upon his retirement and moving into the next phase of . Melonie Roberts/Special to the Monett Monthly

Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Barry County Sheriff's Office were then

invited to socialize and give their best wishes to the retiring chief.

New Monett fire truck christened with push-in ceremony



With a big push, the new Pierce fire truck with a 500-gallon tank of water backed into Fire Station 2 in Monett's Industrial Park. The truck, fully loaded, would have been too heavy for a group of people to push it in. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Mayor Randy Burke, with the microphone, was one of the speakers at the fire truck push-in ceremony. Darren Indovina, the city's fire department commissioner, at far right, also spoke. The mayor is flanked by Captain Dustin Stellwagon at left and Capt. Ciell Maples at his right. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Monett Fire Department celebrated the arrival of its new Engine No. 2 at Monett's second fire station, with a flag hanging over it for the push-in ceremony on July 31. Chief Brandon Pennington explained the history of the ritual to start the event. The ceremony reflects an old fire service tradition, replicating the old practice of unhitching a wagon of firefighting equipment from horses, wiping it down, and pushing it back into the station, ready for service again. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Monett Fire Department Captain Ciell Maples, who also served as the department's chaplain, gave a blessing for the new fire truck. Firefighters and the public were invited to lay hands on the truck to extend the blessing to the vehicle. Assistant Chief Capt. Dustin Stellwagen noted the Monett school district gave permission to put the school color scheme and Cub Nation verbiage on the new truck. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

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September 2026

A Bright Beginning for Monett Schools

The Monett School District welcomed students and staff back to school on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, marking a positive and successful start to the 2026–2027 school year.

Classrooms and hallways were once again filled with students, staff, learning, and excitement. During the first week of school, students had the opportunity to settle into their classrooms, meet their teachers, reconnect with friends, and begin establishing the routines and relationships that will help guide them throughout the year.

Teachers and staff also spent time welcoming students back, helping them feel comfortable in their new environments, and making sure they felt supported as they began a new school year.

One of the most noticeable changes this year was a new drop-off and pick-up route at Monett Elementary School. The district created the route to help improve traffic flow during arrival and dismissal. The new roadway runs behind Monett Elementary School, between the former playground and track area and the wooded outdoor classroom area, with access located behind the Daycare Center on Linden Avenue.

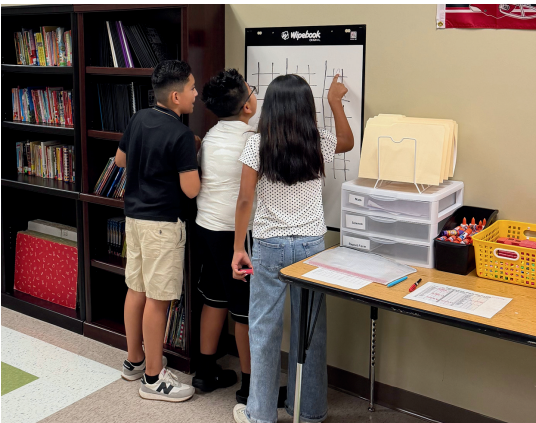
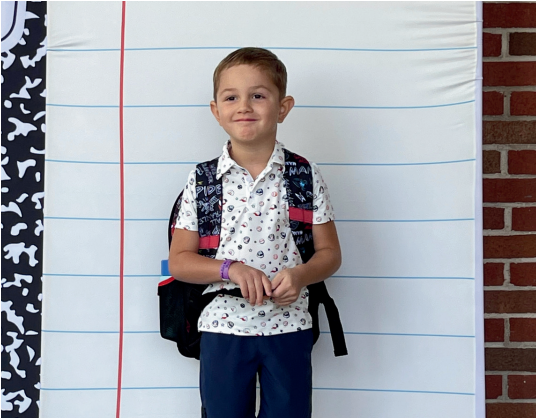
As expected, families experienced some first-day traffic during morning arrival as everyone became familiar with the new route and procedures. With guidance from staff, traffic began moving more efficiently as the morning progressed. By afternoon dismissal, families were navigating the new route smoothly.

The district appreciates the patience and cooperation of families as everyone adjusted to the new process.

A successful first day of school takes the work of many people. From teachers preparing classrooms and staff welcoming students at the doors to transportation employees getting students safely to and from school, many individuals worked behind the scenes to help make the transition back to school as smooth as possible. The district is also grateful to students and families for their patience, flexibility, and support during the first days of school. That spirit of cooperation helped create a welcoming beginning for students throughout Monett.

As the 2026–2027 school year continues, Monett Schools looks forward to building on the positive start and supporting students as they learn, grow, build relationships, and create new memories throughout the year.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead, and the district is thankful to once again have its students and staff together. With the school year now underway, Monett Schools is grateful for the strong sense of community surrounding its schools and looks forward to a rewarding year ahead.



The Cubbies Awards

Monett Schools is proud to honor outstanding teachers, staff, and community partners through The Cubbies. These awards highlight the people who make **The Monett Way** come alive each day, modeling the Core Values and supporting the vision of being Student-Focused. Future-Driven.

Throughout the school year, Monett Schools will celebrate:

- Teacher & Staff of the Month
- Teacher, Staff, & Community Partner of the Year
- Retiree Recognition

The Cubbies are more than awards, they are a reminder that the heart of Monett Schools is its people. By celebrating dedication, collaboration, and service, Monett Schools continues to build a culture of excellence that ensures every learner thrives.

Help Us Celebrate Our Cubbies!

Know a Monett Schools staff member who deserves a little extra recognition? Help us celebrate the people who make a difference each day by submitting a Cubbies Award nomination!

Scan the QR code to submit your Cubbies Award nomination today!

