PRIDE & PROGRESS

FREE

MONETT MATTERS AWARD PRESENTED TO MONETT MAIN STREET — PAGE 6



<<< XC TEAMS RUN IN AREA RACES

Coffey takes top spot in Big 8 Conference meet. — PAGE 2

MONETT Monthly

TROUTMAN MEDIA LLC

NOVEMBER 4, 2026 | FACEBOOK.COM/MONETTMONTHLY

MONETT SCHOOLS
What: School Board meeting in October
Parent: Speaks to board about multiple issues at district she'd like to see addressed
More: Dual credit, advisory class, grading scale, discipline all part of parent's concerns

Parent lobs issues at School Board

Dual credit, advisory class, grading scale, discipline addressed at meeting

BY MELONIE ROBERTS
Special to the Monett Monthly

A concerned parent spoke to Monett School Board members during their October meeting, addressing multiple issues pertaining to student success, well-being and more.

Mareena Snarey, mother to a student enrolled in Advanced Placement classes, shared her thoughts.

"The district's motto, proudly declaring Monett R-1, is student-focused, future-driven," she said. "Unfortunately, a growing gap exists between that public slogan and the daily operational reality experienced by students and families. We're here tonight not to air issues between the agreements, but to address systemic administrative and policy failures that obstruct student success, compromise student well-being, and invite severe institutional liability.

"First, we'd like to address dual credit and online scheduling. Academically qualified underclassmen interested in tackling rigorous college coursework are permitted to enroll in dual credit classes. This is good. However, unlike upperclassmen, they are subjected to rigid, blanket restrictions with zero administrative waiver mechanisms. For example, they must sit in the library during the hour they are scheduled for their dual credit class, even if they regularly perform the coursework outside of school. For students who share transportation, this restriction could create transportation bottlenecks. This best current practice fails to support the individual needs of students."

Snarey said secondly, again at the high school, instructional time is being heavily compromised by extended advisory periods.

"The routine inclusion of 40 minutes of advisory class for non-academic portfolio build-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

OUR FARMS, OUR TABLES



Cassie Branch, serving as master of ceremonies for the Farm to Table dinner, welcomed guests and offered credits for participants in Monett Main Street's first elegant dinner event. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Main Street Farm to Table event draws crowd, celebrates producers

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Main Street held its inaugural Farm to Table fundraising dinner on Oct. 17 in downtown Monett.

The event showcased food from local producers and entertainment from local artists. Cheese and milk came from Stil Dreamn Dairy, of Conway, the closest creamery to Monett. Circle M Meats, of Monett, provided meat for the meal. Tudie's Fruities, from Pierce City, supplied honey. Wildly Baked, from rural Monett, provided sourdough bread.

More goodies came from the Bread Basket and The Hidden Bake House, regular vendors at the Monett Farmers Market. The University of Missouri Extension dipped into resources at the Southwest Research Center to provide Chambourcin grapes and persimmons that had been made into jams as toppings. The Chambourcin grapes also were part of the wine from Pennington Winery, of Carthage, that were available for the evening. Locally grown dried Jujube fruit from the Southwest Center was served as a dessert item, taking on an apple-like flavor.

Cassie Branch, program director for Monett Main Street, explained to the participants that students from the Monett GO CAPS program grew pumpkins as their capstone project in anticipation of the event. They also acted as servers and part of the clean-up crew.

Main Street obtained a special permit from the city to connect Briar House brewery to the event, and closed Broadway between Fourth and Fifth streets to erect a tent for serving in the street. Musical entertainment was provided by singer-songwriter Mark Chapman of Pierce City and Ann Davy, cellist, and Carla Wootton, pianist, from the Ozark Festival Orchestra. Serving was done in the Monett Historical Society's Events Center and dining was outdoors under the tent.

Undertaken as a pilot

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

BARRY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT
What: Has signed Task Force Model (TFM) 287(g) agreement
For: Allows local officers to assist ICE with immigration arrests and detentions in Barry County
More: Barry County is one of 61 in Missouri that has agreement

Barry County teams with ICE

Sheriff's Office joins adjacent counties in Task Force Model agreements

BY SHEILA HARRIS
sheilaharrisads@gmail.com

On Sept. 16, the Barry County Sheriff's Office signed an agreement to partner with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Task Force Model (TFM) 287(g) agreement will allow local officers to assist ICE with immigration arrests and detentions in Barry County.

The ICE website states that local law enforcement officers "will get access to ICE resources and training." After completing a 40-hour, online training course, the TFM agreement will give Barry County deputies broad discretion for immigration enforcement.

According to 287g.recovered-factory.net (a Muck Rack journalism project that tracks law enforcement agreements with ICE across the nation), TFMs allow officers to make first contact, and [to] arrest based solely on suspected immigration status."

"Officers can question anyone about immigration status during any encounter; access Department of Homeland Security Databases; make civil immigration arrests (no state criminal charge required); issue detainers; and initiate removal proceedings," Recovered Factory states.

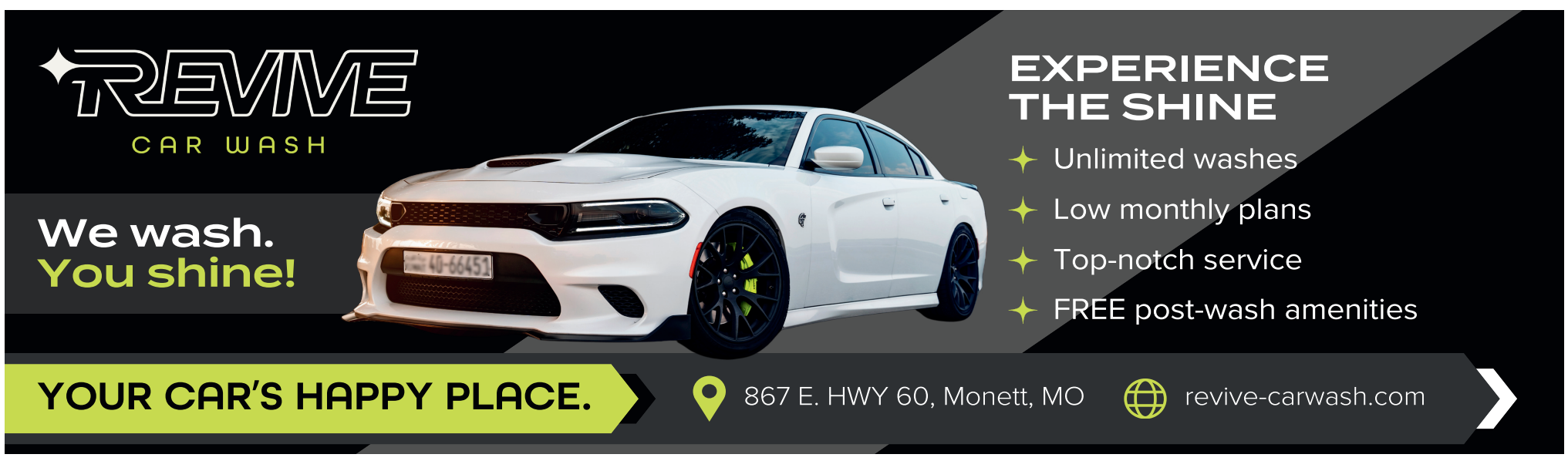
TFMs are distinct from two other forms of ICE agreements: Warrant Service Officers (WSOs) and Jail Enforcement Models (JEMs), which typically apply only to jail settings.

The Barry County Sheriff's Office joins the sheriffs' departments of neighboring counties — Stone, Lawrence and Newton — who also have Task Force Model 287(g) agreements with ICE in place, as do Jasper, Christian and Greene Counties.

As of October 21, a TFM had not been reported for the McDonald County Sheriff's Department. However, municipalities within that county do have TFMs.

In Barry County, in addition to the sheriff's department, the cities of Washburn, Wheaton and Seligman have TFM agreements with ICE.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



MONETT Monthly
NOVEMBER 4, 2026

SPORTS

Sports Reporter Jared Lankford
417-389-0152
monettsports@gmail.com

MONETT WRESTLING
What: Season beginning
Returning: Five wrestlers with state tournament experience
More: Freshman group has potential to contribute

Cubs aim to build on success

5 returning wrestlers bring state tournament experience

BY JARED LANKFORD
monettsports@gmail.com

The Monett Cubs wrestling program enters the 2026-2027 season with a solid foundation of returning talent, experienced leadership and a commitment to continued improvement.

Head coach Ben Hohensee welcomes back five wrestlers with state tournament experience, including one returning state medalist, as the Cubs look to build on last season's accomplishments.

However, for Hohensee, success this season will be measured by more than wins and losses.

"Our main goal this season is to focus on the process," he said. "We want our wrestlers to compete freely, confidently, and with a clear mind. We believe the wins will take care of themselves if we remain committed to doing things the right way."

Leading the returning group is Kade Adams (132 pounds), the Cubs' lone returning state medalist. Adams finished fifth at last year's state tournament and is expected to be a major contributor again this season.

Hohensee praised Adams' passion for the sport and his constant desire to improve his offensive abilities.

"Kade sets high expectations for himself, and we look forward to seeing him build on last season's success," Hohensee said.

Senior Henry Reed (190 pounds) returns as a team captain and state qualifier. Reed brings leadership and a relentless work ethic to the wrestling room as he looks to conclude his high school career with a state medal.

Two other seniors, Dyson Cutbirth (120 pounds) and Chris Spears (144 pounds), also return with state tournament experience.

Cutbirth has dedicated his offseason to improving his technique and becoming a more dangerous offensive wrestler. Hohensee believes Cutbirth has the ability to finish his senior campaign on the state podium.

Spears, meanwhile, has demonstrated significant growth throughout his high school career. Hohensee considers him one of the program's most improved wrestlers over the last three seasons and believes his athleticism gives him the potential to make a strong postseason run.

Sophomore Jacob Shaw (113 pounds) rounds out the returning state qualifiers. After an impressive freshman campaign, Shaw has focused on developing more offense to complement his defensive abilities.

A gritty competitor who is difficult to score against, Shaw is another Cub with aspirations of reaching the state podium.

While the five returning state tournament competitors provide a strong nucleus, Hohensee believes other wrestlers have the potential to enjoy breakout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Cubs lock in on Big 8

4 returning starters give Monett hoops high hopes

BY JARED LANKFORD
monettsports@gmail.com

Experience, athleticism and a strong sense of family have Monett basketball coach Andrew Ballock optimistic about the Cubs' chances of making significant strides during the 2026-2027 season.

With four returning starters, seven returning lettermen and a talented group of underclassmen, the Cubs hope to improve on last year's 10-18 record and become a contender in what promises to be a competitive Big 8 Conference race.

For Ballock, who has compiled a 32-51 record at Monett, the excitement surrounding this year's squad goes beyond the talent returning to the hardwood.

"Our guys play extremely hard, are coachable, and want to see each other succeed on and off the court," Ballock said. "We have a very unselfish team, truly nobody cares who scores the points and gets the credit, and we have a very close-knit connected team."

The Cubs finished 2-6 in conference play last season, placing seventh in the Big 8. Monett ended the campaign with a 46-45 victory over Cassville in the opening round of district tournament play before falling to eventual district champion Nevada, 69-46, in the semifinals.

Leading the returning cast is 6-foot-4 senior Jack Stephens, who earned all-conference, all-district and all-area honors last season.

Stephens paced the Cubs in scoring and rebounding, averaging 13.8 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.5 steals per game.

A versatile guard capable of scoring from anywhere on the floor, Stephens has spent the offseason improving his game and getting stronger in the weight room.

Ballock expects even bigger things from his senior standout.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Coffey makes a habit of winning races



With a time of 20:13.70, Monett's Isabell Coffey took first place at the Cassville Pink-Out XC Invitational on Oct. 6 in Cassville. Coffey also won the Big 8 Conference Meet at the Cassville course, turning in a time of 20:07.44. The Class 4, District 2 race was held in Clever on Oct. 31, with results not available at presstime. Kyle Troutman/ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com

LADY CUBS HOOPS
What: Season starting under new coach
Gone: Four starters and six letterwinners
Leader: 6-foot senior Avery Stokes

New era begins for Lady Cubs

Wilson inherits young squad following 18-win season

BY JARED LANKFORD
monettsports@gmail.com

A new coach and a nearly complete overhaul of the starting lineup will greet the Monett Lady Cubs when the 2026-2027 basketball season tips off.

First-year Monett head coach Justin Wilson inherits a program coming off an 18-9 campaign, but the Lady Cubs must replace four starters and six letterwinners, including two of the team's most productive offensive players.

"With a younger team this year and some big shoes to fill, our focus is on growing together and improving each time we take the floor," Wilson said. "We're going to approach our schedule one game at a time, giving every opponent our full attention and focusing on what we can do to become a stronger team."

Wilson enters his first season at Monett with three previous years of head coaching experience and five seasons as an assistant. Candy Gish will serve as his assistant coach.

The Lady Cubs finished 3-6

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

3 Cubs earn Big 8 All-Conference football honors

Nestleroad named to First Team; Washick, Seitz earn Second Team recognitions

BY JARED LANKFORD
monettsports@gmail.com

Three members of the Monett Cubs football team have earned postseason recognition after being selected to the 2026 Big 8 All-Conference Football Team.

Senior wide receiver Carson Nestleroad led the Monett honorees, earning First Team All-Conference recognition, while senior quarterback Dylan Washick and senior wide receiver Brayden Seitz were named to the second team.

Nestleroad was one of three receivers selected to the conference's first team, joining Griffin Cordray of Mount Vernon and Mace Bredeson of Cassville.

The First Team selection capped Nestleroad's senior season as one of the key targets in the Cubs' passing attack.

Washick earned Second Team honors at quarterback after directing Monett's offense throughout the season.

Seneca junior Klay Davidson received First Team quarterback honors, while Cassville senior Jaren Stearns earned Honorable Mention recognition.

Seitz joined Washick on the second team after establishing himself as another weapon in Monett's passing game. The senior receiver shared Second Team honors with Easton Hanes of Seneca and JW Riley of McDonald County.

Monett's three selections all came on the offensive side of the football.

Lamar highlighted the conference selections, claiming two of the league's three major postseason awards.

Senior Terren Williams was named the Big 8 Offensive Player of the Year, while Lamar head coach Jared Beshore earned Coach of the Year recognition.

Williams also earned First Team honors at running back and defensive end.

Cassville senior Easton Hughes was selected as the conference's Defensive Player of the Year. Hughes was also a First Team selection at running back and linebacker.

Other First Team running backs included Will Jackson of Nevada and Williams and Hughes.

On the offensive line, Lamar's Rustin Forst and Seneca's Landyn Hartje earned First Team guard recognition, while Lamar's Logan Martin and Seneca's Landen Hughes were selected as First Team tackles.

Seneca's Jeff Todd earned First Team honors at center, while Lamar's Brady Gire was the First Team tight end.

Brayden Wolfe of Lamar earned First Team all-purpose back honors, and Cassville's Dade Zajac was selected as the conference's top kicker.

Defensively, Lamar's Chase McCulloch, Cassville's Hughes, McDonald County's Jake O'Brien and Mount Vernon's Cordray earned First Team linebacker recognition.

The First Team defensive back selections included Nevada's Will Jackson, Seneca's Brant Laughlin and Lamar's Toby Ansley and Waylon Nolting.

Lamar also placed Luis Salas and Logan Martin on the first team at defensive tackle, while Williams and Seneca's Aiden Crane earned First Team defensive end honors.

Nevada's Kyndrek Atkins received First Team punter recognition, while Lamar's Nolting was selected as the First Team return specialist.

Mount Vernon was represented by several players on the All-Conference squad.

Cordray earned First Team recognition on both sides of the football as a wide receiver and linebacker. He also received Honorable Mention honors at punter.

Jett Zerby was named a Second Team defensive back, while Garrison Nordyke received Honorable Mention recognition in the secondary.

Memphis Montgomery earned Honorable Mention honors at running back and defensive tackle.



NEWS BRIEFS

Leadership Summit on Nov. 5

The Drury Monett 15th Annual Leadership Summit will be held on Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Monett City Park Casino, located at 101 S. Lincoln Ave. in Monett, from 6:30-8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. There will be appetizers and networking from 6:30-7 p.m., then speakers from 7:30-8 p.m. Speakers include: Mark Walker, chairman and CEO of Transland, Board of Trustees for Drury; Renee Swearingen, senior VP & chief accounting officer for Jack Henry; and Keith Zoromski, provst and vice president of academic affairs at Mineral Area College.

St. Lawrence Fall Feast on Nov. 8

The St. Lawrence Fall Feast will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Church, , located at 405 7th Street in Monett. The meal will include turkey, ,ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, salad, bread and desserts, all home-made by the PCCW. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children 5-11 and free for children under 5.

Route 66 impact discussion on Nov. 14

The Monett Historical Society will host a session on Route 66's impact on the local area on Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Monett Museum, located at 422 Broadway in Monett.

Chamber, state hosting economic development meeting on Nov. 18

The Monett Area Chamber of Commerce and Missouri Department of Economic Development will host an Economic Development Informational Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 11-11:30 a.m. at the Monett Chamber Community Room, located at 200 E. Broadway in Monett. Targeted toward businesses in Monett and surrounding communities, the 30-minute presentation is designed to help businesses better understand the resources, programs, incentives and support available through the state. Topics include Missouri One Start, the state's training reimbursement program, the Credential Training Program, and the job creation program called Missouri Works. People wishing to attend may email director@monettchamber.com to register.

Turkey Waddle set for Nov. 21

The Monett Area YMCA will host the Turkey Waddle 5K on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8 a.m. at the YMCA, located at 115 S. Lincoln Ave. in Monett. Runners, walkers and people cheering them on are all welcome to the all-ages event. The cost for members is $25, and the cost for non-members is $30. Only those registered by Nov. 12 will receive T-shirts. Participants in the 5K will receive a numbered bib for display or to write a time, a T-shirt and a finisher's medal. There are prizes for the top male and female finishers. For more information, people may visit https://www.orymca.org/event/turkey-waddle/.

Monett FFA Chili Supper on Nov. 21

The Monett FFA will host its annual Chili Supper on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 6-8 p.m. at the Scott Regional Technology Center, located at 2 David Sippy Drive in Monett. The event will include a meal, entertainment, silent auction and live auction starting at 7 p.m.

Monett Craft Fair on Nov. 28

The Monett Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the VFW Post No. 4207 Tom Wolfe Memorial, located at 5400 W. Hwy. 60 in Monett. A variety of unique local vendors will be in attendance, and the event will be held on the bingo side of the Post.

Inaugural Doe Drive on Dec 5-6

SWMO Wild Game Feed will host the inaugural Doe Drive on Dec. 5-6, aiming to give game meat to families in need. Anyone wishing to receive meat can reach out to SWMOwildgamefeed@yahoo.com. All deer should be delivered to 2 Creek Butchery, located at 3525 Farm Road 1040 in Monett. Deer for self-processing will also be available. More information is available on the SWMO Wild Game Feed Facebook page.

Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 12

The Dr. Ralph Scott Memorial Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 7-10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1600 N. Central in Monett. The event benefits Scouts Troop No. 38, which serves Monett and surrounding communities. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children 10-and-under, and they may be purchased in advance from the Scouts or Church. Tickets are also available at the door. The meal includes all you can eat pancakes, sausages, coffee, milk and orange juice..

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

Airport roundabout nearing completion



The Missouri Department of Transportation's construction of a roundabout by the Monett Regional Airport, at the junction of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 97, has reached the halfway point. This late October photo looking west shows revisions to the intersection generally finished, with a new median strips at the north (right) and left on Hwy. 97. Construction is expected to conclude by Nov. 20. MoDOT's plans next call for installing another roundabout on Hwy. 60 at Farm Road 1100, east of Cox Monett Hospital. Steve Burnett/special to the Monett Monthly



This was the setting inside the dining tent for the Farm to Table fundraising dinner, hosted by Monett Main Street and set up in the middle of Broadway, outside the Monett Museum. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



This was the serving line for the Farm to Table dinner fundraiser, hosted by Monett Main Street,



Mark Chapman of Pierce City offered an acoustic set, here singing Don McLean's "American Pie" for the attendees at Monett's Farm to Table fundraiser. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Table: Event may be larger in future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

event, Farm to Table sold out of tickets in a few days, boosting total attendance to 81, the limits of the tent size.

Branch said the event reflected "what Monett has to offer."

She deemed the event a success and anticipated another such dinner on a larger scale in the future.

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.

MONETT Monthly

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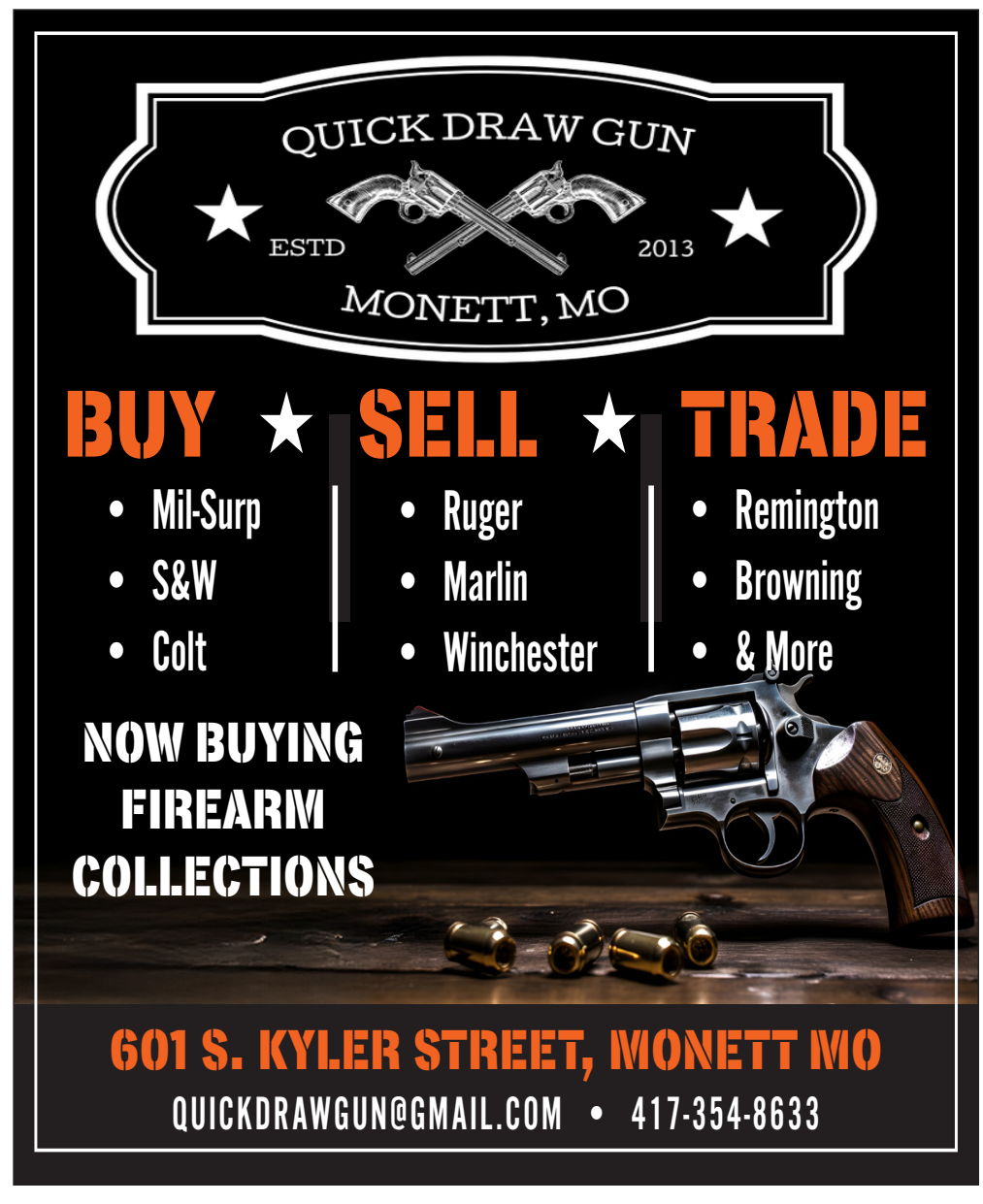
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ABOUT

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

Family health services offered at Barry County Health Department

The Barry County Health Department offers an array of family health services, including women's health, family planning, birth control, and more. In collaboration with the Ozark Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) Family Planning, we offer the following services:

Women's Health Services

Services available for all women of child bearing age: Pap Smears (only age 21+), Breast Exams, Birth Control, Prenatal Counseling, Pregnancy Testing, Confidential HIV/STD Testing, Counseling and Treatment

Show-Me Healthy Women

Free services to women ages 21-64 who are uninsured. Services include: Pap Smears and Mammograms in addition to the services listed in Women's Health Services. In some instances, Specialist consults such as Diagnostic mammograms and ultrasounds as well cervical specialist consults.

Family Planning Services

These may include: Routine gynecological exams (pap smear, pelvic exam, breast exam), Screening and treatment of vaginal infections and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), Pregnancy testing/counseling/referrals, Training on self-breast exams, Education and counseling on birth control options, Prescription and non-prescription birth control supplies.

Birth Control

Methods available include: Prescription Methods: Oral contraceptives (the pill), Birth Control Patch (Ortho Evra), Birth Control Ring (NuvaRing), Depo-Provera (injection), Implant (Nexplanon) by referral, and IUD (Intrauterine Device) by referral. Non-prescription methods: Condoms.

Fees for medical services and contraceptives are on a sliding scale based on income and ability to pay. Medicaid is accepted. No age or marital restrictions for birth control and other services (excluding pap smear, must be 21+).

ALL FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ARE COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.

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.

Monett competes in area XC meets



Monett's Abigail Hurt races to the finish line at the Cassville Pink-Out XC Invitational on Oct. 6. Hurt took 22nd place with a time of 25:29.90. Kyle Troutman/monett-monthly@outlook.com



Monett's Max Thomas goes through the creek bed at the Cassville Pink-Out XC Invitational on Oct. 6. Thomas took 14th place with a time of 19:56.80. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Kyler Burma finishes the Cassville Pink-Out XC Invitational on Oct. 6 in 7th place with a time of 19:33.90. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com



Monett's Jaretzy Chavez Alvarez dashes for 36th place at the Cassville Pink-Out XC Invitational on Oct. 6, turning in a time of 28:21.80. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The purpose of the Commentary page is to provide a forum of various opinions, and we highly encourage letters to the editor. The opinions of columnists are not necessarily shared by *Monett Monthly* or its staff. If you have an opinion, send a letter to Kyle Troutman, Monett Monthly, P.O. Box 486, Cassville, MO 65625, email ktroutman@cassville-democrat.com or scan the QR code to the right to submit a letter online.

ICE: Reimbursements come from federal government

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the ICE website, in exchange for arresting and holding prisoners for ICE, counties and municipalities are eligible for reimbursement through the federal government's State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).

"SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens," states the linked website of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA), the agency responsible for administering the SCAAP program.

According to BJA, an "undocumented criminal alien" is described as one who has been convicted of at least one felony or two misdemeanor violations of state or local law.

In order to qualify for reimbursement from the SCAAP program, prisoners must be incarcerated for at least four consecutive days during a reporting period, and must have been apprehended and convicted in an applicant's own jurisdiction.

Of Missouri's 114 counties, Barry County is one of 61 counties in Missouri that have TFM agreements with ICE. Statewide, as of Oct. 21, Missouri had 144 TFMs in place, which include both county and municipal law enforcement agencies, Recovery Factory reported. Most of the cooperating law enforcement agencies are located across the Missouri Ozarks.

The majority of Task Force Model agreements were signed during the past year.

Barry County's September agreement with ICE preceded the Nov. 3 vote on Amendment 8, which sought to constitutionalize the role of locally-elected county sheriff.

A clause in the ballot language of Amendment 8 states that Missouri's attorney general will be the only person with the authority to remove a sheriff from office.

According to current Missouri law, a sheriff is subject to removal by impeachment if he fails to perform his duties.

Amendment sponsor, Senator Jill Carter (R-Granby), says the additional clause in Amendment 8 will "remove [the sheriff] from the pressure of local political influence."

"We want the sheriff to be able to do his job without being distracted by local politics," Carter said.

In McDonald County, local influence led to the suspension of the City of Noel's recently-appointed marshal, Daniel Vaughn, and the dissolution of Noel's TFM agreement with ICE.

The decision on both measures was unanimously made by Noel City Council after an October 13 meeting, where hundreds of residents showed up to protest the recent arrest and detention of 19-year-old McDonald County High School student, Rodrigo Gonzalez Carbajol, following a high school soccer game against Cassville. Carbajol's immigration case is now in federal court.

In addition to protesting Carbajol's arrest and detention after a routine traffic stop for speeding, McDonald County residents had a broader concern about whether Noel's participation in the 287(g) program had been properly authorized.

According to Newstalk KZRG, Brian Bogart, retired police lieutenant, "questioned whether Marshal Vaughn had obtained proper authorization from the council, and whether established procedures were followed during Gonzalez Carbajol's detention."

"I understand that [287(g)] is a federal program, but federal participation does not eliminate the need for proper local authorization, accountability, or compliance with the law," Bogart told the [Noel] council.

Barry County sheriff, Danny Boyd, was unavailable for comment before presstime.

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Luncheon And Fashion Show
When: Saturday, Nov. 7, 11:30 a.m
Where: Monett City Park Casino
Tickets: $25 In Advance (available at the Museum, Bruner Pharmacy, Freedom Bank, and Flying V in Monett; Whitley's in Cassville); $30 on the day of the event
Proceeds: Go To Monett Historical Society And Museum

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Local Death Notices

Harriet J. Davis • Monett • May 29, 1952 – Oct. 2, 2026
Brenda Rueda • Monett • Oct. 8, 1991 – Oct. 2, 2026
Harry Jay Brown • Monett • Aug. 27, 1944 _ Oct. 9, 2026
Norma C. Pennel • Verona • Oct. 9, 1942 – Oct. 15, 2026
Joan Francis Brown • Monett • June 12, 1948 – Oct. 18, 2026
L D "Lee" Cantrell • Monett • Feb. 8, 1935 – Oct. 23, 2026

Buchanan Funeral Home
director@buchananfuneralhomemonett.com
www.buchananfuneralhomemonett.com
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301 Euclid
Monett, MO 65708
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Fax: 417-235-3117



Monett's Dyson Cutbirth battles an opponent in last year's Monett Tournament. Kyle Troutman/monettmonthly@outlook.com

Wrestling: Cubs look to develop strong culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

seasons.

Several Cubs narrowly missed qualifying for state last season, and the coaching staff is optimistic about the team's developing depth.

A promising freshman class could also contribute as the season progresses.

Several newcomers enjoyed success at the youth wrestling level, and Hohensee hopes that experience will translate into contributions at the high school level.

Leadership will be another important ingredient for Monett's success.

Reed, Cutbirth and Spears are expected to set the tone for the program, not only through their performances on the mat but also through their conduct in the classroom and community.

Hohensee expects his seniors to demonstrate loyalty, responsibility and accountability while holding their teammates to high standards.

On the mat, the Cubs will emphasize improving their ability to create scoring opportunities and maintaining an aggressive approach throughout each match.

"Regardless of the score or the situation, we want our wrestlers to keep pushing the pace, recognize opportunities, and capitalize on them," Hohensee said. "We want to be an aggressive team that competes from the opening whistle to the final whistle and never stops looking for ways to score."

Monett will face a challenging schedule against quality competition throughout southwest Missouri.

Hohensee believes the area's strong wrestling tradition will provide the Cubs with valuable experience and prepare them for the postseason.

One date the coach hopes the community will circle on its calendar is December 8, when Monett hosts an Assembly Dual against Reeds Spring and Hillcrest at 1 p.m.

The event offers an opportunity for students, families and community members to support the program and experience the excitement of high school wrestling.

Beyond the returning talent and postseason aspirations, Hohensee believes one of the program's most distinctive characteristics is the number of first-generation wrestlers involved.

Many Cubs come from families without previous wrestling experience, creating an opportunity to establish new traditions and develop a lasting appreciation for the sport.

The enthusiasm of those wrestlers and their families has helped shape a culture built around trust, accountability, relationships and personal growth.

For Hohensee, developing that culture is every bit as important as developing successful wrestlers.

"We are excited about the direction of our program and the culture we continue to build," Hohensee said. "Our focus is on getting better every day, holding each other accountable, and trusting the process."

With an experienced group of returning wrestlers, promising newcomers and a commitment to improvement, the Cubs are hoping that process will translate into another successful season on the mat.

Hoops: Monett opens season Nov. 24 at home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"He is a long, athletic, and crafty guard who can score at all levels in multiple ways," Ballock said. "He has a chance to be one of the best players in our area."

Stephens shares the backcourt with senior Bryce Hoyt, a 5-10 point guard who started every game last season.

Hoyt averaged 5 points, 2.4 rebounds, 2 assists and 1.5 steals per contest.

While his contributions don't always stand out in the scoring column, Ballock considers Hoyt the emotional leader of the Cubs.

"He is the heartbeat of our group," Ballock said. "Provides an infectious energy that gets the entire group amped up to play. The team goes as he goes."

Senior Carson Nestleroad gives Monett another experienced and versatile performer.

The 6-1 Nestleroad averaged 3 points, 5.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 2.2 steals last season.

His physicality, basketball intelligence and defensive communication make him a valuable asset for the Cubs. Ballock considers Nestleroad the anchor of Monett's defense and praises his ability to guard multiple positions, rebound and initiate the fast break.

Offensively, Nestleroad's unselfish approach allows him to contribute without needing to be a primary scoring option.

Junior Brady Rhea gives the Cubs another proven backcourt weapon.

Rhea averaged 6.8 points per game a season ago and has developed into one of Monett's most reliable outside shooters.

The 5-10 guard can direct the offense or work away from the basketball, giving Ballock additional flexibility with his lineup.

Senior Henry Walker, a 6-1 forward, also returns after averaging 4.1 points per game. Walker's length and athleticism allow him to defend multiple positions, finish around the basket and stretch opposing defenses with his outside shooting.

One player Ballock is particularly excited to welcome back is junior Justin Arias.

The 6-3 Arias missed all of last season with a back injury but is expected to provide an immediate boost with his size, physicality and athleticism.

Arias can play multiple positions and possesses the quickness to attack defenders off the dribble.

Monett also expects contributions from sophomores Eli Hildebrand and Tucker Goetz.

Hildebrand is an athletic 5-11 guard whose quickness allows him to pressure opposing ball handlers the length of the floor. His improved three-point shooting should make him another offensive option.

Goetz, a 5-10 point guard, brings toughness, leadership and a strong understanding of the game. His ability to direct the offense and knock down perimeter shots gives the Cubs additional depth in the backcourt.

Two newcomers who could contribute are junior Jamen Thomas and sophomore Jayden Parks.

Thomas is a quick, energetic defender capable of creating problems for opposing offenses and helping Monett increase the tempo.

Parks has impressed the coaching staff during the offseason with his ability to attack the basket, finish around the rim and connect from three-point range.

The biggest loss from last year's team is forward Alex Meeks, who graduated after averaging more than 13 points per game.

Meeks provided a difficult matchup for opponents with his combination of size, perimeter skills and versatility. He also served as a vocal leader for the Cubs.

Replacing his production will require a collective effort from Monett's returning players.

Ballock believes this year's roster is particularly well-suited to playing an up-tempo style of basketball.

With a combination of speed, athleticism and depth, the Cubs plan to push the ball in transition while applying aggressive defensive pressure.

"This year our personnel will allow us to play really fast on both ends of the floor," Ballock said. "We have great speed and athleticism that will allow us to play in transition as much as we possibly can, as well as enough depth to play a lot of guys and stay fresh for the entire 32 minutes night in and night out."

Improved shooting will also be important for Monett.

Last season, the Cubs averaged 48.5 points per game while surrendering 53.9. They connected on just 37.4 percent of their field goal attempts, including 23 percent from three-point range, and shot 58.2 percent from the free-throw line.

With several returning players showing improvement in their shooting during the offseason, Ballock hopes the Cubs can become a more efficient offensive unit.

The Big 8 Conference race figures to be another challenge.

Nevada, which eliminated the Cubs in last year's district tournament, enters the season as one of the teams to watch, although Ballock believes the conference race could be more balanced than in previous years.

"I believe that the conference is as even as it's been in my four years here at Monett," Ballock said. "I think there's a lot of teams on any given night that can beat one another."

Rivalry games against Mt. Vernon, Cassville and Aurora will highlight the conference schedule.

Monett will host Mt. Vernon on Jan. 26, travel to Cassville on Feb. 5 and visit Aurora on Feb. 12.

The Cubs will also face larger-school competition against Carthage and Neosho and participate in the Neosho Holiday Tournament and the 60th annual Crane Pirate Invitational.

Monett opens its regular season Nov. 24 at home against McAuley Catholic.

For the Cubs' senior leaders, the opportunity to finish their high school careers together provides added motivation.

Stephens, Nestleroad and Hoyt have played together for years and believe their familiarity and chemistry could be major advantages this season.

"I think this season will be a huge step in the right direction," Stephens said. "We have four starters returning, so we have a lot of chemistry and experience going into this season. I think that gives our team a lot of confidence."

Nestleroad echoed those sentiments.

"I am excited to compete one final year with my teammates," Nestleroad said. "We have been putting in a lot of work this past offseason and built memories together. I also believe we have a great opportunity to do something special that has not been done in a long time here in Monett."

Hoyt believes the Cubs have the potential to make a serious postseason run.

"Everybody on the team knows their role and everybody wants to succeed," Hoyt said. "I cannot wait for the season to start and I believe we have a shot to win the district title."

For Ballock, however, the focus remains on daily improvement rather than looking ahead to postseason possibilities.



Monett's Avery Stokes looks to lead the Lady Cubs into the 2026-27 hoops season. MSL Photography/ Special to the Monett Monthly

Lady Cubs: Developing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in Big 8 Conference action last season before falling to East Newton, 46-39, in the opening round of the Class 4 District 12 tournament.

The biggest challenge facing Wilson will be replacing the production of graduated standouts Kilee Wilson and Meredith Merriman, who combined to average 32.2 points per game.

Kilee Wilson paced the Lady Cubs with 18.2 points, 6.2 rebounds, nearly three assists and 3.5 steals per contest. She connected on 47 percent of her two-point attempts, 32 percent from beyond the arc and 74 percent from the free-throw line.

Her performance earned all-district and second-team all-conference honors.

Merriman provided another consistent offensive threat, averaging 14 points, 8.5 rebounds and nearly two steals per contest. She shot 45 percent from two-point range and 31 percent from beyond the three-point arc, earning all-district and honorable mention all-conference recognition.

The graduation of Kalli Hohensee and other seniors leaves additional holes in the lineup, with the departing players accounting for considerable scoring, rebounding and defensive production.

Returning to anchor the Lady Cubs is 6-foot senior Avery Stokes, who will be counted on to shoulder a larger offensive load.

Stokes averaged 8.5 points and 8.1 rebounds per contest last season while shooting 51 percent from the field. She also averaged nearly two blocked shots per game and earned all-conference defensive recognition.

A dependable presence in the post, Stokes combines reliable hands and strong basketball intelligence with a solid mid-range shooting touch and passing ability.

Wilson believes her experience and versatility will be critical to Monett's success.

"With her reliable hands, ability to protect the ball and strong Basketball IQ she brings consistency to the lineup," Wilson said.

The Lady Cubs coach expects Stokes to become a more prominent scoring option while continuing to provide a strong defensive presence around the basket.

Junior McKenzie Waterman is another player expected to assume additional responsibility.

The 5-foot-11 Waterman gained valuable experience as a sophomore, appearing in 23 varsity contests while averaging 1.1 points and 2.5 rebounds per game.

Wilson said Waterman's offseason development has created optimism about what she can contribute.

"She gained valuable varsity experience as a sophomore last season, and we expect to see a significant jump in her production this year," Wilson said. "She brings energy to the floor and the growth she showed throughout the summer has us excited about the impact she can make on both ends of the court."

With several varsity positions available, a pair of newcomers could make immediate contributions.

Junior Brycelynn Courtios, a 5-foot-10 prospect, brings scoring ability and defensive versatility to the lineup.

Wilson believes Courtios has the potential to become an important contributor after an impressive offseason.

"Her ability to score and defend will make an immediate impact and we are excited to see what she can accomplish," Wilson said.

Sophomore Jennna Hernandez is another newcomer the Lady Cubs coach expects to contribute.

The 5-foot-5 guard enjoyed a strong summer and should provide additional quickness and defensive intensity.

Wilson believes Hernandez's offensive development could also make her a valuable addition to Monett's rotation.

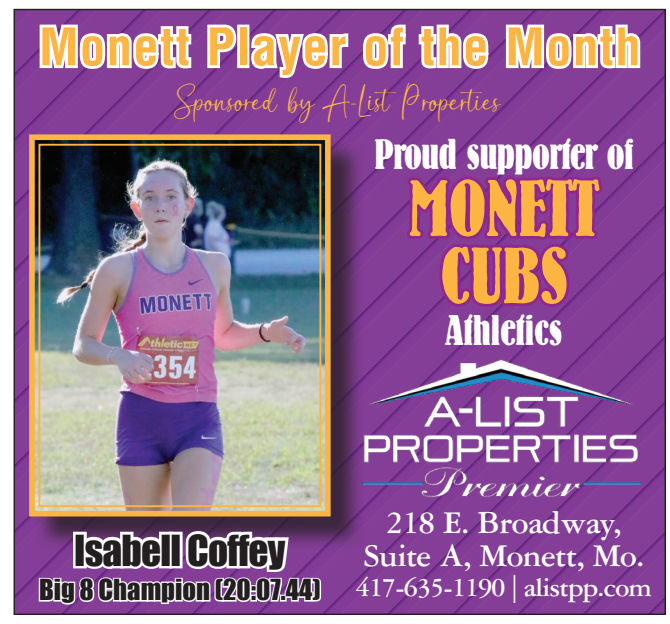
"She will bring intensity to the Defense and be able to surprise you on the offensive side," Wilson said.

While replacing the production of last year's senior class will be difficult, the Lady Cubs have an experienced post presence in Stokes and several younger players eager to establish themselves at the varsity level.

The challenge for Monett will be developing offensive consistency and team chemistry while competing against a demanding Big 8 Conference schedule.

For Wilson, the priority is not attempting to replace last year's team overnight, but developing a new group capable of establishing its own identity.

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Double 60th celebrated



On Oct. 18, family and friends joined Kathy and Bob Schuman and Linda and Harold Schelin at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church to celebrate 60 years of marriage. The Schelins were married in Coffeyville, Kan., on Aug. 13, 1966, and the Schumans were married in San Diego, Calif., on Oct. 21, 1966. Harold served in the U.S. Army and Bob in the U.S. Navy. The Schelins have two married children and three grandchildren. The Schumans have four married children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In a current congregation of eight regular worshippers, God has provided a church home for four members, since 1997. Front row, from left: Robert Schuman, Kathy Schuman, David Schuman and Jennifer Schuman. Back row: Jeff Saewert, Austin Calico, Vickie Schuman Saewert, Mila Heinrichs and Kristy Heinrichs. Contributed photo

Standing for freedom



A new monument has been placed at the northeast corner of Front and Sixth Street in Monett at Freedom Park, prepared by the Tom Wolfe VFW Post No. 4207 in honor of veterans. The back of the monument bears the words "There is no greater act of unselfishness than risking one's life for God-Family-Country." Murray Bishoff/special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Matters Award presented

City revises ordinance governing nuisance violations

BY MELONIE ROBERTS
Special to the Monett Monthly

Monett Mayor Randy Burke presented the Monett Matters Award to representatives of Monett Main Street during the October City Council meeting.

Alyssa Vaughn, president of the organization, and Cassie Branch, program director, were on hand to receive the honor.

"If you look at how much Monett Main Street has accomplished just in the last year, the new mural on top of the silo that is now becoming a national icon, at least, according to Harley-Davidson," he said. "But that's our icon of Monett, restoring something from the past.

"The second thing is the dog park. If you look down there, the dog park's going. We got to get some fence around it, and we're working with Main Street. Those are partnerships with the city, and it is us, organizations working together for the betterment of all, to make downtown a better place."

Burke also noted the recent Roar and Rally, which hosts pep rallies downtown for the football team, as well as October's Smoke n' Sound, a barbecue and music festival, in addition to several upcoming events, were executed by or will be hosted by the organization.

"I want to recognize you guys for all that you've done for the city of Monett, because Monett Matters to you all and we very much appreciate it," Burke said.

In old business, commissioners approved a change in the city ordinance pertaining to petitions to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which corrected an ambiguity in the code regarding a timeline in which residents could argue that "45 days" could be misinterpreted since it did not specify "working days." The ordinance corrects that error.



The October recipient of the Monett Matters Award was Monett Main Street. Pictured from left are Monett Main Street representatives Cassie Branch, program director, and Allyssa Vaughn, president, and Mayor Randy Burke. Melonie Roberts/Special to the Monett Monthly

Commissioners also approved an ordinance changing the speed limit on Waldensian Road from 25 to 35 miles per hour. The specific area impacted by the change includes an area north of the soccer fields at Waldensian Road and Dairy Street to the Monett City Limit sign.

Commissioners approved an ordinance for cost recovery operations on behalf of the Monett Fire Department for supplies and resources used for motor vehicle accidents, swift water rescues, hazmat and technical rescues inside the city limits of Monett for non-citizens."

Fire Chief Brandon Pennington explained the benefits.

"This is going to help my budget out, because we can't predict emergencies, we can't budget for emergencies, so this is going to help replace items that we use on the scene," he said.

The billing process will be overseen by Fire Recovery USA, headquartered in Roseville, Calif.

A change in the city ordinance governing nuisance violations was also amended. The change impacts code enforcement hearings.

The revised ordinance now reads: "Furnish a potential harborage or breeding place for disease carrying insects, arthropods, animals and poisonous snakes. The growth of weeds, brush or other rank vegetation in excess of eight (8) inches in height is declared to be a public nuisance per se, detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the public, and upon the discovery of such nuisance upon any property in the City. The City Administrator may give a hearing after ten (10) days' notice thereof, either personally or by United States mail to the owner or owners, or his, her or their agents, or by posting such notice on the premises; thereupon, the City Administrator may declare the weeds to be a nuisance and order the same to be abated within five (5) days; and in case the weeds are not cut down and removed within the five (5) days, the City Administrator shall have the weeds cut down and removed, and shall certify the costs of same to the City Clerk, who shall cause a special tax bill therefor against the property to be prepared and to be collected by the Collector, with other taxes assessed against the property; and the tax bill from the date of its issuance shall be a first lien on the property until paid and shall be prima facie evidence of the recitals therein and of its validity, and no mere clerical error or informality in the same, or in the proceedings leading up to the issuance, shall be a defense thereto. Each special tax bill shall be issued by the City Clerk and delivered to the Collector on or before the first (1st) day of October of each year. Such tax bills if not paid when due shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum. No proceeding in the Municipal Court of the prosecution of a violation of this Section shall prohibit or be a bar to action by the City for the abatement of such condition and nuisance by the City, and no action by the City for the abatement of such condition and nuisance shall prohibit or be any bar to a proceeding in the Municipal Court for prosecution of a violation of this Section."

Commissioners also approved an ordinance for wastewater pretreatment guidelines to fall into compliance with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for incorporating an associated enforcement response plan.

In new business, commissioners did some housecleaning on the powers granted to the Board of Adjustment. Andrew Miller, development assistant, discussed the issue.

"'Variances' are a legal tool used by the City of Monett's Board of Adjustment to allow for one-off exceptions and one-off exemptions to zoning related matters," Miller said. "For example, the Board of Adjustment may allow for a reduction in the road frontage requirement for residential property from 60 feet to 50 feet. These variances are given on a case-by-case basis. As part of the modernization efforts of the Community Development Department, we additionally provided formal education from the City's Attorneys to our Planning and Zoning Commission to more strictly limit variances in accordance with Missouri State Law.

"Variances do not actually pertain, however, to the above-described variances. The provision provides the Planning and Zoning Commission the power to grant variances, which is, according to city counsel, a violation of state statute. Only Boards of Adjustment can actually hear variance appeals and variance applications, and it was the advice of counsel to remove this section of the code to remove a power that is not effectively granted to a Planning and Zoning Commission."

In other business, commissioners approved:

- An ordinance to replay Lot 1 of Hyde Minor Subdivision into two lots
- An ordinance issuing a surety bond on both the city clerk and the city administrator
- An ordinance with Own Engineering on the Chapel Drive Overpass Project executing a supplemental agreement for contract administration, construction staking, surveying and staking and quality assurance for material testing for the Chappell bridge project, not to exceed $455,950
- An ordinance modifying the Monett Core Conservation District legislation. The ordinance provides for smaller lot sizing to allow for some of smaller single-family residential lots that are within the boundaries of the MCCD.
- An ordinance providing Monett Fire Department with authority to regulate unsafe burning within the City of Monett
- An resolution allowing the City of Monett to apply for Land and Water Conservation funds for improvements to South Park
- A bill authorizing the City Council to enter into an arrangement for engineering services for the Highway 37 sanitary sewer extension.

The next meeting of the Monett City Council will be at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, at the City Annex, located at 100 Maple Street.





City admin offers update to Monett Historical Society

Litany of projects, initiatives reviewed

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Monett Monthly

Mickey Ary, Monett's city administrator, offered a comprehensive update on city projects and initiatives at the Monett Historical Society's October monthly meeting.

Ary recounted how he left a 38-year career in faith-based work to get a degree in public administration, leading to a second career in city administration. In Monett for a year-and-a-half, Ary told about his first visit and being driven around Monett with Mike Garrett and Donna Beckett, catching their enthusiasm about the community. He was immediately impressed by the Monett Area YMCA and recognized the community had something special in play.

"Government moves slowly," Ary learned. "Sometimes it needs a jump start."

That had been part of numerous efforts he recounted underway in the city.

Among these is the railroad overpass on Chapell Drive, the fourth in town. He noted City Engineer Kevin Sprenkle has worked on all of them. A preconstruction conference was planned the day after the meeting, moving the 18-month undertaking forward.

Ary mentioned the recent resurfacing of Broadway and how the public works department replaced the stormwater drainage system on Ninth Street with 52 concrete box culverts, all installed by city crews. He noted work continues to address flooding on Kelly Creek with federal funds. He anticipated action on that effort remained eight to 10 years away.

Planning ahead, he said, had been a key to Monett's successes. He mentioned the $4 million upgrade to Monett's wastewater treatment plant, made more efficient and less energy-reliant by switching to mixing the process with air. Because past planning enabled the city to have strong water pressure throughout town, the city earned 39.5 points out of 40 in a recent review by the Insurance Services Organization, impacting local fire insurance rates.

Sticking to city infrastructure, Ary talked about how the city was building its first electric substation at the north end of Fourth Street that the city will own, the rest remaining property of Liberty Utilities. Likewise, last year the city extended and expanded Lowe's Lane to handle heavy steel for Steel Tech, and advanced plans for sidewalks there.

Reconstruction of Central Avenue, he noted, has been paused while the city council works on building a connector road between Hwy. 37 at North Park and Hwy. H. The connector becomes strategic with the homes being built for the new North Hills subdivision off Farm Road 2230. The same effort coincides with improving fire protection for the area by building a third fire station at Hwy. 37. Ary commended Pete and Betty Rauch for making their adjacent land available for the fire station. He noted discussions about the new station have included making space available for the Barry-Lawrence Ambulance District in it.

Ary noted the city continues to look at ways to improve the intersection at Broadway and Central. He confirmed the city purchased the former Black Kettle restaurant building to possibly help that effort. Action on the building presently depends on an asbestos inspection.

A big part of the city's success Ary credited to partnerships. He cited working with the school district to replace the tennis courts at North Park, expanding them from four to six and making the new courts purple to match school colors. He commended the partnership with PlayPower in adding the new playground at South Park, where the old swimming pool had been located. He talked about inviting local artists to help paint the five concrete hillside benches that remain from the swimming pool days.

The dog park, a collaborative effort with Monett Main Street, is nearing completion. City crews have erected the pavilion, that sat in pieces for seven years, and installed two water fountains for the dogs. He expected the fence to be erected on Nov. 9.

Getting a new roof on the Freedom Silo was another effort done with Main Street. Ary recounted his trip to inspect the "dog house" structure on top with Sprenkle, a harrowing experience due to the height, prompting Ary to decline any future inspection invitations.

The wayfinding signs showing local attractions have been updated to include the Downtown Pavilion, the splash pad, Freedom Park, and the Freedom Silo. At the request of the American Legion Post, the flagpole from the former American Legion Home has been moved to Freedom Park. A new monument recognizing veterans from the two World Wars has been placed at the park by the VFW Post. Sidewalks at the park are being poured. Ary invited his audience to attend a service at the park on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m., where the band will play, speakers from both veterans' organizations will speak, and a flag-raising ceremony will be held.

Ary spoke about coming from a reception for the Monett Arts Council, a group he helped organize which has plans to become a not-for-profit corporation. As part of working with Monett Main Street finding performance venues, Ary talked about reopening the Monett City Hall Auditorium, which is now down to 548 seats from its original 600+. A key to that effort was getting the city hall elevator working again, another accomplishment. He hoped to use the auditorium as a performance venue for downtown events. Ary said talks with the Gillioz Theatre staff in Springfield led to interest in bringing shows from that Springfield venue to the auditorium, another of contractor M.E. Gillioz's creations.

Ary recounted how he and Alyssa Vaughn from Monett Main Street took a group around town and asked for reactions and what could be improved. This group started Project Curb Appeal. Homes have been selected and identified with yard signs as particularly noteworthy, inspiring others who want to be on the list.

At the Monett Regional Airport, Ary said there are plans in the near future for a ribbon-cutting at the new 80-by-80-foot hangar. Around 20 aviators want to park their planes at the airport and have been looking for hangar space. The new hangar will accommodate some of them.

Ary recounted how the City Annex at Maple and County Road was renovated into a major meeting facility for city business. He mentioned new businesses in town such as Amazon, 7 Brew, the Patriot Mart, and Vaughn Recycling. Another initiative is looking at building a new gateway sign to welcome visits to town, similar to the ones in Republic and Aurora. Ary hoped those plans could be unveiled at the State of the City address in January, along with its location around the Hwy. 37-60 intersection.

Ary also mentioned groups like Monett Cares, that took over the Community Garden this year; the Monett Area Chamber of Commerce and its new executive director, Cheryl Caraway; and churches that have helped paint fire hydrants. He described how the online Monett Minute videos started, bringing additional TV coverage to Monett.

"People deserve to be told what's going on," Ary said. "It's all about telling the story of Monett."

The Monett Historical Society will host a fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 7 at the City Park Casino. The next membership meeting at the Museum's Events Center will be on Nov. 17.

Hunting for a Cause again supports fight against breast cancer



The Architectural Systems Inc. team won the trophy for the second annual Fighting for a Cure fundraiser for the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks on Sept. 26. The event, organized by Firefighters Local No. 2001, is a "Survivor"-style activity event, sending nine teams to 13 different sites to engage in challenges to earn points. The ASI team took first with 617 points, ahead of last year's winning team from Morgan Hollow Bookstore with 536 points. Pictured, from left, are: team members Faith Schmidt, Kenzie Gage, Lakin Henderson, and Sierra Jastal. By the last week in October, with fundraising continuing each Friday in the parking lot of First State Bank of the Ozarks in Monett, event organizer Dustin Stellwagen reported the effort to date had raised $11,500 to support services through the Breast Cancer Foundation. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Architectural Systems team is pictured here at Team Fusion engaging in karaoke. Pictured at left is Sean Jastal, with team member Sierra Jastal. Others, from left, were Lakin Henderson, Kenzie Gage and Faith Schmidt. Competing teams had challenges from bowling to throwing darts and knocking down cones with rolling tires at ASI or water blasted from a fire hose at Fire Station No. 2. Brian Stellwagen, chief organizer of the event for Firefighters Local No. 2001, said the total raised for the event would not be tabulated until the end of October. Firefighters sell T-shirts on Fridays in October, designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, at the parking lot of First State Bank of the Ozarks on Cleveland Avenue, and had a silent auction pending to close the event. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



The Hunt for a Cause fundraiser for the Breast Cancer Foundation of the Ozarks offered a variety of challenges for teams to earn points. The team from the City of Monett is pictured here posting a team photo in front of the Freedom Silo. Team members were, from left, Mickey Ary, Mike and Kat Gervais, and Jason Whisman. Mike Gervais/Special to the Monett Monthly



Here is the City of Monett team spray painting a car at Thomas Towing as one of the challenges in the Hunt for a Cause fundraiser, run by Firefighters Local 2001 of the Monett Fire Department. Pictured are team members Jason Whisman, Mickey Ary and Mike Gervais. Kat Gervais/Special to the Monett Monthly

Go the extra yard for local patients

Give blood, score a free Chiefs T-shirt

Football season is in full swing, and community members can go the extra yard for local patients by donating at the upcoming Monett Community blood drive on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Community Blood Center of the Ozarks (CBCO), the sole supplier of blood, platelets and plasma to patients at more than 40 area hospitals, is teaming up with the Kansas City Chiefs to encourage fans to make an impact beyond the football field.

All successful donors will receive a long-sleeve Kansas City Chiefs T-shirt, while supplies last. Donors will be automatically entered for a chance to win a tailgate prize package valued at more than $1,400, featuring a $250 Walmart gift card, YETI cooler, Blackstone tabletop grill and Chiefs swag.

Blood donations collected through CBCO help provide the blood products needed by patients at Cox Monett Hospital, as well as over 40 other hospitals throughout the Ozarks. Monett area residents can donate at:

Monett Community Blood Drive

Monett Area YMCA – Event Center

115 S. Lincoln Ave, Monett

Tuesday, November 10 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Every blood donation is an opportunity to step up for someone in our community who may need a transfusion," said Michelle Teter, Media Relations Representative at Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. "The Chiefs promotion gives donors a fun way to go the extra yard this season, but the real impact is knowing your donation could be there when a local patient needs it. We hope football fans and community members will join us and make an important play for local patients."

To help avoid wait times, appointments are strongly encouraged. Donors can schedule an appointment at www.cbco.org/chiefs or by calling 417-227-5006.

Photo identification is required. Donors should eat well and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating.

"On behalf of local hospital patients, Community Blood Center of the Ozarks thanks blood donors from across the region for giving life to your community," a press release said.

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Larry Howard, retiring Monett parks superintendent, posed with the plaque of the city's emblem that he received as a retirement gift during a reception in his honor on Oct. 28.
Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Howard retires as Monett parks superintendent

BY MURRAY BISHOFF
Special to the Monett Monthly

Larry Howard, who has worked on Monett's parks for 22 and a half years, retired at the end of October. A reception in his honor was held on Oct. 28 at Monett City Hall.

Howard served for 21 years as the North Park superintendent. He concluded his tenure in the newly created position of parks superintendent, beginning in 2025.

Howard found it difficult to name one thing about which he was most proud in his career.

"I enjoyed working with the grass, and the school district on the ball fields," he said. "It was a lot of fun working as parks superintendent with the Freedom Park, the dog park, the upgraded North Park, the new playground at South Park, and the new tennis courts at North Park."

Eyeing future city projects he leaves behind, Howard spoke about starting the new botanical garden at South Park, laying the groundwork for new pickleball courts, which came into existence by converting old tennis courts, and renovating the Frisco caboose.

"I was excited to see the green barn [at North Park] go away," Howard said. "We've come a long way since 2004."

As for his future plans, Howard vowed to do nothing in the near future.

"I'm going to enjoy one day at a time," he said.



School: Community forum requested

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing compresses daily class minutes across core academic subjects," she said. "Those students are missing out on critical educational minutes, pushing a volume of coursework into the evening hours.

"Third, Monett High School's grading scale creates an artificial, competitive disadvantage for students who challenge themselves with advanced placement and dual credit courses. As the administration acknowledges, quote, 'Adopting weighted grades involves more than simply adding points. We would need to determine which courses qualify, consider the effects on class rank, academic honors, transfer students, access to advanced courses, and current students,' or in other words, they recognize that not having weighted grades for more challenging courses will impact class rank and academic honors, yet they are unwilling to do the work to adequately recognize students who elect to take more rigorous coursework. This is not student-focused. This is quite honestly the way to elevate mediocrity."

Snarey's fourth point addressed the rigid enforcement of administrative discipline.

"Recent events demonstrate a troubling reliance on informal tracking notes, messaging apps, and verbal declarations instead of proper statutory due process and official administrative recordkeeping," she said. "The discipline [has been] escalated without clear notification. Fairness is abandoned. Furthermore, deploying reactive measures over minor classroom management issues rather than focusing on education correction introduces immense legal exposure and erodes trust between families and the administration. We'd be happy to discuss in closed session the details on how the district has recently enforced multiple suspensions to address minor student behaviors, but we understand that the details are not appropriate for this public audience.

"Additionally, we have witnessed a complete breakdown in logical and lawful enforcement. How is it lawful or sensible for a district to demand that a student surrender their personal property, such as a cell phone, just to enter school and serve a lesser punishment threatening inflated out-of-school suspensions if they refuse? That is not discipline, that is coercion. Furthermore, the discrepancy between board policy and school enforcement of policy is quite concerning. For example, while district policies state that 18-year-old students are required to sign themselves out of school, in practice at the high school, adult students are retained by the resource officer if the parent has not called to permit them to leave. This disconnect between board and school policy is confusing at best. Student school practices reflect board policies."

Finally, Snarey said, true governance requires transparency.

"Taxpayers and parents face barriers to basic public board packets," she said. "For example, we requested tonight's board packet a week ago, but were told we may not receive it for five more days. Not only does that fail to follow Sunshine laws, this signals a culture of evasion rather than partnership. We have followed the procedures required to address the board stage by having raised concerns to school administration, and having met with [Superintendent] Dr. [Mark] Drake. Yet, a few parents or community members will put themselves under the scrutiny we and our children now face because we dare to speak up against — to express our concerns.

"For this reason, we propose that the school board once again hold a community forum where parents, community members, and school officials come together and discuss openly what is currently happening in the schools. We've been told previously that the board will absolutely not allow an open forum. So we ask, why? Why is there such a tight gatekeeper protocol to keep members of the community from addressing the board? Are you afraid of hearing from community members?"

At that point, Snarey timed out of her five allotted minutes, and the board acknowledged her concerns and noted it would not address those issues at that time.

Steve Garner, assistant superintendent, then discussed concerns with the Middle School HVAC system.

"At our last meeting, we talked about the middle school HVAC that we were in the process of testing the performance and some of the failures that we've been seeing with those units," he said. "We did receive the tests back. So, in our middle school, we have eight different systems within that entire unit. Six of those eight systems have had a failure at some point, and sometimes multiple failures.

"We tested system one in and it came back with oxidation within the pipe, which basically means that it is an installation issue. The thought is that the other five when they're tested would be the exact same. [There have been] multiple failures. So we're going to conduct another test on one of the systems that hasn't had any repair work done on it. The contractor's belief is that, potentially, those two will perform right. We're not really going to know that until we run the test."

Garner added the company had agreed to make repairs to system one.

"LG has sent a recommendation on how to [complete] a total repair on that," he said. "They're also going to test system five. That'll either come back positive, negative, whatever that is, then we'll at least know that maybe system five is okay, and then we'll continue to move on through the [remaining] systems."

Garner said if the company tests two more and they're installation errors, they would probably stop testing and just make repairs throughout the entire system.

"We've got another meeting on November 4th," he said. "I will say that all of the parties have been at these meetings, the contractor, the mechanical engineer, uh, two HVAC companies, the one that installed them, the one that's been doing the repairs and we've had good discussions. I think we're moving in the right direction to finally resolve this issue."

Isaac Sooter, assistant superintendent, reported on curriculum and student instruction focuses for October.

"Our academic work this month is focused on consistent instruction, support for teachers, and using student learning to guide our next steps," he said. "The goal is straightforward: students should have access to strong teaching and clear expectations in every Monett classroom. Carrie Smith and Heather Romine are supporting this work through coaching cycles, classroom learning walks, and professional development across buildings.

"New Cub Academy and curriculum days give new teachers additional support with classroom culture, student engagement, and instructional planning. These efforts help teachers put district expectations into daily practice. Curriculum work continues in English language arts and mathematics to ensure lessons align with the Missouri Learning Standards. Teachers are also reviewing science assessments and pacing. Writing professional development is helping grade levels establish shared goals and common classroom expectations so students build their skills consistently as they move through school."

Another priority is helping teachers use assessment information to make instructional decisions.

"Professional learning is focused on comparing what students know before instruction with what they can demonstrate afterward," Sooter said. "This helps teachers identify students who need additional support,

students ready for more challenging work, and lessons that need a different approach. The Profile of a Cub is also becoming more visible in classrooms. Students are receiving lessons connected to its five competencies and creating artifacts during CUBS time that demonstrate those skills. Recognizing progress toward academic and personal goals helps students take ownership of their learning. Our focus moving forward is to use student work and assessment results to determine where these efforts are making a difference and where we need to adjust."

Sooter also reported the Missouri State School Board Association has been working primarily on state district's A-F designations that they were behind on providing this year's Annual Performance Report (APR).

"That's been pushed back," he said. "I would typically update you on APR next month, November, that that is not going to happen. We probably won't get that until December at this point."

Sooter also proposed formulation of a cohort program designed to encourage instructors to pursue continuing education to develop in-house masters in administration, within the next three to 10 years.

"We want to make sure we're building up leaders within the school district," he said. "Our plan would be to come to [the board] next month with a plan to start a masters in administration cohort with anywhere from 8-14 people within the district. We want to try to grow our own in the administrative ranks."

The next meeting of the Monett Board of Education will be at 6 p.m. on Nov. 19, at the administrative offices, 710 Ninth Street.

FOLLOW MONETT MONTHLY ON FACEBOOK

VFW draws crowds with Fall Festival



Activities for kids became a main attraction for the VFW Fall Festival on Oct. 25. Cambree Cash, 8, of Purdy, tried her hand at painting a tiny pumpkin into Spider-man. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

Tom Wolfe Memorial Post No. 4207, Veterans of Foreign Wars, hosted its annual Fall Festival on Oct. 25 on the grounds of the Post, west of Monett.

In addition to serving free chili and hot dogs, Post and Ladies Auxiliary members handed out free books, provided hot chocolate drinks, hosted a petting zoo, offered hay rides, had bounce houses for kids to enjoy, and had a laser tag playground set up for young people seeking adventure.

A Barry-Lawrence Ambulance District crew was on hand to share candy. Many children came in costume as a warm-up for Halloween.



Waylon Worm, 6, took the opportunity to enjoy one of the bounce house slides at the VFW Fall Festival. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Laser tag offers an engaging opportunity to dash around barriers and enjoy faux combat. Visitors to the VFW Fall Festival had ideal weather conditions to enjoy the game outdoors on the lawn of the Post. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly



Enjoying the animals in the petting zoo at the VFW Fall Festival were Mavis Zabala, center, and Maelee Witt, 5. They had seeds to share with a sheep, goat, and donkey, all of which seemed eager for attention. Murray Bishoff/Special to the Monett Monthly

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MONETT SCHOOLS

STUDENT FOCUSED. FUTURE DRIVEN.

Purple Reign **2026-2027 School Year** **November 2026**

NJHS National Honor Distinction

Monett Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) chapter has earned national recognition for its outstanding commitment to leadership, service, and making a positive impact on the school and community. The chapter received the NJHS Chapter of Distinction Award, a national honor recognizing chapters that demonstrate strong student leadership, academic excellence, and a dedication to serving others. NJHS is supported by its parent organization, the National Principals Association (NPA), which also oversees the National Association of Student Councils.

Throughout the year, NJHS members take an active role in giving back to the Monett community. One of their most recognized contributions is organizing the annual Veterans Day Assembly, a special tradition that brings students, veterans, and community members together to honor those who have served our country.

Students also organize activities and visits with residents at Oak Pointe, a local retirement community. These opportunities allow students to build relationships, learn from older generations, and experience the importance of serving others.

Beyond these activities, NJHS members participate in individual and group service projects that encourage responsibility, teamwork, and community involvement.

"The NJHS Chapter of Distinction Award celebrates chapters that truly embody what the National Junior Honor Society stands for - students who don't just excel academically but actively strengthen their communities," said NPA CEO Ronn Nozoe. "The Monett Middle School chapter demonstrates how powerful it can be when young leaders channel their talents toward meaningful service and positive change."

The NJHS Chapter of Distinction Award is a national recognition program honoring chapters that demonstrate strong leadership, effective operations, and a deep commitment to the pillars of the Honor Society. To earn this distinction, chapters must meet the organization's Essential Standards and excel in areas such as student governance and leadership development, while providing students with opportunities to grow as leaders, serve others, and make a positive difference in their schools and communities.

Congratulations to the Monett Middle School NJHS chapter on this well-deserved national recognition! Their dedication to leadership and service reflects the positive impact our students continue to make throughout the Monett community.



Local Donation Supports School Safety

Monett Schools is strengthening its emergency preparedness efforts thanks to a generous donation from Monett Veterinary Hospital. The local veterinary hospital recently donated supplies for 20 bleeding control kits, providing valuable resources to help protect students, staff, and the school community in the event of an emergency.

These kits contain essential medical supplies designed to help control severe bleeding until emergency medical personnel arrive. In situations where every second matters, having these resources readily available can make an important difference. The donation supports the district's ongoing efforts to improve emergency preparedness and provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

Beyond providing critical supplies, this contribution reflects the strong partnerships between Monett Schools and local organizations that care deeply about the well-being of our community. By supporting school safety initiatives, Monett Veterinary Hospital is helping ensure our schools are better equipped to respond when emergencies arise.

Monett Schools extends a sincere thank-you to Monett Veterinary Hospital for its generosity and commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Community partnerships like these play an important role in helping us maintain safe, supportive schools where students can learn and thrive.



MONETT VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Awareness Day

Monett Middle School students participated in the school's annual Awareness Day, a day dedicated to learning valuable life skills, exploring new interests, and gaining knowledge beyond the classroom.



Throughout the day, sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students rotated through interactive sessions covering topics such as CPR and first aid, bullying prevention, seatbelt safety, vaping awareness, and healthy decision-making. Students also enjoyed hands-on activities, including archery, survival skills, and JROTC team-building exercises.



Awareness Day provides students with opportunities to develop practical skills, make informed decisions, and gain knowledge that will benefit them both inside and outside the classroom.



The Cubbies | Celebrating Staff Who Embody The Monett Way



MECC
Yesenia Aguinaga



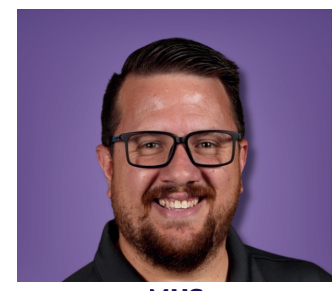
MES
Jilliam Tromler



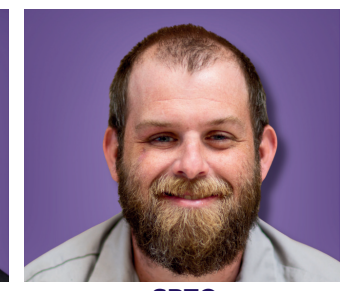
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Ariel Snyder



MMS
Amber Bledsoe



MHS
Jordan White



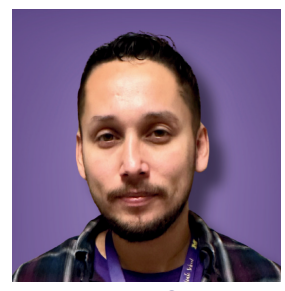
SRTC
Andy Henson



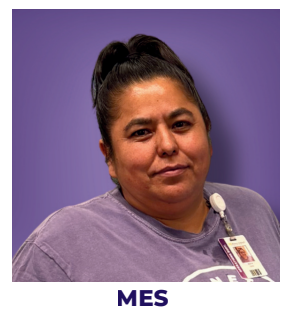
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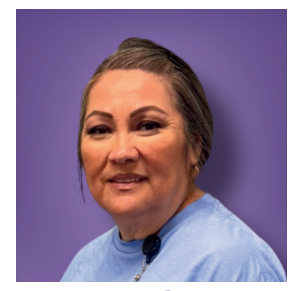
MES
Isabel Campos



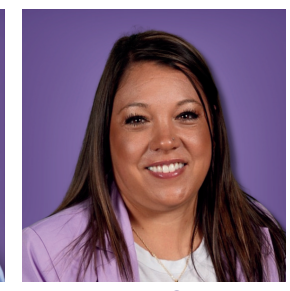
MES
Carlos Hernandez



MES
Maria Vela



MES
Angie Leon



MES
Carissa Smith



MES
Leigh Lemaster

Around the District



The Monett Fire Dept. kicked off Fire Safety Month with special fire safety lessons for our MECC students!



MES students are building reading fluency and confidence during Fluency Friday!



MIS students visited MSU in Springfield to explore future opportunities.



SRTC Health Occupations students had a blast participating in the Monett Cox Health Trunk-or-Treat event!



Monett students and alumni gathered at Juanita K. Hammons Hall for a choir concert featuring two Monett alumni!.



Monett Central Office staff celebrated Dr. Drake's 50th birthday! Happy Birthday, Dr. Drake!