

# Large turnout for Harvest Festival

By RORYE O'CONNOR

rorye.oconnor@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — Hundreds of people enjoyed the sunny and warm weather Saturday for the third annual Southern Illinois Harvest Festival.

With the festival's food and music come contests, like the Midwest Show Boyz Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, the Harvest Festival Parade and the second United Methodist Children's Home Chili Cook-Off.

Jefferson County Board members judged the floats in the parade. Mt. Vernon Health-care Center won the prize for County



Board choice; the A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education of Southern Illinois float won the award for most creative float; Summersville Crime Watch and Jefferson County Crime Watch won the award for general float

see HARVEST/Page 5A 10/18/15

## HARVEST

continued from 1A

winner; Southwest Christian Church was awarded best use of theme; and the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois won the award for most unique float.

As the parade began, an Army CH 47 Chinook helicopter flew low over downtown Mt. Vernon.

Harvest Festival president Derrick Quitsch attended the Fly-In Drive-In at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Saturday morning and met the crew of the Chinook. He said the aircraft is the same as what he flew while serving in the Army in Bosnia in 1997, and so he asked them to make a flyover of the festival.

"All the pilots are a brotherhood, and I asked if they could hook up Mt. Vernon with a flyover," he said. "This is something nobody's gonna forget for a long time."

After the parade was completed, the winners of the car show were announced.

More than 50 cars, trucks or motorcycles were entered into the show. The top 30 received awards, as well as best of show and picks by

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley, Mt. Vernon Fire Department Chief Jim Brown, Mt. Vernon Police Department Chris Mendenall, Jefferson County Sheriff Roger Mulch and Quitsch.

The top 30 winners were Larry Johnson, Stacy Palmer, Kevin Davis, David Park Hill, Leroy Joslin, Gale Gardner, Bob Aydt, Ron and Lois Botkin, James Brake, Robert Lyday, Tony Mezo, Jon Malick and Trixie, Dennis and Phyllis Koontz, Danny Youngblood, Al Jones, Larry Harrison, Mike Brasell, Ken Williams, Bill Jones, Debbie Youroykos, Jack Bicanich, John Cook, Ray Bravard, Mike Boone, Emily Hourigan, Billy Fisher, Jasen Shehorn, Starr Williams, Dennis Quandt and Lyndall Pyle.

The Sheriff's Choice vehicle was the 1959 Corvette of Jim Jackson; the Police Chief's Choice was Eugene and Evonne Brown's 1968

Chevelle; Mayor Mary Jane Chesley chose the 1932 Roadster of Russ Phillips; Harvest Festival President Derrick Quitsch chose the vehicle of Timmy Heck and Relda Odell; and the Fire Chief's Choice was the vehicle of Marylee Holloway.

Ray Sperling's Mustang Convertible won Best of Show.

"It went great," car show organizer Bobby Ellis said. "We couldn't have asked for a better day."

Six competitors in the chili cookoff stirred and sampled all day until voting opened after the parade. Proceeds from the event went to UMCH and the United Way of South Central Illinois.

Organizer Marcus Holland, the development coordinator with UMCH, said there were more than 100 people who voted on their favorite chili, a higher number than last year.

He said the weather had a

lot to do with it, as less people came out for the parade.

There were two categories for competition: People's choice and official judged competition.

Andrew Ulrich of Mt. Vernon won People's choice, while Frank Abbott of Waltonville was chosen as second place for people's choice.

The winners for official judging were Travis Joiner, Sharon Beard and grand prize went to Frank Abbott.

Abbott returned his cash prize to UMCH after winning. His recipe will be featured at the Waffle Company through November and a percentage of all chili sales will go toward UMCH as well.

Abbott said his chili is

spicy, and one of its defining characteristics is smokiness from roasted peppers.

Harvest Festival president Quitsch said he is hoping to continue to expand the fes-

tival in future years, but Saturday's festivities were great.

"I can't ask for a better day than today for anything," he said.