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'Counting' on success: Kids' book by local author teaches numbers

By Scott Roberts
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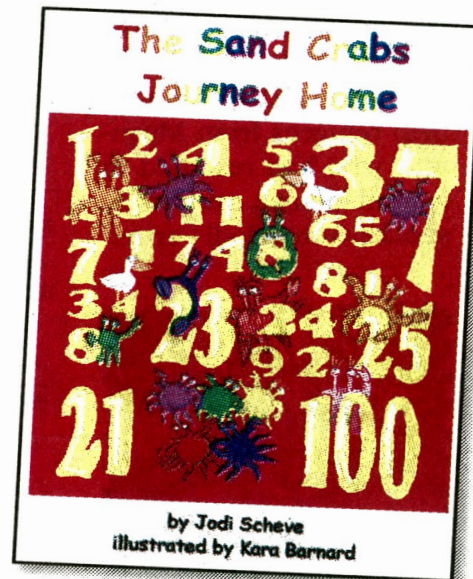
MARTINSVILLE — Martinsville resident Jodi Scheve said each counting book she saw as she was trying to teach her 4-year-old son Richie to count went up by numbers of 10. She didn't know why books didn't go up by fives or single digits, so she decided to write one herself.

Her second book, "The Sand Crabs Journey Home" is now available on Amazon.com and from the Twisted Wick store in Brown County. She said the book has been a great help to her son as he learns his numbers, and hopes it will be a help to other children as well.

"I wrote it as a fun, educational tool," Scheve said. "I found it was easier for my son to relate to books like this."

Scheve said she came up with the idea because she visited Florida a lot when she was a child, and saw the crabs. That fueled her idea to use sand crabs in her story. Her first book she published, "The Cow Jumped Over the ABCs," which she wrote last year, sold out of its 200 copies, and she said she hopes this one is as successful.

She said it was not a hard writing experience, and in fact, was actually fun.



Jodie Scheve's new book, "The Sand Crabs Journey Home," teaches children how to count to 100. The book's cover is shown at left.

COURTESY IMAGE

"This is not a novel," she said.

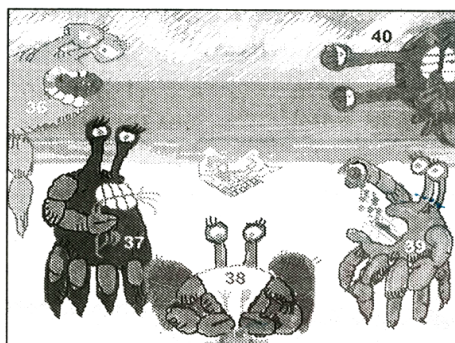
Scheve said the book is about 100 sand crabs trying to find a way back to their parents. The numbers in the book go up by single digits, in order to make it easier, and so children can learn more digits.

"I didn't see anything like this on the market,"

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At right is a page from Jodi Scheve's new book, "The Sand Crabs Journey Home," illustrated by Brown county artist and musician Kara Barnard.

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COUNTING

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she said. "Plus, this way, the kids can not only hear the number, but see the digits as well, so they can learn it both ways."

Like her first book, Scheve worked with Brown County artist and musician Kara Barnard on the

illustrations, and she said it again turned out better than she could have hoped.

"She's very talented and gets the concepts very well of what I'm trying to do," Scheve said. "It works out perfectly."

Scheve said she's planning another book for next year.