

CATO

CONTINUED FROM 2A

will display and demonstrate vintage tractors. At 12:30, there will be a raffle for a quilt donated by longtime member, Sue James of Texas. The highlight of the event begins at 1 p.m. with a hayrack wagon ride, led by Joe Bournonville, to various local historical sites. The hayrack ride and Cato Day will end at 3 p.m. All times are approximate. Booklets about the history of Cato and the Cherokee Neutral Land (present-day Crawford and Cherokee Counties) will be available for sale.

The Cato Store will also sell other Cato-related merchandise, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more. (Cash or check only.) Proceeds from the quilt raffle, “Cowboy Stew,” books, and merchandise support the preservation of Cato’s historic buildings and Cato Kids’ Day, which is held every year for local fourth and fifth-graders. Cato is located in the northern part of Crawford County, off Hwy 69. From Hwy 69, turn west on 720th Avenue, and follow the signs to Cato. Directions can be found at <http://catoschool.com/>. The Cato Historical Preser-

vation Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of Cato and the surrounding area. These buildings include the “Old Stone School,” built in 1869; the Cato Christian Church, built in 1915; and a full-sized replica of a cabin the early settlers would have used in the 1860s. The “Old Stone School” is on the National Register of Historic Places. A stone bridge, part of the “Old Wagon Road,” can also be seen on the property. Cato is an open-air museum, and its buildings are only open to the public a few times a year.

Amazon lifts Wall Street higher

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon led the U.S. stock market on Friday to the finish of another winning week and month. The S&P 500 rose 0.3% and pulled closer to its all-time high set on Tuesday. It closed out a third straight winning week and a sixth straight winning month, its longest monthly winning streak since 2021. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 40 points, or 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.6%. Amazon led the way and jumped 9.6%. The

retail giant was by far the strongest force lifting the market after reporting profit for the latest quarter that blew past analysts’ expectations. CEO Andy Jassy said growth for its booming cloud-computing business has accelerated to a pace it hasn’t seen since 2022. Amazon’s massive size of roughly \$2.4 trillion means its stock movements carry more weight on the S&P 500 than almost any other company’s. Without it, the S&P 500 would have been down for the day. Another highly influential stock, Apple, had

less of an effect on the market even though it’s bigger than Amazon. The iPhone maker, which is worth more than \$4 trillion, swung between modest gains and losses through the day before finishing with a dip of 0.4%. It likewise delivered a better profit report for the latest quarter than analysts expected, though by not as big a margin as Amazon did. CEO Tim Cook said it benefited from strong revenue for both its iPhone lineup and its services offerings, which include its app store.

COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

modities of all different types, from paper and plastic to metal and glass. The issue is that prices for these materials have dramatically fallen. With plastic, for example, Johnson pointed out it is now cheaper to manufacture new plastic than it is to recycle it, which reduces the demand for it. In some instances, the center pays a fee to have materials shipped out. For 2025, the center has generated \$10,000 per month in revenue. However, expenses are double that for labor and overhead (which includes mortgage, insurance, utilities, etc.), meaning the center is running a \$10,000 deficit each month.

The board, on the advice of a consultant, has implemented some cost-saving measures and created new revenue streams. They have opened a money-market account to generate interest income, hosted golf tournaments, increased solicitations for donations, and distributed flyers to expand their business route. To cut costs, the reuse store has been closed, employees have been laid off while wages are kept flat for the remaining employees. Partnerships with Pittsburg State have been renewed to solicit volunteers. A new tunnel line configuration was tried to make drop-offs more efficient.

According to Johnson, at least five recycling centers in Kansas have closed over the past year because of lack of funding and financial pressures. “The old business model just does not work anymore,” Johnson said. For a recycling center to survive, he explained, it must branch out to off-set costs, such as creating a trash collection operation or partnering with municipalities. Going forward, the board offered three solutions for the county and surrounding mu-

nicipalities to consider. The first is no public funding and reducing services. Three employees, along with volunteers, will remain to collect materials only one or two days a week. Everyone who drops off will be charged \$10. The downside with the first option is that Johnson expects to lose half of the customer base, going from 600 a week to 300, which, in turn, reduces the amount of materials collected. The board expects this approach to generate \$12,000 each month in fees and \$4,000 a month in material sales — roughly the same as fixed overhead costs of \$10,000 plus \$6,000 in labor costs per month.

The second option is funding the existing model and hiring a full-time executive for strategic planning. Under this plan, the county and City of Pittsburg each contribute \$5,000 per month to cover overhead and fund an executive position to monitor and oversee the facility.

The last option is to prepare for failure. The county and city would take possession of the property and conduct a request for proposal to allow the facility to be run by an outside entity. The city and county would contribute to or fund an executive position to provide operational and strategic oversight. After much discussion and some brainstorming, no decision was made.

Solar discussion During the regular session, Melissa Rhodes, speaking on behalf of Shasta Power, informed the commission that Dr. Ram Gupta of Pittsburg State declined the commission’s invitation for a public presentation but was willing to talk privately. The invitation for the commissioners to tour the facility at PSU remains open. Rhodes also shared information with the commission about possible batteries to be

used in the solar field. The preferred choice of battery is not yet available but is expected to be by 2028.

Mayor Steve Morrison of Frontenac shared concerns he has heard from his constituents regarding the annexation.

“I have had nobody from Frontenac reach out to me that are for this project,” Morrison said bluntly. “I have had several ask me to do everything I can to make sure it doesn’t happen.” Morrison said when he became mayor two years ago, Mulberry was eight miles away. Now it’s going to be Frontenac’s neighbor, which Morrison said he finds very confusing.

“When settling disputes with our town,” Morrison said, “my main guideline has always been ‘Be a good neighbor.’” Having someone put up solar panels beside your property and devaluing your property is not being a good neighbor.

Morrison also said that, although a few years away, that is the direction Frontenac will grow.

“If that doesn’t impede growth of Frontenac in any way, trying to build around solar panels. No business is going to want to put up anything around a solar panel. It’s just not going to happen.”

Morrison said that this whole thing seems a bit underhanded in the way it’s being done. According to Morrison,

one landowner contacted the City of Frontenac to look into the situation. A promised follow-up call never came.

“I find it really hard to believe that the City of Mulberry all the sudden had this great idea to reach out to Shasta,” Morrison said. “Somebody reached out to them. It’s a money grab.”

Morrison expressed concern about the involvement of Ken Collins. Collins is not only a member of the Mulberry City Council, and voted in favor of the annexation, but also serves in the Kansas House of Representatives, saying this is a conflict of interest in his opinion.

Morrison isn’t sure if the Frontenac City Council will draft an official response at their next meeting on November 12, but Morrison is planning to attend the county’s public hearing on November 13.

To learn more about the work session with SEK-R, go to <https://ishortn.ink/10-31-SEK-R-Proposal> or scan the QR code.

To learn view the regular session, go to <https://www.youtube.com/live/5vnEBftr64w>.

This reporting is made possible, in part, by the Support Local Journalism Project Fund. Learn more at: southeastkansas.org/Localnews



LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

son said. Libraries are allowed to spend the funds however they wish. As of this week, the library does not yet know how the money will be spent, but Clarkson plans to work with the Board of Directors to brainstorm proposals. “It will be something that will have a positive impact on the community,” Clarkson said. Andrew Carnegie

funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries in the United States between 1886 and 1917, and 1,280 still operate and acknowledge the Carnegie link. 750 of the libraries still operate in the original buildings. Pittsburg received \$40,000 to build the library from the Carnegie Corporation in 1909. At the time, the community was hesitant to accept the money because of violence during Carnegie’s steel

mills’ strikes. The money was accepted, but the library was not named after him. Clarkson said the Pittsburg Public Library is one of the few libraries that isn’t named after him.

A plaque dedicated to Carnegie still hangs in the original entrance.

“Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as ‘cradles of democracy’ that ‘strengthen the

democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,” Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie and former head of the University of Oxford said in a news release. “We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded.”

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CLUB NOTES

Everyday

Alcoholics Anonymous

Need help or need to talk. Meetings daily. For meeting times, call 620-363-4571 or 620-231-4446. Located at 911 N. Fairview, Pittsburg.

Saturday, November 1

Sunflower Kiwanis

Don't throw away those aluminum cans! Bring them to Dillon's parking lot on Saturday, where Sunflower Kiwanis members will be collecting from 8 to 11 a.m. Cans are collected the first Saturday of each month.

Monday, November 3

NAMI SEK

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) support groups for those living with a mental health condition (Connections) and friends and family (Family) meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. We are only holding support groups virtually, via Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/563447478341 with meeting ID 5634478341. For more information email seknami@gmail.com or call 620-240-3740.

TOPS #0599 Pittsburg

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) KS 0599 Pittsburg meets on Monday evenings at the Homer Cole Center at 3003 N. Joplin in Pittsburg, KS. Confidential weigh-ins begin at 5:15, followed by a meeting at 6:00. Your first meeting is free. For more information, call or text Linda Wilson at 620-249-8069 or check out our Facebook page: TOPS KS 0599 Pittsburg.

Co-Dependents Anonymous

As COVID-19 and social distancing has curtailed CoDa meetings, there is now a weekly audio only conference call meeting at noon on Mondays. For more information call 620-704-1309 or email jtknoll@swbell.net.

Community Grief Support Group

Meeting the first Monday of each month at Root Coffee House, 402 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

AREA EVENTS

Saturday, November 1

Arma Public Library

Lapghan Ladies - Meets the 1st Saturday at 11 a.m., and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 12 p.m.

Girard Public Library

Sign up for Wreath Making Class —Girard Public Library will be offering a Wreath Making Class on Saturday, November 15th from 9:30 am-11:00 am. Signup deadline is Friday, November 7th - minimum of 5 to hold the class. Cost is \$20 and may be paid the day of the class.

ArtForms Gallery

Teacup Flower Bouquet

and High Tea w/Sarah Prince and Rilie Creollo

1 to 3 p.m.; \$50 fee; Ages 8+; Limit of 14

Participants will make a flower arrangement of their own in a teacup with fresh cut garden flowers to take home with them. Sarah will have finger sandwiches, scones, dainty desserts, and an assortment of teas to enjoy during the workshop. A perfect event for "Friendsgiving" or parent/child date day.

Monday, November 3

Arma Public Library

Silver Sneakers meets at the Arma Public Library every Monday thru Friday from 9 to 10 a.m.



In Support of the Sandzén Gallery

An all-day celebration of art, community and generosity featuring gallery talks, a live printmaking demonstration, fine-art appraisal fair, and a major benefit auction in support of the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery's growing legacy.

Saturday, November 8

Unity Temple on the Country Club Plaza
Kansas City, Missouri
SoulisAuctions.com | 816.697.3830

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