

Wheels for Christmas

PAYP plans bike drive

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Championship Showdown

PSU and Northwest Missouri clash in Kansas City

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Baby & mom reunited at sea

Sea otter pup gets 2nd chance

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THE MORNING SUN

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

WEEKEND EDITION

VOLUME 125, NO. 227 | \$2.00

Annexation hearing features familiar themes

'Nothing new under the Sun'

By Dustin R. Strong
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GIRARD, Kan. — The Crawford County Commission hosted a public hearing regarding the proposed island annexation of county land to the City of Mulberry on Thursday night. From the beginning, the commissioners made it clear that they would not answer any questions from the public on legal advice from County Counselor Jim Emerson. They were there, Commissioner Tom



Moody said, to listen.

The public hearing is part of the 30-day period the commission has to decide the issue from the time Mulberry submitted its proposal. No decisions were made that

SEE ANNEX, 4A

Shirley Luton of CLASS LTD blows kisses to the crowd, showcasing his style at Thursday night's Special Olympics Kansas Southeast Region Sip, Shop, & Inclusion event, at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN



Strutting their stuff

SOKS holds annual 'Sip, Shop, & Inclusion'

By Aaron Pyle
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PITTSBURG, Kan. — Enthusiastic models strutted their stuff at the Special Olympics Kansas Southeast Region "Sip, Shop, & Inclusion," event, Thursday in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on the campus of Pittsburg State University.

The fundraising event began in The Mollie in down-

town Galena along Route 66 three years ago, but it grew so much that it was soon moved to PSU's Bicknell Center.

"It has been so much fun to bring this event back every year," said Special Olympics Kansas Southeast Region Director Olivia Ryan. "I think we started the first year with 20 models, last year we had 30 models, this year we have about 43 athlete models and 13 vendors. Seeing it grow every year, what's been fun is the athletes talk about it all year long. They are ready to model the second they get

off that stage for the next year so it's been really exciting."

A large crowd of Special Olympics supporters greeted the models with claps and cheers as they made their way down the red carpet.

Prior to the fashion show, attendees mingled, helping themselves to refreshments along with a wide array of finger foods. Local businesses displayed items such as clothing and jewelry in the Bicknell Center lobby, offering deals to those who decided to buy.

SEE SOKS, 10A

Sen. Shallenburger visits SEK KARSP

By Aaron Pyle
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PITTSBURG, Kan. — Finding some time in his busy schedule, Senator Tim Shallenburger of District 13 visited the Southeast Kansas Chapter of the Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel (KARSP) at the Homer Cole Community Center late on Friday morning.

Shallenburger visited the chapter members, who range from former bus drivers to office workers, principals, and janitors.

"It's pretty timely," he said. "Two months ago, a discussion occurred about a special session of the legislature and that never came to fruition, so we could've been talking about something totally different today (Friday). We do go into session in January so we can talk about what we think is going to happen."

Shallenburger passed out a sheet to attendees, explaining the legislature completed during the last session, including repealing the state income tax on social security, accelerating the elimination of the state sales tax on food, reducing



District 13 Senator Tim Shallenburger visited the Southeast Kansas Chapter of the Kansas Association of Retired School Personnel Friday morning, discussing past and upcoming objectives within the legislative session. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

the statewide property tax, and simplifying the state income tax code, lowering tax rates.

"The legislature spends most of its time on two subjects, the budget and education," he said. "That's because education is about 62 percent of the budget ... All

the tax that you send to Topeka, 62 percent of that goes to education, and 50 percent goes to K-12 and the other 10, about eight (percent) goes to higher education ... The state gives a small amount of grants to community colleges, but not very much because community colleges

SEE KARSP, 4A



Family Resource Center Executive Director Ann Elliott greets the Center's children, who gathered outside to wish her well. Elliott served the Center for nearly 24 years. RON WOMBLE/THE MORNING SUN

Bittersweet

Center director Ann Elliott retires

By Ron Womble
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PITTSBURG, Kan. -- Friday was a bittersweet day for Ann Elliott, the executive director of the Family Resource Center in Pittsburg. Elliott retired that day after nearly 24 years with the childcare center and pre-school, known by most people locally simply as "The Center."

To mark the occasion, the youngsters gathered outside in the bright November sun, to wish Elliott well and share cookies with her name imprinted on the tops.

"I'm excited about retirement, but sad, because I know I'll miss it," Elliott said Friday afternoon.

Elliott said she began at the center as a grant writer for Monica Murnan, who was the executive director at the time, and followed Murnan into that role when she left.

Elliott said working at the Center is more than just a job.

"Really, it is a mission," Elliott said of working with the children. "I have so enjoyed just listening to the kids and watching them as they learn. I have been lucky that I get to wake up each morning and come to a place that I love."

Elliott praised the staff at

SEE ELLIOTT, 10A

OBITUARIES

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