

BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

January 2025, but then almost miraculously reopened in March under the ownership of Charlie Hensley, the grandson of Henry and Betty Farris, who previously owned Harry's since the early 1990s. Right before Christmas, however, the restaurant again closed its doors suddenly and the team announced they would not be reopening. Harry's Cafe had been serving breakfast and lunch to diners for more than 80 years.

Another longstanding business that closed this year was Mooreman's, a bar located across from Pittsburg State University. The bar closed, celebrating decades of memories, and the whole complex was torn down. The Chop Shop, a barbershop that also occupied the strip, moved to 217 N. Broadway Street. Guadalajara, a Mexican restaurant on the same lot announced it will be moving into the former Jolly Fox Brewery building. Plans for that lot have yet to be announced.

Freeman Health System held a ground-breaking in March, complete with balloons and fireworks, to announce that it would build a new hospital on the north side of



Retail space on the south side of Marshalls was completed in 2025 and new tenants Ulta, The Shoe Rack and Five Below moved in. FILE PHOTO/THE MORNING SUN

Frontenac. Then, after the CEO's retirement, a new CEO announced in October that the hospital would not be built.

U.S. Bank announced early in 2025 that it would close its Pittsburg branch on April 29, leaving without a physical U.S. Bank location within 20 miles.

Two stores inside Meadowbrook Mall, Claire's and Bling Pittsburg, shuttered their doors at different times this year as well. Bath and Body Works moved its Meadowbrook Mall location to the North end of Pittsburg in the Town Center strip mall.

There was a significant amount of business activity on the north end of Broadway in 2025. Big Lots, which was located on North Broadway, closed and Ollie's Bargain Outlet moved into its spot.

In the same neighborhood, Ulta, Five Below and Rack Room Shoes opened next to Marshalls, creating a shopping hub in that area.

Back on the south end of Pittsburg's main artery, IHOP, another well-known chain, opened shortly after Christmas at 200 E. Centennial.

Much of the business activity in 2025 was created by small businesses, with several making the Pittsburg area their home. Along Broadway Street, El Patron, a new Mexican restaurant at 209 N. Broadway Street, opened in early December, with Bearded Bully Barbershop setting up in the same block. Miners + Monroe moved from the 200 block of South Broadway to 211 N. Broadway Suite A. In that same area, The Greenway, an outdoor social area, was



Mooreman's was just one of the businesses that came down on the retail lot across from Pittsburg State in 2025. The last two, Kazoku Sushi and Hibachi, and Guadalajara Mexican Grill will follow in early 2026. Guadalajara is moving north on Broadway but plans are unclear for Kazoku. FILE PHOTO/THE MORNING SUN

established along with Biles Brothers Meeting House, both of which are temporarily closed for the season.

Other small business openings included Sullivan Book Arts, Voyage Insurance, The Well Traveled Chef in Arma

and others.

Some local businesses with national footprints announced expansions in 2025, including Apex Stages and Eagle Picher.

Both companies broke ground on their expansions this year.

As 2025 brought many

new changes to the area business world, it will be interesting to see what 2026 has in store.

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CRAWFORD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

out 2025 and some of the issues the new plan will deal with have already come to light.

Chief among them is alternative energy. Several investors have an interest in building new solar and wind farms in the county, but due to resident push-back, the commission has placed a moratorium on all such development — and have extended that moratorium until the end of 2026.

But that did not stop one investment group from pushing the limits of the moratorium by tying it to a small town in need of a huge investment. While arguments on both sides got heated, the county commission stopped the proposed annexation and retained control of the alternative energy debate.

In the next year, the commission will finalize their new plan and determine whether wind and/or solar have a place in the county, and if it does, where that place is going to be.

Despite the solar annexation set-back, the small town of Mulberry is soldiering on. This year, the town has added a new fishing dock and renovated its baseball diamond at the city park — all done with the sweat and tenacity of some determined Mulberry residents.

In Franklin, the Miners Hall Museum has had a banner year, unveiling a new digital kiosk and hosting quarterly events to draw visitors in. Their biggest get was a Page 618 dragline, one of only a handful still left in the world. The museum has worked to get the entire machine moved from Cherokee County to a new display area at Ginardi's Corner, now dubbed Dragline Park. The first piece of the dragline has been successfully moved and the rest is coming soon.

Frontenac has had some ups-and-downs this year. On the downside, a promised hospital failed to develop, but the city is no worse for the wear over it. On the upside, a new water tower replaced the 100-year-old tower this year with some of the old tower being preserved by the city's newest attraction — the Frontenac City Library.

Given a sizable donation for the sole purpose of building a library, the City of Frontenac finally opened the doors — and bookshelves — to the public in 2025. Showcasing a modern industrial design, the new library features the McKay Street Coffee House, conference space, private learning spaces, and a heritage museum for keeping the city's history. With coffee in hand, visitors can sit by the fireplace

and read their favorite books, making the library "Frontenac's living room."

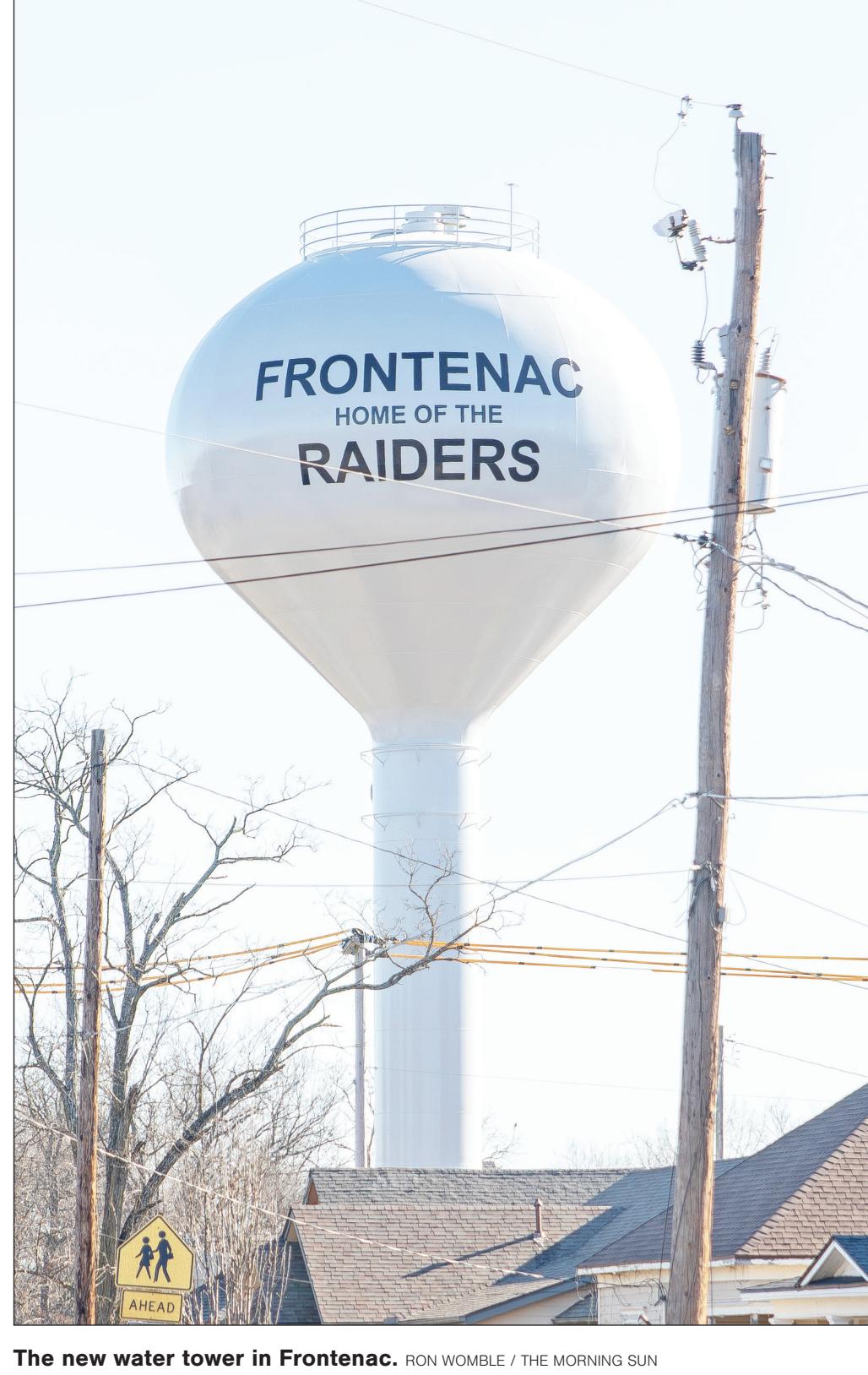
As the city gets ready to begin building a new waste-water treatment facility mandated by the state, there are some financial decisions to be made on funding the project that will be up to the voters in the spring.

With the next phase of development of U.S. 69 on the horizon, KDOT made Pittsburg and Crawford County a regular stop in 2025 as they solicited residents' input on improvement ideas for the highway.

KDOT has made several visits to the area over the past year gathering public feedback and coming back with ideas based on the feedback. Ideas for improvements and changes to the U.S. 69 corridor were presented, including right-in/right-out solutions for dangerous high-traffic areas, traffic light improvements, and five-spoke roundabouts — and even a double roundabout at Atkinson and Broadway!

With so much momentum built up, 2026 looks to be a busy year as well.

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The new water tower in Frontenac. RON WOMBLE / THE MORNING SUN

GIRARD

CONTINUED FROM 1A

also making the youth season pass a flat \$75. The city furthermore approved eliminating 10- and 20-round pass cards.

Councilman Darrell Westhoff, a member of the local golf committee, explained the reasoning for the increases.

"We are the cheapest golf course for season tickets in the area, and they only go up \$10 so that's what we (golf committee) passed and asked for," he said.

"The youth pass was \$73 so it just makes sense to make it on a nickel so make it \$75 and we have sold, I believe, one or maybe two of the 10- and 20-round passes in the last three years so it's really no reason to even have it on there so we just wanted to eliminate that."

In other business, the Girard Council approved contracting with Earles Engineering & Inspection Inc. for its Kansas Department of Transportation sidewalk project (0560). The purpose of the project

is to fill in gaps in sidewalks over several blocks in the downtown area that connect sidewalk infrastructure to schools, parks and recreation facilities, libraries, and business corridors.

Through its initial phase, the project completed Orange St., north side from Carbon St. to Summit St.; Osage St., east side from Forest St. to Prairie St.; St. John St., south side from Western St. to Cherokee St.; St. John St., north side from Cherokee St. to Carbon St.; Orange

St., north side from Western St. to Clover St.; Prairie Street, south side from Osage St. to Summit St.

According to the city's legal notice, through Earles Engineering, the city is to receive a consultant providing construction inspection services.

Work includes "project inspection of location and removal/installation of 2,531 feet of ADA sidewalk and ramps and replacement of any driveways per construction plans." The legal also states the

work including inspection of "all material testing as required by project specifications, inspection of location, along with installation of erosion control and seeding as per construction plans."

The council additionally approved a 50-cent raise for Jean Nichols along with advertising for a full-time billing clerk position, golf course manager position, and firefighter position, all of which are full-time.

The next Girard City Council meeting is

scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, at the Girard City Hall on the southeast side of the building, located at 120 N. Ozark St. Council meetings may also be viewed on YouTube by searching for "City of Girard, Kansas." For more information or to be placed on the agenda, contact Girard City Hall at 620-724-8918.

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