

Parsons Sun

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ONE BAAAD MUDDER



Jamie Willey/Sun photo

Chandler Miller of Altamont belly flops into a muddy water pit near the end of the One Baaad Mudder run Sunday afternoon in County Line Industrial Park (also known as Tolen Creek Industrial Park). The Parsons Recreation Commission sponsored the mud run for children and adults. Last year was the first year for the event. The adult run was added this year, along with more obstacles and pits, after the inaugural event involved only children.



ABOVE LEFT: Brina Maples, 5, of Parsons follows Cannon Osborne, 7, of Dearing through a pit in the mud run on Sunday.



ABOVE RIGHT: Three women fight to keep their balance as they slog through a pit during the run.

Ex-governor launches bid

Colyer earns backing from Sen. Marshall

By Tim Carpenter
Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — Former Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer formally launched a campaign for the Republican nomination for governor Monday by touting an endorsement from U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall and with the argument he was best positioned to defeat incumbent Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly in 2022.



COLYER

Colyer, a Johnson County surgeon and former state legislator, was lieutenant governor under GOP Gov. Sam Brownback. He served as governor for about one year following Brownback's resignation, but lost the 2018 gubernatorial primary to Kris Kobach. In terms of the August primary, Colyer will be competing against Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

"I come with a message," Colyer said. "I am the conservative candidate in this race and I will not back down from a fight. I am in the best position to defeat liberal Laura Kelly."

Colyer devoted much of his announcement speech to a critique of Kelly, but left the impression he wanted to be viewed as the "only candidate in this race with a consistent

See BID, Page 10.

K-9 Karim helps in arrest

The Parsons Police Department's new K-9, Karim, participated in his first drug investigation on Saturday.

At 8:08 p.m. Saturday Sgt. Brice Dickens conducted a traffic stop in the 1200 block of Morton Avenue. Cpl. Kyle Shields, the department's K-9 handler, was a back-up on the traffic stop.

Shields recently returned from Arkansas with Karim, a 19-month-old Belgian Malinois who is nationally certified in narcotics detection. Shields deployed Karim during the traffic stop and after Karim indicated the presence of narcotics in the vehicle Dickens found marijuana and methamphetamine in the vehicle.

Christopher Cuddy, 57, of Parsons was arrested on suspicion of possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, sale/distribution of stimulants, possession of drug paraphernalia. He was also arrested for three municipal court failure to appear warrants.

"This is an amazing job by these two officers," Parsons Police Chief Robert Spinks said. "Their first weekend together on the street and they make a significant drug bust. That is just good police work. I want this to be a lesson to anyone sell-

See ARREST, Page 10.

Unemployment rate dips in March

By The Sun Staff
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The state's unemployment rate dropped slightly last month.

Preliminary estimates reported by the Kansas Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics show a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.7% in March. This was a decrease from 3.8% in February and an increase from 3.2% in March 2020.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Kansas in March was 3.8%, down

from 3.9% in February but up from 3.5% in March 2020.

Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that eliminates influences of weather, holidays, the opening and closing of schools and other seasonal events from an economic time series. The Department of Labor uses the adjustment to try to more accurately report the economic picture of the state.

The state estimated an unemployment rate of 4% for Labette County, down from 4.1% in February and 4.7%

in March 2020. The state does not calculate seasonally adjusted jobless rates for individual counties. Labette County's unemployment rate was based on a workforce of an estimated 9,570 people, 385 of whom are jobless.

According to a statement from the Kansas Department of Labor, Kansas has been recovering well from the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the state hard in 2020.

"Kansas has shown significant recovery, adding over 12,000 jobs in

See UNEMPLOYMENT, Page 10.

Kansas sets up statewide fishing derby

PRATT — The first-ever Great Kansas Fishing Derby will run May 1 to July 31, with at least 500 specially tagged fish located in up to 37 public water bodies in Kansas.

Anglers who catch a tagged fish as part of the Great Kansas Fishing Derby must register the tag number at ksfishderby.com. A follow-up communication will notify the angler of what they've won and where to claim the prize. Ksfishderby.com will also allow anglers and non-anglers to register to win additional prizes through weekly drawings.

Pre-registration is not required, and participation is free, though normal fishing license requirements remain in effect. To get your Kansas fishing license, visit

kshuntfishcamp.com or download KDWPT's mobile licensing app, "Hunt-Fish KS," at ksoutdoors.com/License-Permits/Hunt-Fish-KS.

All participating water bodies are open to the public and managed in whole or in-part by KDWPT. Also included in the list of participating waters are ponds and lakes currently enrolled in KDWPT's Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP). By leveraging funding from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment, KDWPT leases public access — at no additional cost to the public — to gorgeous waters that once required special county, community or city permits.

A complete list of waters with fish tagged for the Derby will be posted on ksfish-

derby.com on April 30.

"We'll have popular sportfish tagged, like bass, crappie and walleye," said Breth. "We'll also have some non-sportfish like carp, gar and drum. We have people who like to fish for them and a lot who also participate in bow fishing. There will probably be some big bluegill tagged because we'd love to see kids win some of these prizes, too."

Most tagged fish will meet legal length limits and can be legally kept. However, anglers may release their catch if they first remove the tag (see ksfishderby.com for instructions).

The Great Kansas Fishing Derby is sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tour-

See DERBY, Page 10.

City hears issues with abandoned homes

By Jamie Willey
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The focus of much of the Parsons City Commission meeting on Monday evening was on dilapidated, abandoned homes.

The commission heard from two Parsons residents about substandard housing during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Angela Johnson first spoke to the commission about homes around her parents' house at 2519 Gabriel. Johnson said her parents have a panoramic view around their property of run-down houses.

"It's horrific," she said. Kenneth and Diane Johnson have kept their home in good shape and have made updates over the years, Angela Johnson said, and they have bought other nearby properties and demolished the homes there in an effort to keep their surroundings pleasant and their home value up.

Their efforts, however, have been to no avail as more homes become abandoned. Now, many of those houses have become a haven for pests such as skunks and opossums, Johnson said, as well as vagrants. There is a foul odor

See CITY, Page 2.

DEATHS

Obituaries or notices for the following people can be found on Page 2 in today's Sun:

- Dustin Watkins
- Lynn Stewart

FUNERALS

CAROLYN VAVERKA, 79, of Parsons, service at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Hennessey, Oklahoma.

DONALD BAMBERY, 83, of Tampa, Florida, service at 2 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Lawn Cemetery, Parsons.

CHARLES ARB, 89, of Altamont, service at 11 a.m. Saturday at Altamont Methodist Church.

LYNETTE HOUSTON, 53, of Log Cabin, Texas, celebration of life at 6 p.m. Friday at the Alamo boat dock, Log Cabin.

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