

# Parsons Sun

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## THIS ISSUE

*RetailMeNot*

WEEKEND SUN:  
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■ 12 Pages  
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## STATE NEWS

### Lawsuit: Woman mechanic sexually harassed

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A woman mechanic filed a lawsuit against her former employer, accusing others at the company of sexual harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

The lawsuit, filed July 12 in Kansas District Court, said the woman's supervisor and co-workers at Moore Freight Service regularly harassed and demeaned her by calling her derogatory names. The woman was the only female diesel mechanic when she started working for Moore Freight in Spring Hill in 2011.

The woman was regularly called a "bitch" and "too stupid" by her co-workers and was harassed about her body, according to the complaint. Daseke Inc., which bought Moore Freight in 2016, declined The Kansas City Star's request for comment. The newspaper didn't identify the woman who filed the lawsuit.

The suit said the harassment got worse when she complained to human resources. She was fired less than two weeks after she filed the lawsuit for what the company called insubordination.

"The Freight Yard operated as a 'boys club' where male

See LAWSUIT, Page 6.

## DEATHS

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

■ Nancy Tiede  
■ Clinton Hudson  
■ Robert Stine

## FUNERALS

NANCY TIEDE, 62, of rural Erie, service at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Carson-Wall Funeral Home.

ROBERT STINE, 98, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, service at 2 p.m. Tuesday at East Cross United Methodist Church, Bartlesville.

## LOCAL SMILES



Elise Zylstra, 10, Altamont.



Colleen Williamson/Sun photo

(From left) John Jehle, with the Fourth Missouri, and Brian Cox and Mark Isbell, both with the 9th Texas Regiment of Infantry, brought living history of the Civil War to the Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion Friday.

## Reenactors bring history to life



Labette County native Tim Rust, now of Wichita, portrayed Abraham Lincoln on Friday at the Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion.

By COLLEEN WILLIAMSON  
cwilliamson@parsonssun.com

ERIE — It was the veterans of the Civil War settling in Erie that led to what would eventually become the Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion of today.

As members of the American Legion sweated over the more than 50 pots of navy beans cooking over fires in the hot summer sun, a group of Civil War reenactors prepared to set up camp, bringing back to the celebration elements of the history from which it originated in 1873.

"Having a Civil War jones is something a lot of Americans have, for a lot of reasons, one of which is many Americans have ancestors that fought on one side of the war or the other. Another reason, and I'm not the originator of this idea — I think one of the mainstream authors suggested this — one of the things that draws people in and also drew me in is the great drama, the great stories, the great personalities, the tragedy, the romance ... well, not so much the romance, but the tragedy," Brian Cox of Topeka said. "One of these authors suggests

that one of the things that you don't see in other wars that draws people in is the fact that the American Civil War, circa 1861 to 1865, was mostly an all-American war. You had largely Americans on both sides. They looked alike, they, generally speaking, had the same religion, they generally spoke the same language, prayed to the same God. Where things came apart was the secession crisis of 1860."

As a youngster, Cox visited the battlefields, got the little miniature soldier mementos and believed fervently in states' rights. As often happens with the passage of time, his childhood interest in the Civil War died away. However, when he was in law school a number of years ago, his brother bought for him the companion book to the Ken Burns Civil War series. He started reading it and his interest was rekindled. He went to a Civil War round table, where people gather together monthly to listen to a speaker. There he saw a man in a butternut uniform and recognized him as a soldier, though he didn't know what he was doing. He then told Cox he was a member of the 9th

See CIVIL WAR, Page 6.

## Kansas requires 2 new vaccines for school

By CELIA LLOPIS-JEPSEN  
Kansas News Service

TOPEKA — Kansas schools will require two new vaccines come August, including one against a virus that's hospitalized 13,000 people and killed 200 across the country since 2016.

The new rules, which apply to public and private schools, will be phased in over the next several years. But come August, schools will check that:

— Kindergartners and first-graders have gotten hepatitis A vaccine.

— Seventh-graders have had their first dose of a MenACWY, a vaccine against four types of meningococcal bacteria.

— 11th-graders get a dose of MenACWY, too (even students who received a first dose when they were younger will need a booster dose).

Kansas allows exemptions for medical and religious reasons, but not philosophical reasons.

Nationally, 25 states have seen more than 20,000 cases of hepatitis A in widespread outbreaks since 2016.

The liver infection often spreads through contamination in water, raw or undercooked foods or through sex.

Kansas hasn't seen any recent cases, though its neighbors have. More than 300 in Missouri and nearly 100 in Colorado have gotten sick.

Most people shake off hepatitis A in a matter of weeks, the federal Centers for Disease Control say. But others fight the illness for months, suffering from things like diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, fever, jaundice and stomach pain.

Last month, the federal panel of health experts that sets vaccine guidelines recommended children and teens who missed the hepatitis A shots as toddlers get them now. In Kansas, federal data suggest more than 85% of children receive it as toddlers, in part because it was already required for day care.

Fewer Kansans get the MenACWY vaccine. Meningococcal bacteria cause, among other

See VACCINES, Page 6.

## Nonprofit offers former inmates transitional homes

TOPEKA (AP) — Often when inmates get out of jail, it's their drug dealer who picks them up, Matt Thomas said.

He's working to reverse that trend through a program that seeks to give such people not only a ride, but also a firm foundation on which to build their new life.

Thomas, a former inmate himself, is the executive director of Wichita-based Firm Foundations Ministries Inc. That nonprofit group recently began providing Christian transitional housing for former inmates in a building it owns at 1620 S.W. College Ave., and property it rents at 2418 S.W. Central Park Ave.

Firm Foundations has been a "godsend" in terms of helping former Shawnee County Jail inmates avoid going back, said Rich Christie, coordinator of the re-entry program at the Shawnee County Department of Corrections.

While the county's re-entry program does all it can to prepare jail inmates for life on the outside, that program can't help them once they're released, Christie said.

Firm Foundations can, he said.

Firm Foundations was able to open its two Topeka

locations without needing to apply for any changes in zoning. In contrast, Louisiana-based ReEntry Development LLC gave up in 2017 after trying unsuccessfully to obtain zoning changes that would have enabled it to operate a halfway house, first at 2035 S.W. Western Ave., then at 3401 N.E. Seward Ave. The company encountered opposition at both sites.

Residents living in the area are aware of the presence of the Firm Foundations house at 1620 S.W. College, said Ardith Smith-Woertz, president of the College Hill Neighborhood Association.

"Overall, there aren't a lot of complaints about the folks living there," she said.

The Topeka Capital-Journal tried unsuccessfully to hear perspectives from others by knocking on doors last week in the areas involved.

Thomas wants those living near Firm Foundations homes to know that being good neighbors is a key focus of the program.

"We believe in building up the neighborhood," he said.

Firm Foundations provides both housing and a Chris-

tian-based program to develop life skills and provide direction for successful re-introduction to society, Thomas said.

According to the program's website: "Our program focuses on multiple areas in the lives of each member, including providing the tools and resources to find and maintain stable employment, set future goals that enable them to become healthy and productive members of society, enable spiritual and personal growth and teach them the fundamental skills of living a life for Christ."

A total of five inmates live at Firm Foundations' two Topeka locations, one of which is a three- or four-bedroom house, while the other offers six one-bedroom apartments, Thomas said. Those opened in March or April, he said.

In addition, Firm Foundations operates three such sites in Wichita, and is about to open one in Kansas City, Kansas, Thomas said.

He makes a point to avoid using the phrase "halfway house" to describe what Firm Foundations is maintaining. That phrase gives a negative connotation, Thomas

See HOMES, Page 6.

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