

FED MINUTES: Officials divided about inflation. **4A** | **VOLLEYBALL:** Area players compete at national tourney. **1B**

Reduced fines assessed in 2 Hopeful Bites cases

Judge suspends bulk of fines

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Two of three people cited by the city last winter when they participated in handing out food with the group Hopeful Bites paid reduced municipal court fines to settle their cases.

Schuyler Carr, 28, of Oranogo, entered an Alford

plea July 2 in the Joplin court. That is a type of plea in which a defendant maintains innocence but acknowledges that the evidence could likely result in a conviction.

A fine of \$350 was assessed in Carr's case, but Judge John Podleski suspended \$300 of it and placed Carr on two years' probation. With court costs, Carr paid a fine of \$85.50, according to court records.

The same charges and fine applied to Cora Lynn

Wesley, age unavailable, of Joplin.

Carr, Wesley and McKenzie Jade Pulsipher, of Webb City, had been cited for operating a food establishment by serving food to the public without a health permit outside City Hall, 602 S. Main St. The tickets alleged that the group encumbered the sidewalk and that those cited had been asked to relocate and did not. Some of the violations allege that a food establishment was being operated without a

permit. The violations cited were from Dec. 18-31.

Pulsipher's case is still pending.

Carr said of the experience: "I think this whole ordeal has been the perfect illustration of how the city government chooses to handle many issues related to homelessness and poverty: bare diplomacy and ultimately selective enforcement."

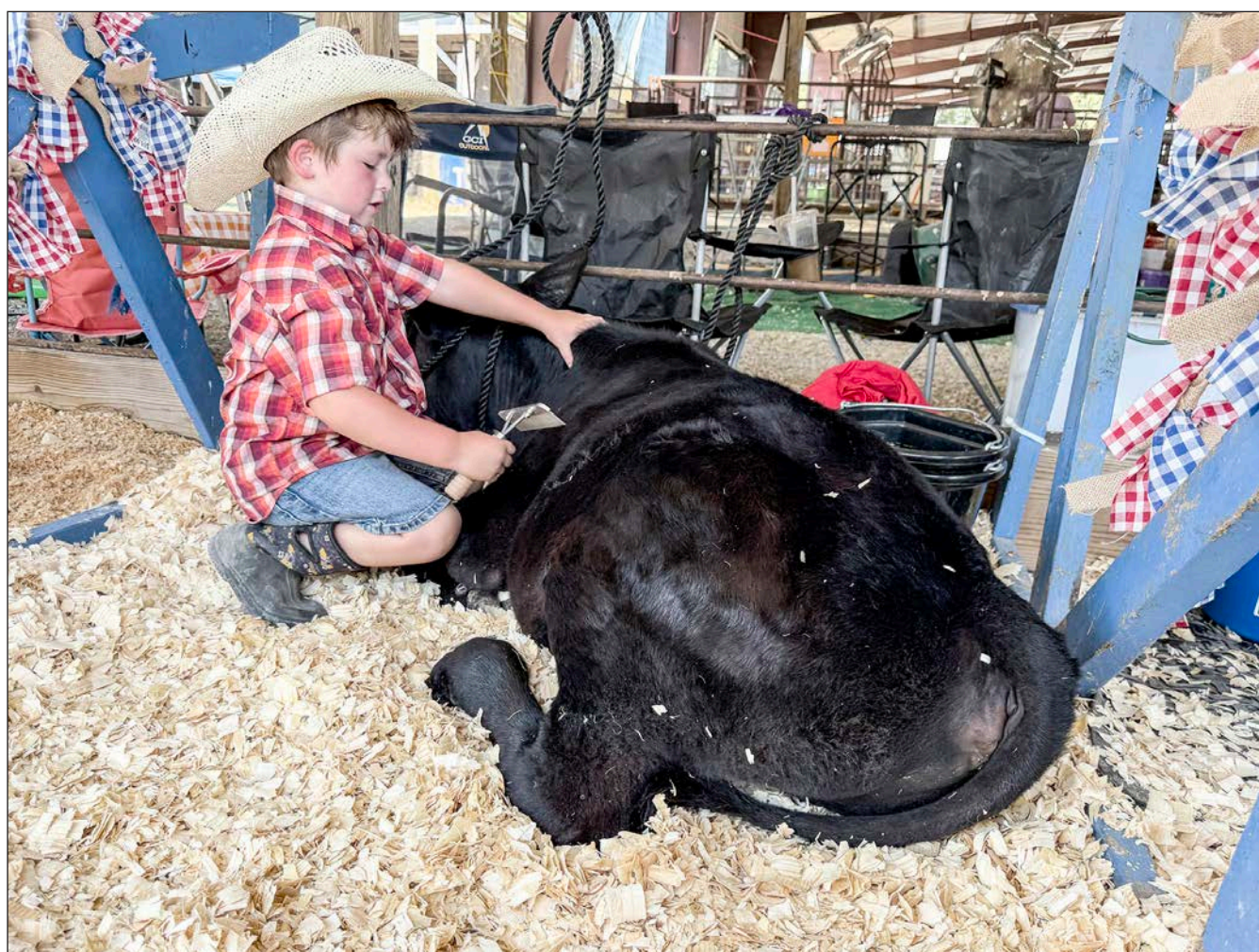
"My homies (unsheltered

SEE FINES, 2A



Volunteers from Hopeful Bites pass out food earlier this year in front of City Hall. GLOBE FILE

Expanded event



Boone Gentry, 4, of Neosho, brushes down his bucket calf Wednesday, the first day of the 2026 Newton County Fair.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Exhibitors set up for 59th annual Newton County Fair

BY JOHN HACKER
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NEOSHO, Mo — Hundreds of young people and adults were hard at work in the summer heat at the Newton County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, the first day of the 59th annual Newton County Fair.

Exhibitors with cattle, horses, pigs, goats, chickens, rabbits, art work, photographs and more were set up by noon for judging with young farmers hard at work making sure show animals were fed, watered, washed, brushed and made comfortable in the various fair barns and buildings at 700 Field St.

The fair continues through Saturday evening with competitions and



Jaret Hinson, 19, of Exeter, makes sure his pig, Shady, has water Wednesday, the first day of the 2026 Newton County Fair in Neosho. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

exhibitions leading up to the watermelon feed and final market sale starting at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The fair is free and open to the public for people to walk around, see the animals and talk to the young people who took care of them and will show them Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Jennifer Thogmartin, an organizer of the fair, said this year's event features more than 300 youth ex-

hibitors, about two dozen children between the ages of 4 and 7 showing bucket calves and goats, and other exhibitors.

"We expanded the bucket competition to calves, goats and sheep this year," Thogmartin said. "Before, we only did bucket calves. The main factor that made us change it was the price of cattle. Cattle prices are at an all-time high and bottle calves are pretty expensive as well, but people can still

find bottle sheep and goats that are fairly affordable. We're just trying to keep it affordable for families."

Thogmartin said there are more than 1,000 different exhibits throughout the fair and that the carnival opens at 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday.

Thogmartin said she's been associated with the fair nearly all her life,

SEE FAIR, 2A

Prototype reactor canister arrives at Parsons site

Design intended to avoid long construction time, high costs

BY JOHN HACKER
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PARSONS, Kan. — Deep Fission, the company hoping to build an underground nuclear power generation plant in the Great Plains Industrial Park outside Parsons, announced this week that the first prototype of the canister that will hold a small nuclear reactor has been delivered to its dig site for testing.

The company said in a statement Tuesday that the factory-built prototype canister completed fabrication, hydrostatic testing and delivery, "representing tangible progress toward validating installation, infrastructure readiness and operational sequencing for the company's first commercial demonstration well."

"The arrival of our prototype reactor canister at the Kansas site is a clear step forward in moving from design to deployed infrastructure," Mark Pérès, chief nuclear officer of Deep Fission, said in the statement. "Successfully manufacturing, testing and delivering this hardware demonstrates performance of our design and supply chain capabilities. Upcoming testing using this hardware will validate our approach and provide valuable learnings as we assemble, install and test key systems under non-nuclear conditions in our large diameter borehole."

According to Deep Fission, the reactor canister is a key component of Deep Fission's Gravity Nuclear reactor design, which places a small modular pressurized water reactor in a borehole approximately 1 mile underground.

The reactor is based on established pressurized water reactor technology adapted for subsurface deployment, using pressure from a mile-long water column atop and surrounding the reactor in the borehole, to support operating pressure and cooling.

In this design, thermal energy is transferred through a closed-loop system from the reactor canister to a heat exchanger; then rises to the surface in a secondary closed-loop for conversion into electricity, like a geothermal system.

Deep Fission's concept is to avoid the decadeslong construction time and costs of a traditional nuclear generating plant by burying small pressurized water nuclear reactors and using the pressure of a mile of rock and water to safely contain the reactor.

The company said at the groundbreaking in December at the Great

SEE REACTOR, 2A

