THE JOPLIN GLOBE

MOMENTUM BIKE PARK SURPASSES 100,000 VISITS. A4 | WHO WON THE WEEK? B1

joplinglobe.com FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 $3.00

Joplin council hears proposal for $22M regional animal shelter

Need outpaces available options at Joplin Humane Society

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Because of demand for animal shelter space and resources at the Joplin Humane Society, particularly in the breeding season from April through September, Joplin city officials are considering whether to build a $22 million full-service regional shelter.

In discussions at a council meeting this week, three options were considered. The council received input provided by Ryan Talken, director of the Joplin Health Department, which handles the city's animal control services. He said that the city has had capacity challenges with its current arrangement and he recommended building a $22.1 million regional animal shelter.

Talken brought in two experts in animal shelter facilities and operations who provided information.

One of the experts was Dr. Becky Stuntebeck, a board-certified shelter medicine veterinarian, facility design expert and founder of Paws to Elevate shelter consultation services, based in Wisconsin. She provides evidence-based consulting for animal shelters and veterinary clinics.

The other was Heather Lewis, an architect and partner with Animal Arts Design Studio of Boulder, Colorado, which specializes in animal shelter designs.

Talken offered three options to consider. One is the proposed construction of a new full-service shelter. A condition for that option would require the city to commit to provide capital and operating costs for a new shelter. In addition to capital building costs, any regional partners that want to obtain animal sheltering or services could share in the costs. Project documents note that costs for the the first full year of operations would be higher, estimated at $3.03 to $3.12 million.

See **SHELTER** on A2

Breathing fresh air

Freeman urges lung cancer screenings, especially if you smoked



Photos by Jerry Willis | Globe

Dr. Grant Pierson, a Freeman Health System pulmonologist, talks about the importance of scheduling lung cancer screenings, particularly for people with a history of smoking, and the use of the MONARCH robotic bronchoscopy platform — behind him — to help detect and diagnose lung cancer in its early stages.



A pair of screens show the type of display a doctor would see during an examination of the lungs using the MONARCH robotic bronchoscopy platform.

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Dr. Grant Pierson, a Freeman Health System pulmonologist, wants area residents to understand the importance of scheduling lung cancer screenings, particularly for people with a history of smoking.

"You know, lung cancer awareness is important, particularly in our area," Pierson said. "We have a high incidence of lung nodules plus a high incidence of lung cancer. We have a lot of different causes that need to be taken into account — smoking, radon exposure — we're a high area in radon for a lot of our counties, plus we have a lot of other environmental factors such as the mining industry that can contribute to the increased risk of lung cancer."

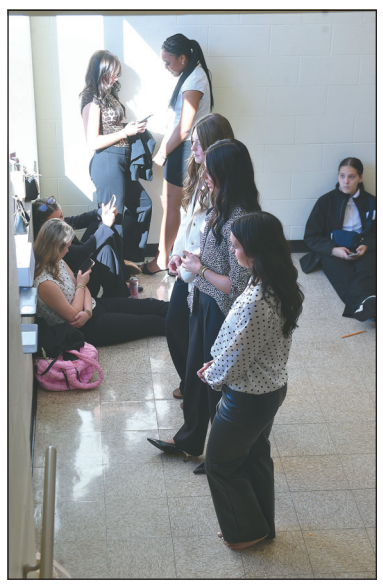
Freeman held a lung cancer awareness event Thursday in the lobby of Freeman Hospital West.

Lung cancer is the No. 1 cause of cancer deaths in the United States, taking more lives each year than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined, according to Freeman.

November is lung cancer awareness month, during which people are encouraged to schedule lung cancer screenings, particularly folks with a history of smoking or other risk factors.

"Early detection is the most important thing for any kind of

See **LUNGS** on A2



Jerry Willis | Globe

Seneca High School students (from center front) Alex McDade, Julie Bard and Chloe Darnell practice for their business plan pitch presentation as they and other area high school students gather in the stairwell between competitions and seminars at the Plaster School of Business during the fifth annual Business Gateway at Missouri Southern State University.

Area high school students compete in MSSU business event

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An event at Missouri Southern State University on Tuesday offered regional high school students interested in business an opportunity to hone competitive skills, strengthen networking, teamwork and presentation skills while meeting and getting feedback from faculty and taking a glimpse of what college might look like for them.

The fifth annual Business Gateway gave students the opportunity to explore real-world business concepts through individual and team competitions in social media, website design, accounting, finance, data analytics, tourism, business communication and more.

The competitions and workshops took place in Plaster Hall, followed by an awards ceremony at in the Taylor Performing Arts Center.

"We have kind of two goals with this event. We want students to eventually end up in business, going through FBLA clubs and business classes from the high school side, but then also we want to showcase the university ... and what our faculty have to offer. So the students, they get practice during their non-competition season — because the competition season is in spring. So, we also try to make this developmental," said event coordinator Lucas Dille, assistant professor and the Forvis Mazars endowed professor of accounting at MSSU.

See **BUSINESS** on A2

Jasper County jury convicts man of statutory rape, sodomy

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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A Jasper County jury convicted Kody Clark-Mitchell, 34, of one count of first-degree statutory rape and three counts of first-degree statutory sodomy after a two-day jury trial before Judge Dean Dankelson, according a statement from Theresa Kenney, Jasper County prosecutor.

The jury also recommended a sentence of 18 years on each count.

The defendant is scheduled for sentencing Jan. 25.

The state presented evidence that Clark-Mitchell had raped and sodomized a child in spring 2023.

A jury of six men and six women heard testimony from the child, her mother, a forensic interviewer and a nurse from the Children's Center, and Jasper County Deputy Jamison Cady who investigated the case and interviewed the defendant.

The defense called two forensic scientists from the Missouri State Highway Patrol lab who testified that they did not find the defendant's DNA on any of the evidence submitted to the lab by law

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