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VOLUME 142, No. 18
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TUESDAY OCTOBER 5 2021

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

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Missouri Highway Patrol investigating more Agape allegations

BY JUDY L. THOMAS
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With five Agape staff members now facing physical abuse charges, authorities are

turning their attention to allegations of sexual assault at the southwest Missouri boarding school.

Kathleen Britt, whose son Jason attended the school for five months in 2010, said a Missouri Highway Patrol super-

visor told her last week that the agency is examining his case. Earlier this year, Jason Britt told a patrol investigator that he was gang raped in 2010 by five staff members at Agape Boarding School, some of them top leaders.

"The good news is that they said they're going to investigate," Britt told The Star Monday. "There have been ongoing and past sexual assaults at this place. ... I want as many eyes on this investigation as I can have."

The patrol confirmed to The Star late last week that the agency is not finished with its examination of the unlicensed school in Cedar County.

"The case into allegations made by current students at the Agape Boarding School has been completed and turned over to the Cedar County Prosecuting Attorney," said Capt.

SEE AGAPE, 6A

Kansas creates child welfare office

BY KATIE BERNARD
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TOPEKA

Kansas is establishing a new office to investigate complaints about the state child welfare system and to ensure that the agency governing the system complies with state and federal law.

Gov. Laura Kelly established the Division of Child Advocate in an executive order Monday — taking into her own hands an issue hotly debated in the state Legislature for years amid reports of poor conditions and mistreatment of the state's most vulnerable children.

"(Lawmakers) never gave up searching for a solution to a very big problem," Kelly said. "As often happens, however, during the legislative process reaching consensus was difficult and time ran out."

Kelly said the action would ensure that the state would "never again let our child welfare services fail our children so badly."

Lawmakers have been split over how to create the office and who should control it. Senate President Ty Masterson said he would continue to call for an advocate overseen by the Attorney General.

"The biggest thing is that it's Office of Administration (executive branch) ... that gives me the biggest pause," said Rep. Susan Humphries, a Wichita Republican who sponsored a House Bill that placed the office under the direction of the Legislature.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures

SEE CHILD WELFARE, 6A



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THE RETURN OF ROSIE'S REPLY

Rosie's Reply, a B-25D bomber built at the North American Aviation plant in Fairfax, arrived at Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport Monday, the first time it has been back near the Kansas City, Kansas, manufacturing plant since it flew out for World War II. Mary Ann White, from left, pilot Delane

Buttacavoli, Emma Newland and Freda Renick posed for a photo. White, Newland and Renick, are Rosies, but Newland and Renick, both 97-year-olds from Lee's Summit, helped build this plane at Fairfax. Rosie's Reply is scheduled to fly over the Fairfax Festival October 7.

Missouri to use inspections to shutter Planned Parenthood

BY JEANNE KUANG
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COLUMBIA
Missouri Gov. Mike Parson's administration has signaled it will use the inspections arm of

the state health department in what abortion advocates are calling the latest effort to shutter Planned Parenthood, which operates the state's only abortion facility.

In emergency administrative rules the Department of Health

and Senior Services (DHSS) issued last week, the state said it will more closely inspect abortion facilities and share the results with the Department of Social Services (DSS). That agency could use the findings to block the organization from receiving funding through Medicaid.

The rules are set to go into effect Oct. 13.

Medicaid does not pay for abortions, except in cases where the mother's life is at

SEE MISSOURI, 6A

Mask order in eastern Jackson County extended one month

BY MIKE HENDRICKS
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The Jackson County Legislature voted 6-2 Monday to extend the county's mask order another 30 days.

The decision was met with heckling from some members of the sparsely attended meeting who vowed "we're not going

away" as legislators moved on to other items on the meeting agenda.

The party-line vote saw the lone two Republican legislators, Theresa Galvin and Jeanie Lauer, oppose extending the mask order until 11:59 p.m. Nov. 6. It had been set to expire this Thursday at a minute before

SEE MASK ORDER, 6A



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