Mayor Hill passes away

BY JOHN KLOTZBACH

INDEPENDENCE – As far as the news of the sudden passing of Mayor Bob Hill Thursday afternoon, there are few words to describe the impact and the void they leave. In February, a 21-year-old man was arrested with a handgun after a confrontation in the parking area of a downtown Independence restaurant. Independence police have also filed two criminal complaints seeking counts of trafficking in a stolen weapon used (DPAA) recently announced that 1,235 men from the USS Oklahoma at Halawa and Nu'uanu Cemeteries. were subsequently interred in the USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted

DEBATE ABOUT SOUTH STREET PAUSED

BY JOHN KLOTZBACH

Editor – The current debate about the future of South Street was paused Monday evening after none of the Jesup City Council members made a motion to vacate the street. The Council took into consideration the recommendation (4 nay/1 aye) of the Jesup Planning and Zoning Commission to not vacate the portion of South Street between 6th and 7th Streets and comments from nine people at the meeting.

The request to vacate the street was made by 3T Investments, LLC owned by Joseph Thompson. Thompson also requested his property (the former grocery store lot between 6th and 7th Streets along South Street) be rezoned so the building could be modified. The Planning and Zoning Commission decided to table the rezoning request until the street vacation request was dealt with by the City Council. The Council could re-set the public hearing on the rezoning as no recommendation was given by Planning and Zoning.

During the public hearing for the street vacation request several local and area citizens spoke. The first was Victoria Karsten who had circulated a petition calling for the Council to keep the street. The Jesup City Council members made a motion to vacate the street.

The Jesup City Council deliberates the merits of vacating a portion of South Street at the April 18 meeting. See JESUP, page 4

Independent man facing multiple gun charges

BY CHRIS BALDUS

An Independence man who was disarmed of a handgun by his opponent in a fight just as police arrived is facing multiple felonies.

Christopher Alan Southerland, 21, made his initial appearance in Buchanan County Court on Wednesday, April 13, and was charged with amusement with a dangerous weapon-provoking fear (Class C felony), two counts of going armed with intent (Class D felony), and two counts of dominion over a firearm by a felon.

In addition to recently being elected Mayor, many remember him for being in City Council civil and church involvement, long-time employee of Wapsie Valley Creamery, high school teacher, and above all – family man.

“It is with very heavy hearts that we share with the community of Independence, the sudden passing of our Mayor Robert (Bob) Hill,” said City Manager All Roder in an official statement. “Bob served on the city council for over a decade before being elected Mayor and transiting into that roll on January 1, 2022. Bob served on many boards and committees in our community and county over the years, in addition to being active with local civic organizations. Bob’s love of, enthusiasm for, and commitment to the City of Independence will always be remembered. We’d like to extend our deepest sympathies to Bob’s wife, Audrey, their daughters, Beth, Erin, Laura, and their families.”
See HILL, page 3

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted for From World War II

See SAILOR, page 3

Notice of water main flushing

SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

The City of Independence Water Department will begin the water main flushing program on Monday, May 2. It will continue over the next few weeks. Flushing will begin at 7 a.m. each day. Mineral deposits may be dislodged and cause discoloring of water. This will clear up in time. No bacterial problems will exist, and water may be dislodged and cause discoloring of water. This will be flushed from a main water line. Enjoyed by you and 4100 other well informed readers!