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THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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AGRICULTURE: Crowder calf fundraiser generates 18K. **3A** | **BASEBALL:** Roughriders secure 13-1 run-rule victory. **1B**

Joplin City Council advances land annexation for warehouse, distribution center

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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A request for the city of Joplin to annex and change zoning for a 24-acre tract of undeveloped land at East 32nd Street and Kodiak Road was advanced Monday night for passage by the Joplin City Council.

Ambrose Property Group, an industrial logistics and e-commerce real estate developer based in Indianap-

olis, secured the land for an end-user.

Zach Imbus, development manager for Ambrose, said a large building would be constructed on the property for a specific client to use as a warehouse and distribution center.

Imbus said products would be moved into the building and then out within 24 hours. About 15 heavy trucks would operate in the mornings plus more during

the night. There also would be vans coming and going during the day.

The Ambrose representatives worked with the Missouri Department of Transportation on the traffic logistics, the council was told.

Imbus told the council that the company conducted a thorough site search, using the Joplin Industrial Development Authority and the Joplin Area Chamber

of Commerce's regional MOKAN Partnership to select a site. Though there was property available in JIDA's nearby Crossroads Business and Distribution Park, a fit could not be found there for the project, Imbus said.

The facility will not house a data center or a manufacturing operation, the council was told.

Imbus also said there would be no odor, pollution or industrial waste generat-

ed by the future operation there.

"I assure you that if the traffic isn't working for this community, it isn't working for us," Imbus said. He said the company that will operate in the future building will have little impact on the area.

The operation will create 40 jobs at the start and later expand to 100 jobs.

Members of the Duquesne City Council turned down

a similar proposal last year for the company to build a warehouse and distribution center at 3850 W. 20th St.

The reason that council and Duquesne residents rejected the project was concern about accommodating truck traffic on the narrow Duquesne Road corridor and a small roundabout at 20th Street that Duquesne council members told Imbus could not handle large truck traffic.



A public meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday will allow members of the public to view a plan to offer an alternative to demolishing Memorial Hall. GLOBE FILE

Meeting on Memorial Hall plan set for Thursday

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Representatives of a coalition formed to find alternatives to demolishing Joplin's 100-year-old Memorial Hall are hosting a public meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday to allow members of the public to view the plan, ask questions and find out how to get involved.

The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Joplin Public Library, 1901 E. 20th St.

Information about the public-private partnership, as well as the rehabilitation plan and operating plan, will be discussed.

There will be a brief presentation, and then volunteers will be available to discuss ideas and answer questions.

The group is also looking for interested individuals to get involved as ambassadors, fundraisers, grant writers and more for the project.

Earlier this year, the Joplin City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with a newly forming nonprofit called Friends of Joplin Memorial Hall for a public-private-partnership to rehabilitate the building.

The proposed rehabilitation includes updated finishes and systems throughout, structural repairs, a new elevator and modern theatrical needs including new seating. Dedicated space for American Legion Post 13 meetings would be created, and the veterans memorials would be maintained.

Crossland Construction provided a \$16.7 million cost estimate for the rehabilitation, significantly lower than previous projections.

SEE HALL, 2A

Making their mark

KBI, PSU, lawmakers celebrate new crime lab with beam signing

BY JOHN HACKER
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PITTSBURG, Kan. — A structural steel beam, 20 feet long and weighing thousands of pounds, was poised to be placed in the 51,000-square-foot KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory in Pittsburg on Tuesday.

But not before dozens of people, including Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director Tony Mattivi, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, Pittsburg State University President Thomas Newsom and others wrote their signatures, titles and short messages on it in white paint.

Tuesday's beam-signing ceremony on Research Road in Pittsburg marked a milestone in the project estimated at \$50 million.

"We are encouraged to see that the facilities foundation has been poured,



Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach on Tuesday signs the steel beam that will become part of the KBI Regional Crime Center and Laboratory in Pittsburg, Kan. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

the building is being framed, and most of all, that the project is now well underway," Richard Jacobs, associate director of the KBI, said Tuesday. "We felt that at this point in the project it was important for us to bring together the many partners who have worked together to over-

come numerous obstacles and make this crime center and laboratory a reality."

Jacobs said the beam everyone was signing would become part of an indoor firing range at the center and visible to those using the range.

"This beam-signing ceremony marks more than

just the placement of steel and concrete," Mattivi said. "It is a symbol of the coming together of a vision, the dedication, planning, expertise and hard work of so many players who had an important role in this very important project. Each

SEE LAB, 2A

Missouri House Democrats struggle to match GOP fundraising

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

For more than 20 years, Republicans have won every Missouri House race in St. Charles County.

It is one of two counties in Missouri with more than 150,000 people — the other is Jefferson — with no Democrats in the local legislative delegation. And it is one of the places Democrats need to win to break the GOP supermajority in the 163-member House.

The county's closest House race in 2024 was in the 105th

District. Republican Colin Wellenkamp defeated Democrat Ron Odenthal by 6 percentage points to win an open seat. Odenthal's campaign committee spent \$37,298, almost double the \$19,832 spent by Wellenkamp.

But an independent committee dedicated to helping Republicans, the House Republican Campaign Committee, spent almost \$150,000 in the race. The House Democratic Campaign Committee, as it was then called, countered

SEE FUNDS, 2A



House Budget Committee Chairman Dirk Deaton (left), of Seneca, speaks privately with Majority Leader Alex Riley, of Springfield, during a May 2025 debate. COURTESY | TIM BOMMEL, MISSOURI HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

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