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Council mulls having committee review state tax proposal

Review would focus on local impact of state tax question

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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The Joplin City Council on Monday will consider assigning its finance committee to assess and report on the impact a proposal to eliminate the state income tax and replace it with a sales tax would have on Joplin, which depends on sales tax revenue.

A resolution on the agenda, if approved, would tap the committee for that purpose. The resolution calls for the committee to begin a review of the state proposal and then prepare a report to be made to the council in late summer or early fall if the council approves the resolution.

Missouri voters will decide a ballot question in August on whether legislators should have the power to increase and expand the sales tax to take the place of the revenue that the state income tax would generate.

The proposal is a top priority of Gov. Mike Kehoe and has been approved by the General Assembly. Amendment 5, if approved this summer, would authorize legislators to apply sales taxes to transactions not currently taxed, with any new sales tax revenue tied to cuts in the top state income tax rate, currently 4.7%, according to the Missouri Independent. Lawmakers would have five years to redefine what is subject to sales tax.

The governor has said that repealing the income tax would bring more business and wealth to Missouri. Opponents say a sales tax would shift more of the tax burden on to lower income residents. Some business groups also have challenged the plan.

In other business, the council will be asked by City Attorney Peter Edwards and police Chief Richard Pearson to enact new language to expand the

SEE **TAX**, 2A



About 200 people fill the Gene Taylor Community Building in Sarcoxie on Thursday to learn about data centers planned for the region. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

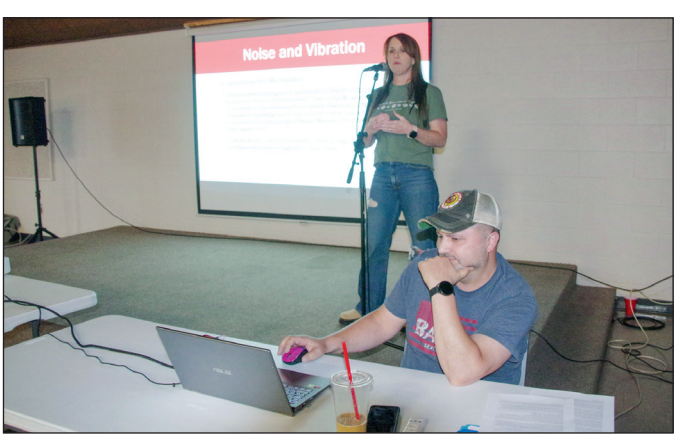
Expressing concern

Crowd attends Sarcoxie meeting on data centers

BY JOHN HACKER
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SARCOXIE, Mo. — A meeting in Sarcoxie to discuss data centers and their impact on people living nearby brought out between 175 and 200 people Thursday night.

Geronimo Power, a company based in Minnesota, announced in March that it planned to build a hyper-scale data park with multiple data centers on land just southwest of La Russell in



April Jones speaks at Thursday's meeting in Sarcoxie about the possible health effects of data centers on people who live around them as her husband, Ed Jones, operates the slide show. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

eastern Jasper County. The company also announced plans for a 2,000-acre solar farm and battery stations

for rural Jasper and Lawrence counties north of La Russell to partially power the data center park.

Earlier this year, the city of Joplin annexed 540 acres of the Wildwood Ranch area on the west side of town along Central City Road and rezoned property to industrial to accommodate a possible data center in the area.

Residents groups have been formed to oppose both projects, worried that they could threaten water supplies in the area, increase electricity costs, possibly affect health and lead to lower property values.

SEE **CROWD**, 2A

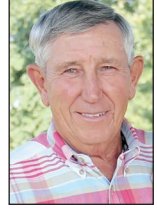
Former Jasper County presiding commissioner, auctioneer Danny Hensley dies

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Former Jasper County presiding commissioner, auctioneer and land developer Danny Hensley died Thursday afternoon after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, according to his family.

He was 84. Stephanie Hensley, his wife, said Danny Hensley had been out of the public eye for about eight years,

but before that, he had been in the middle of many things.



Danny Hensley

“He was the hardest working man I knew,” Stephanie Hensley said. “He started out as a farmer and then he got into making several housing additions. He was involved in creating the Hidden Acres and Hideaway

Acres on Fir Road west of Carthage.”

Brent Hensley said his dad was a self-taught auctioneer, something he learned in his days running the National Livestock Commission at the Joplin Stockyards when it was located just west of Newman and Range Line roads on the north side of Joplin.

“Dad could still auctioneer even up to recently,” Brent Hensley said. “He and Jack Gates and George Becker owned White Oak

Auctions for about 30 years. He did a lot of benefit auctions for the Jasper County Youth Fair and other groups. He donated a lot of his time for that. When he and Stephanie decided to downsize and move into town in 2024, they auctioned off a lot of their stuff and the auctioneer let Dad handle a little bit of the auction. He wasn't quite as good as he used to be, but he could still do it.”

Danny Hensley ran for Eastern District Jasper County commissioner in 1983, defeating a longtime incumbent, and then was appointed presiding commissioner before the 1985 election, when he ran for the office and won.

He served as presiding commissioner until 2002.

“Roads and bridges were his thing,” Stephanie Hensley said. “He was able to pass a quarter-cent road and bridge tax in the 1980s or 1990s, and that's why Jasper County has all these paved roads and

new bridges today.”

Danny Hensley also helped the artists Lowell Davis and Bob Tommey and others start the Midwest Gathering of Artists in the 1980s.

The funeral service for Danny Hensley is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, at Fairview Christian Church, 2320 S. Grand Ave. in Carthage.

Visitation is slated for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at Ulmer Funeral Home, 1208 S. Garrison Ave., Carthage.

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