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FOOD: Growing squash frustrating, eating it delightful. **3A** | **BASEBALL:** Cardinals family tradition grows greater. **1B**

Joplin ordinance regulating data centers being refined

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin city officials are looking at enacting added requirements for data centers to protect local residents and natural resources from those operations. Some standards and regulations for data center developments not included in Joplin's proposed city code changes were discussed at a recent Missouri Municipal League summit in Jefferson City attended

by Joplin city officials. The city's planning director, Troy Bolander, said at a City Council meeting Monday that one presentation at the meetings gave Joplin attendees information that will be instrumental in reshaping Joplin's policy regarding restrictions on technology operations such as data centers. Those details were learned from what has become a massive digital hub in Loudoun County, Virginia. About 200 digital technology centers have

been located there "and they gave a presentation on how to handle these," Bolander said. An initial ordinance was examined last month by the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, which tabled it to provide an opportunity for the City Council to study its details. Bolander credited information contributed by Rebecca Collins of the Joplin Sustainable Technology Alliance and Amanda Calderon-Kidston of Joplin

Citizens Against Wildwood Ranch Data Center in forming that ordinance regulating technological developments. Those regulations and restrictions could lessen the impact on residents, the environment and infrastructure, he said. With additions to the city's regulations, Bolander recommended that the council send the policy back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further consideration by that panel at its next meeting July 13.

Councilman Josh DeTar said he wants to make sure the ordinance is done right to protect the community. Among the regulations are limits on noise or the low-humming sound generated by computer banks and other equipment, setback requirements for building sites to provide buffers between data centers and other buildings or homes. The proposed limit for sound would be about that made by a refrigerator. In industrial areas, the

buffer zones would require minimum setbacks of at least 50 feet with additional buffers along all property lines that could include landscaping, walls and berms. A site plan including buffers would be required to apply for a special-use permit for the construction. There are additional distancing requirements for areas where there are residential properties, churches, daycare operations, parks,

SEE DATA, 2A



High school student Greyson Macy puts his name on a steel beam that will be installed in the Carthage Performing Arts Center. **GLOBE | JOHN HACKER**

ON THE BEAM

Topping-out ceremony held for Carthage High School auditorium

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Builders, designers, faculty, staff and students at Carthage High School marked a milestone Tuesday in the construction of the Carthage Performing Arts Center.

A topping-out ceremony was held in the space that will become the lobby of the new auditorium on the high school campus. The ceremony marked the placement of the final steel beam in the skeleton



Carthage High School choir, band and drama students took some time out of their summer Tuesday to put their names on the last structural steel beam that will be put in place in the Carthage High School auditorium, which is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2027. **GLOBE | JOHN HACKER**

of the 1,292-seat center. "It's one of those moments when you stop for just a minute, look around and realize how far you've

come," Assistant Superintendent Holley Goodnight said during the ceremony. "Today is about celebrating the progress we've

made, recognizing the incredible people who have helped bring this vision to life, and getting excited about everything that's still to come."

Many signed their name and left a short message on a long Carthage blue steel beam that will be installed near under the back of the control room in the auditorium.

"Even though your signature may eventually be hidden behind walls and ceilings, it will always be part of this building's story," Goodnight said. "Years from now, students, staff, and community members will enjoy this beautiful facility without ever realizing that your name is helping hold up the place

SEE CHS, 2A



Sen. Curtis Trent, R-Springfield, introduces a bill in the Missouri Senate on Feb. 12, 2024. Trent faces a challenge in the GOP primary from Lori Rook. **MISSOURI INDEPENDENT | ANNELISE HANSHAW**



Lori Rook, pictured here with her husband, Ryan, and their three children, is running for Missouri Senate against incumbent Curtis Trent. **COURTESY | MISSOURI INDEPENDENT**

Senate GOP primary carries stakes beyond SW Missouri

BY JASON HANCOCK
Missouri Independent

Before Curtis Trent can try to run the Missouri Senate floor, he has to win reelection in Southwest Missouri.

Trent, a Springfield Republican seeking his second term in the Senate, is also running for majority floor leader — one of the most powerful jobs in the Capitol and a position that could shape the 2027 legislative session. But his path to leadership now runs through Lori Rook, a Springfield elder law attorney casting him as exactly the kind of Jefferson City insider Republican primary voters have punished before.

So the Aug. 4 contest in Senate District 20 isn't just an incumbent-versus-challenger primary. It is a test of whether Trent's growing power in Jefferson City is his strongest argument for reelection — or Rook's strongest argument against him.

Senate District 20 includes Barton and Dade counties, as well as most of rural Greene County and Webster County. Rook shows up with a sharper edge than

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