

Burlison questioned about data center support

Candidate forum held in Carthage

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Data centers in Jasper County, a political topic in many local

and state races this election season, surfaced again at the end of Thursday's Jasper County Republican candidate forum held at the Carthage Water & Electric

Plant's community room in Carthage. U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison was asked by an audience member about data centers after giving a 20-minute presentation about things that are happening in Washington. "You spoke earlier in

regard to protecting the watershed or the water table or the water supply in the Southwest Missouri, especially Jasper County here," one person said afterward. "But yet it's reported that you support data centers that are going to suck that

water out.... Most of the rural people in Jasper County do not support the data centers." Burlison said in a statement in January that "Missouri must lead America's data center revolution." Data center projects de-

serve oversight, he noted at the time, "but blanket opposition only slows us down." "I'm not a socialist central planner," Burlison, who is seeking reelection in November, said Thursday. "I'm

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NEW FIREFIGHTERS



Madison Smith pins a badge on newly graduated firefighter Shane Herrel while he held their daughter, Parker, during graduation ceremonies for 11 firefighters in the Joplin Fire Academy on Thursday.

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11 graduate at Joplin ceremony

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

Eleven new firefighters joined the ranks of the Joplin Fire Department on Thursday after graduating from the Joplin Fire Academy.

Though some still have a few training sessions to go, all 11 took an oath to serve, and then a family member pinned their shirts with the silver fire department shields they had earned to transition into their new jobs. The went through eight

weeks of emergency medical technician training, 10 weeks of fire and hazardous materials training, and six weeks of finishing school to master their skills. "The training is extensive because we want them to be ready for anything," said Dustin Lunow, assistant fire chief. "It has become more of the

standard for fire training to be taught in-house," he said, by the experienced firefighters rather than attending an outside academy. "We drill extensively to get them comfortable with being uncomfortable. We want them to successfully mitigate whatever they come up

SEE GRADUATES, 2A

Marian Days returning to Carthage next month

Annual event draws thousands of people

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — One of the largest religious and cultural gatherings in the Midwest returns Aug. 6-9

when thousands of visitors from across the U.S. and around the world make their way to Carthage for Marian Days. Marian Days is an annual pilgrimage and festival

for Vietnamese American Roman Catholics that has been celebrated since 1978 on the 28-acre campus of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer on Grand Avenue in Carthage. It is held on the first Thursday of August each year and lasts four days. It is

an opportunity for individuals, families and friends to come together in faith, reconciliation and community. The Congregation doesn't keep an official tally of how many people attend, but others have estimated that more than 100,000 people have filled the campus, sur-

rounding homes and yards, and motels throughout the area. The Rev. Paul Tran, provincial superior at the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, said in a letter on the event's website

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Joplin cooling centers open after the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory for at least three consecutive days. A heat advisory means that temperatures of at least 100 degrees or a heat index

SEE CENTER, 2A

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