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ON THE TABLE: Pesto provides powerful flavor. 3A

VOLLEYBALL: Area teams look to improve on 2025 season. 1B

Council adopts new regs for data centers

Joplin residents speak for, against ordinance at meeting

BY JOHN HACKER
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Joplin zoning ordinances will include specific language dealing with data centers after Monday night's Joplin City Council meeting.

Thirteen residents spoke during a public hearing on the proposed ordinance, seven in favor of it and six opposed.

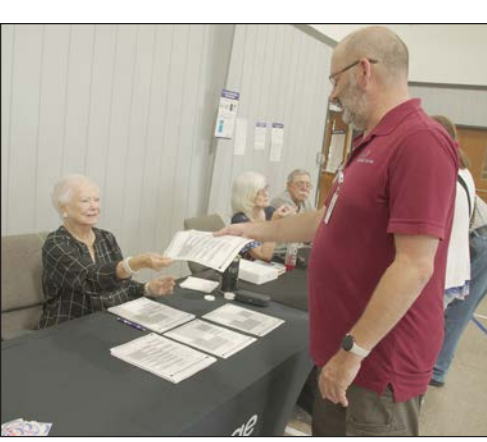
According to a summary by the city of Joplin, the new regulations:

- **DEFINE** what data centers are as far as Joplin's code enforcement.
- **DESIGNATE** that data centers will only be allowed in the city's M-2 district, which is zoning for heavy industry.
- **SET** specific use standards that require a setback buffer of 300 feet.
- **SET** a noise limit of 45-50 decibels within 50 feet of the data center property line when adjacent to residential properties.
- **REQUIRE** data centers to use closed-loop cooling systems to reduce water demand and require a cool-roof system to minimize glare and site heating.

The city also added a clause that will require developers to "verify with the utility companies via written documentation to the city that existing residents will not bear the cost of utility upgrades."

Tyler Bellairs, a city planner who described the new standards to the council, said city staff had recommended the

SEE **REGULATIONS**, 2A



PRIMARY ELECTION

Election judge Sandy Swingle hands a ballot to Carthage voter David Miller on Tuesday at the Carthage Ward 4 polling place at the First Church of the Nazarene. The Joplin Globe has voting results online and will have them in Thursday's edition of the paper.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

About to start



Kim Nguyen, from Tennessee, prepares cups of sugar cane juice for customers at one of the many food booths already set up and operating at Marian Days in Carthage.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Food tents open, campus starts filling for Marian Days in Carthage

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Fire and health department inspections are nearly finished, food tents have opened and people have been gathering since last week for the official start of Marian Days on Thursday.

It's the time of year when between 50,000 and 100,000 mostly Vietnamese Catholics from across the United States converge on Carthage for one of the largest religious pilgrimages in North America.

"God's merciful love is not limited by any circumstance of space or time,"



Carthage commercial building inspector Terron Roland (left) and Fire Marshal Eli Maples (center) speak with Chinh Vu, a supervisor at the Quan Ca Doan boba tent at Marian Days in Carthage this week.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

said the Rev. Phillip Cao, a leader at the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer on the 2026 Marian Days Organizing Committee. "Yet the history of the church clearly shows us that God chooses particular places and instruments through which he may more readily reveal his mercy."

"For nearly half a century, we have experienced this place as one chosen by God and the Blessed Virgin Mary to pour out abundant love and blessings upon the Vietnamese people living abroad," Cao said. "This is also why year after year, we willingly endure the long distance, hardship and fatigue of the journey to return here, hoping to encounter and experience God's merciful love in a renewed way."

The event is open to the public.

Lt. Aaron Kmick, of the Carthage Police Department, said months of planning by law enforcement officials will come together this week.

That planning included making sure voters in Carthage had access Tuesday to the Carthage Ward 4 polling place in the First Church of the Nazarene on the corner of Grand and Fairview avenues in the middle of the event.

"We've planned this out," Kmick said. "This is the third year that we've had our command post here

SEE **MARIAN**, 2A

Joplin NALA Literacy Liftoff scheduled for Thursday

Event at Missouri Southern State University includes balloon rides, food trucks, bounce houses

BY KAYLEA HUTSON-MILLER
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A chance to "lift" up the need for literacy within the Joplin region, as well as promote community, takes place this week as Joplin NALA Read's sixth annual Literacy Liftoff gets underway.

Set for 5-9 p.m. Thursday, Literacy Liftoff takes place at the soccer fields on

within the community and provide funding for the nonprofit's various classes and programs.

"We are neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers who give their time to help people," LaBlatt said. "The literacy crisis is not far away. It's in our backyard."

BEHIND THE FUNDRAISING

As a community nonprofit, Joplin NALA Read does not receive state or federal funding, LaBlatt said the group relies on funding raised via community grants and foundations as

well as private donations.

"We lift people up," LaBlatt said. "We provide the basic literacy skills they need in order to get better jobs, their GED or sometimes even to just read to their grandkids."

Students using Joplin NALA Read's services are often immigrants who want to increase their knowledge of the English language.

However, LaBlatt said recent statistics show 63% of all Americans read at a third grade level while many things people



People take a ride in the Katnip hot air balloon from Neosho during the NALA Literacy Liftoff last year at Missouri Southern State University.

GLOBE FILE