

HEALTH INSURANCE: Big premium hikes expected. **4A** | **RUNNING:** Eliminator race tests athletes' endurance. **1B**

Missing child probe leads to charges

4 facing counts
of child abuse, neglect,
animal abuse

BY JOHN HACKER
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Four adults have been arrested and charged with felony child abuse and neglect as well as animal neglect

and abandonment after the search for a missing 12-year-old girl led police to a home where the the girl had allegedly been living in filthy conditions. Joplin police Chief Richard Pearson said during a news conference Monday that the child is in protective custody and had been taken to a hospital for treatment of possible malnutrition.

The child's adoptive parents, Crystal Ross, 46, and Shane Ross, 50, of Joplin, as well as two adopted siblings, Hannah Ross, 25, and Megan Ross, 19, all of Joplin, were taken into custody Sunday. Jasper County Prosecutor Theresa Kenney confirmed Monday afternoon that the four were being held on no-bond warrants for the charges.

Pearson said on Monday the initial call came at 7:57 a.m. Sunday from the home at 610 E. Pool St. regarding a missing child with special needs. The only information given to police was that the child could be in the area of Landreth Park. Pearson said officers believed that the child had been missing for about an hour before the call to

police was made and officers immediately started searching. Off-duty officers were called in, and the department requested assistance from the Joplin Fire Department, METS Ambulance and the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, which responded with a drone. Pearson said railroad

SEE **CHILD**, 2A

Vision Carthage picks home for work day

Group looking for volunteers to help at number of locations

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Charlotte Steinbach is celebrating 20 years living in her home at 812 S. River St., and Vision Carthage and Community Bank and Trust on Monday presented her with another reason to celebrate.

Kate Kelley, with Vision Carthage, a group dedicated to beautifying the city, said Community Bank and Trust worked with the Federal Home Loan Bank in Des Moines, Iowa, to win a \$10,000 Community Impact Award for Vision Carthage. It will be used on the group's signature home in the upcoming Restoration Carthage work day.

That signature home is owned by Steinbach, and she was so pleased to learn she had been selected that she couldn't speak at first.

"I never dreamed this would ever happen. This is so huge," Steinbach said after a check presentation Monday morning. "Kate called me to tell me I had won. My daughter and I attended the Restoration Carthage classes and stuff that they give every week and she had signed me up for the program to have an opportunity for this. I just never dreamed I would win."

The grant means Steinbach will get help rebuilding a retaining wall that has been crumbling for years, and that workers and volunteers also will put new siding on her home.

"I've wanted to do this since the day I bought the place, but I've been widowed now for more than 24 years," Steinbach said. "It's just me and my kids, and I raised the kids and got them out, and now I take care of the grandkids all the time. Big repairs on the insides have cost enough. The roof was a big one, and that was about 10 years ago. So yeah, when you're single like that it's harder to get stuff done, and it's so expensive to do anything. I still can't believe that was happening." Kelley said Steinbach applied for the program

SEE **HOUSE**, 2A

EXPANDED CAST



A cast of nearly 50 people — along with one dog — appear in Joplin Little Theatre's coming production of "Annie." COURTESY | MARTA CHURCHWELL

Joplin Little Theatre brings 'Annie' to stage this week

BY MARTA CHURCHWELL
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As one of the directors of productions at Joplin Little Theatre, Carolyn McGowan can have a hard time saying no to kids who audition for parts in shows.

That's how she ended up with a cast of nearly 50 people — along with one dog — in the theater's coming production of "Annie."

Joplin Little Theatre will present the musical at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the JLT Park Playhouse, 3009 W. First St. Tickets are \$19.75 for general admission and \$16.75 for students and seniors, and they may be reserved at joplinlittletheatre.org or purchased at the box office.

Set in 1933 New York City during the Great Depression, the musical follows an optimistic 11-year-old orphan who

SEE **THEATER**, 2A



"Annie" will be Carolyn McGowan's 31st and final show to direct for Joplin Little Theatre. She's been on the directing staff since 1978. "Annie" will be performed at the theater Wednesday-Sunday.

COURTESY | MARTA CHURCHWELL

More scheduled for theater

BY MARTA CHURCHWELL
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The performance of "Annie" will kick off Joplin Little Theater's 87th season, which attests to its reputation as the longest running community theater west of the Mississippi River.

The new performance season includes two musicals, in addition to the musical presentation of "Annie."

Also on tap are two whimsical productions that appeal to young and old alike.

The productions after the performances of "Annie" are:

- "CARRIE: THE MUSICAL," Oct. 23-26, directed by Preston Hamilton. Based on Stephen King's novel, this is a story of isolation, bullying and the desperate desire to belong.
- "I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS," Dec. 10-13,

SEE **SCHEDULE**, 2A

Defeats raise questions about what comes next for state GOP

Amendments 4, 5 rejected by wide margins

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

At the Oct. 9, 1912, annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Anti-Horse Thief Association in Monett, members passed a resolu-

tion denouncing a proposed constitutional amendment to restructure Missouri's tax system.

Backers promised their proposal would ease the burden of government and fire up Missouri's economic

engine by sweeping away almost all state and local taxes in favor of a property tax that applied only to the value of land.

Members of the Anti-Horse Thief Association weren't convinced. Neither were most Missourians. The amendment drew just 14.6% of the vote.

More than a century later, Missouri voters came close to matching that rejection.

Amendment 5, which sought to phase out Missouri's income tax and allow lawmakers to replace the lost revenue with broader sales taxes, drew just 16.6% of the vote Aug. 4 — the third-lowest level of sup-

port for any constitutional amendment since Missouri adopted the initiative process in 1908.

Amendment 4, another Republican legislative priority, fared only slightly better. The proposal to require resident-led constitutional amendments to win statewide and in all eight con-

gressional districts received 19.7%.

Both failed in every county in Missouri. The closest either amendment came to winning in a county was Amendment 4 in Shelby County, with a 41.1% "yes" vote.

SEE **GOP**, 2A

