

**AI TOOLS:** School districts struggle to figure what's worth buying. **4A** | **GOLF:** AJGA tournament begins at Twin Hills. **1B**

# CHANGING FIELD



Missouri Southern State University President Dean Van Galen, former U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt and Benjamin Rosenberg, the chairman of the MSSU board of governors, cut the ribbon on the new Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center on Thursday. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

## Blunt tours MSSU building that bears his name

BY JOHN HACKER  
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Former U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt on Thursday toured the newest building at Missouri Southern State University, a building that bears his name.

One-third of the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center will serve as the university's "new front door," with many of the admissions and financial aid services transferring from the first floor of Hearnes Hall to the east side of the Blunt building.



The "new front door" to Missouri Southern State University is the two-story side of the newest building on campus. Enrolling MSSU students will visit places such as admissions and the registrar's office inside the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center. GLOBE FILE

Two-thirds of the \$48 million building, which has 72,000 square feet, will serve as an immersive laboratory for people who want to launch healthcare

careers in such fields as nursing, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and premed students. The

SEE **CENTER**, 2A

## New center 'just really cool'

BY JOHN HACKER  
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One of the highlights of Thursday's grand opening of the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center was the 80 or so Missouri Southern State University students decked out in Southern green scrubs lining the rail on the grand staircase to the second floor.

Missouri Southern President Dean Van Galen said

SEE **STUDENTS**, 2A

## Judge sets trial date for 2 ballot measures

Arguments to be heard  
Tuesday afternoon

BY RUDI KELLER  
Missouri Independent

The fate of two proposed ballot measures — a referendum on Missouri's gerrymandered congressional map and a constitutional amendment limiting legislative power to alter laws passed by initiative — will go on trial next week, a Cole County judge decided Wednesday.

Circuit Judge Daniel Green ordered back-to-back hearings for the two measures Secretary of State Denny Hoskins blocked from a statewide vote. He also allowed the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Congressional Committee and the Missouri Republican State Committee to intervene in the redistricting case.

Both of the cases are moving quickly because state law sets a Sept. 8 deadline for court orders adding questions to the ballot. Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice W. Brent Powell sent Green letters about each case, Green noted in court Wednesday morning, asking him to move them quickly to give time for appellate review.

In the referendum case, the committee seeking to overturn the congressional map, People Not Politicians, is challenging Hoskins' assertion that redistricting plans are not subject to a statewide vote. People Not Politicians submitted more than 305,000 signatures in December to force the statewide vote and local election authority reports compiled by the campaign show it has enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

In the lawsuit over the proposed amendment, the committee promoting it, Respect MO Voters, argues Hoskins is wrong in his assertion that the proposal contains too many subjects. If enacted, it would block lawmakers from altering a law or constitutional amendment passed by initiative unless 80% of lawmakers agree and the changes are ratified in a statewide vote.

No complete report has been compiled for the proposed amendment, but a spot check of local reports on the secretary of state's website

SEE **JUDGE**, 2A

## Carthage School District names alumni award recipients

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — The Carthage School District recently recognized three outstanding graduates who were named its 2026 Distinguished Tiger Alumni Award recipients. They are:

- **JILL HANUS**, class of 1973. She was one of the first women engineers hired by John Deere Corp. and the



Jill Hanus

first in its Waterloo, Iowa, operations. Hanus went on to serve as worldwide engineering manager for Utility Tractors and later worldwide engineering manager for Agricultural Operator Stations.

- **DR. ALLISON HAYMAN**, class of



Allison Hayman

2003. She is a professor in the Smead Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Hayman's research focuses on spacesuit design, wearable technology, spacecraft habitats and human

performance in extreme environments — all with the goal of enabling a sustained human presence in space. Her work has earned prestigious honors, including the National Science Foundation Career Award, U.S. Air Force Research recognition, and the University of Colorado's Junior Faculty of the Year Award.

- **DR. JOSHUA MASON**, class of 2009. He currently serves as



Joshua Mason

U.S. medical head for tumor-agnostic and breast cancer at AstraZeneca. His career has included research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, university teaching, and leadership roles in medical affairs,

where he works alongside oncologists to develop personalized treatment plans for cancer patients.

Established in honor of Caroline Tubbs, the Distinguished Tiger Alumni Award celebrates Carthage High School graduates whose achievements, leadership and service have made a meaningful impact in their professions, communities and beyond.

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