



Update on Joplin park projects provided at recent meeting

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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A number of Joplin park projects are underway or have been completed this summer.

The city's parks director, Paul Bloomberg, outlined construction work that is going on in various city parks. The information was provided Wednesday

at a meeting of the city's Capital Improvements and Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Commission.

Work on a new splash park and ice ribbon that will take the place of a former swimming pool at Ewert Park is progressing, Bloomberg said. Tubes that will freeze the ice ribbon have been laid and will be capped with concrete.

Other projects that are part of the revamp of Ewert Park are underway, such as the large structure that has been erected where basketball courts and an amphitheater will be installed. Workers also are installing a faux brick exterior on the bath house. Bloomberg expects the park

SEE PARKS, 2A



C.J. Houston, 6, makes a catch during a water balloon toss last year in Ewert Park. A \$10 million renovation of the park is expected to wrap up this fall. GLOBE FILE

School boss honored

Oliver earns recognition by regional association as principal of the year

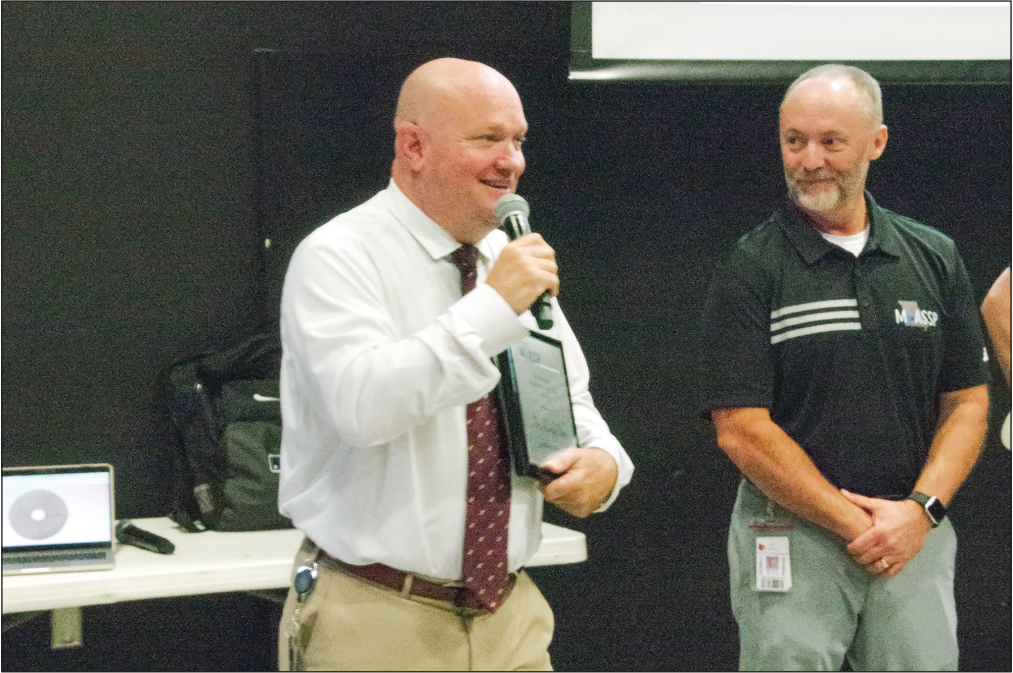
BY JOHN HACKER
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It was harder for Joplin school officials to keep secret their announcement of a local administrator getting an award this year than it was last year.

This year, the person getting the honor is the man in charge at Joplin High School, Principal Randy Oliver, who was named the 2026 Southwest Region High School Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

He was recognized Friday. That made sneaking the principal's family, a large sign and the award into the school a little harder than last year when JHS Assistant Principal Holly Yust won a similar award from the same group.

That time, it was Oliver



Joplin High School Principal Randy Oliver got a surprise Friday when he learned he was named principal of the year for the Southwest Region of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals from MoASSP board member Jeff Brown. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

who made sure everyone was in the right place to make the surprise real.

Family, administrators and officials with the MoASSP surprised Oliver during an impromptu all-

school staff meeting that administrators had insisted Oliver call on Friday.

"Yeah, I had no idea," Oliver said with a laugh. "In fact, I texted my daughter, who is a teacher in the

Kansas City area, and I was asking her how her school day is going and she said the day was going great. Now she's here. She's in

SEE HONOR, 2A

State high court sets hearing for ballot measure appeals

Referendum, initiative case arguments to be heard Sept. 2

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

The Missouri Supreme Court set Sept. 2 for arguments in the appeals of two ballot measure cases, including a referendum on the state's gerrymandered congressional map.

Both measures were ruled unconstitutional Wednesday by a Cole County judge.

The court took a case over a referendum on the redistricting on direct appeal. And it issued an order Friday to the Western District Court of Appeals to transfer the appeal over a proposed constitutional amendment on initiative powers.

The court is taking the cases, orders issued Wednesday said, because of the "general interest or importance" of each.

A ruling must be issued by Sept. 8, the last day for courts to add questions to the Nov. 3 ballot.

Circuit Judge Daniel Green on Wednesday issued decisions denying

SEE COURT, 2A



The Regal Cinema Northstar 14 theater has few cars in the parking lot Thursday evening after officials announced earlier that day that it was their last day of operation. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Northstar 14 theater closes permanently Thursday

BY JOHN HACKER
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Regal Cinema, owners of the Hollywood Northstar 14 theater, 201 N. Northpark Lane, announced on Thursday that it was the final day that theater would be open.

"Unfortunately, Regal has made the difficult decision to cease operations at Regal Northstar to optimize our theatre network and better position our company for long-term growth," Regal said in

a statement emailed to The Joplin Globe. "Most importantly, we are working to support our team members at the Northstar theatre during this process, and we truly appreciate their continued hard work through the August 20 closing date. Lastly, Regal wants to extend sincere thanks to the local moviegoing community and our loyal customers for sharing many laughs, tears and thrills with us at the theatre over the years."

According to the website <https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/13575>, the theater was opened Dec. 18, 1998, by Wallace Theaters under the Hollywood banner.

It opened at the same time a two-screen theater in Northpark Mall since 1972 was closing down.

On Feb. 19, 2013, The Joplin Globe reported that the theater had been sold by Hollywood Theaters to Regal Entertainment Group, based in Knoxville, Tennessee.

That was about the time that Wallace Bajjali Development Partners, a master developer contracted by the city to lead the city's recovery from the May 22, 2011, tornado, proposed a new movie theater near 20th and Connecticut Avenue in conjunction with the new Joplin Public Library at the site.

The new library was built at that location in 2017.

B&B Theaters' Joplin site opened east of 32nd Street and Range Line Road in August 2025.

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