

HEARING: Missouri child welfare leaders pressed on deaths. **6A** | **SOFTBALL:** Trio of seniors to help lead Joplin team. **1B**

Leggett & Platt merger completed

All-stock transaction
valued at more
than \$2 billion

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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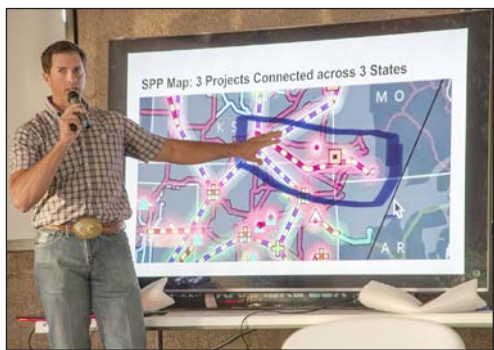
CARTHAGE, Mo. —Somni-group International has completed its previously announced merger with Leggett & Platt, one of Southwest Missouri's old-

est and largest companies. It also announced that Tyson Hagale has been appointed as president of Leggett & Platt, effective immediately. He will report to Karl Glassman, CEO of Leggett & Platt. Hagale will have oversight responsibility for all of Leggett & Platt. "Over the course of his 25-year career at Leggett & Platt, Tyson has attained broad experience across multiple facets of our business, including mergers

and acquisitions, strategic planning, and operational leadership," Glassman said in a statement. "During the last five years while serving as president of our Bedding Products segment, he played an instrumental role in executing a major restructuring to improve profitability in the face of industry headwinds. Tyson is well-suited to help me lead Leggett & Platt as we embark on this exciting new chapter as part of the Somnigroup family."

Hagale will be based out of Leggett & Platt's office in Carthage. The combined company operates more than 170 manufacturing facilities across 37 countries worldwide and has a global workforce of more than 36,000. Chairman and CEO Scott Thompson said in a statement: "Building on nearly 50 years of collaboration, we are bringing

SEE **MERGER**, 2A



Ben Bullard, a founder of Protect Rural Oklahoma from Craig County, Okla., speaks last month to Newton County landowners in the path of a proposed transmission line planned by Liberty. A new federal report shows much of the U.S. electric grid is strained.

GLOBE FILE

FUELING MILES



Jacob Fauvergue (left), with Arvest Bank, speaks with CARS volunteer driver Jim Burns after a check presentation Thursday from the Arvest Foundation to CARS.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Arvest presents \$10,000 to keep CARS program running

BY JOHN HACKER
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Employees of a local bank are coming to the aid of a program that has helped thousands of

people in Jasper, Barton, Newton and McDonald counties with transportation. Arvest Bank employees gathered in the front hall of the Economic Security Corp., 302 S. Joplin Ave., to

present a check from the Arvest Foundation to the Community Action Ride System. The money is intended to help CARS continue following a steep cut in state funding.

Jacob Fauvergue, a commercial banker with Arvest, said the foundation has given to CARS before and considers it an important program. "The CARS program serves so many people in our community that don't

SEE **CARS**, 2A

Missouri power grid faces costly upgrades

AI data centers driving electricity demand

BY JANA ROSE SCHLEIS
KBIA

A new federal report shows the electric grid across much of the country is strained, requiring thousands of miles of new power lines and billions of dollars in investments.

The National Transmission Needs Study shows that approximately 4,000 miles of power lines will need to be replaced each year for the next few decades.

The federal report notes that most of the country's transmission infrastructure was built in the 1960s and '70s and is now reaching the end of its useful life and that currently, "operational challenges of the electric grid are evolving in complexity and magnitude."

Threats from severe weather, increasing demand for electricity and additional wind and solar generation coming online all compound the need for new power lines nationwide.

"Significant transmission investment is needed to cost-effectively meet future demand through 2050," the report states.

The federal analysis points to projections that show U.S. electricity consumption rising 16% to 25% by 2034.

Increasing electricity demand is due in large part to the rapid development of data centers needed to support artificial intelligence technologies.

During a visit to Jefferson City on

SEE **GRID**, 2A

Vision Carthage, community celebrate another restored mural

Colors had faded after more than 20 years of exposure to weather

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — A downtown mural more than 20 years old that had nearly faded away in the sun and the Southwest Missouri weather now shines

with renewed brilliance at the corner of Second and Main streets just north of the Carthage square. Officials with Vision Carthage, the Carthage Chamber of Commerce and residents of Carthage gathered Thursday morning to cut a ribbon on the newly restored mural depicting the Carthage Light Guard Band and honor Cheryl Church, the artist who restored the mural over the past few weeks. "It was originally painted by

Webb City artist John Biggs, but over time and in the sun, those colors fade," said Kate Kelley, co-director of Vision Carthage, a group dedicated to beautifying Carthage. "There are several murals painted by Biggs around here in the downtown Carthage area that Vision Carthage is committed to bringing back to life." Church and Vision Carthage restored one of three works on

SEE **MURAL**, 2A



A mural at the corner of Second and Main streets in Carthage depicts the Carthage Light Guard Band on the Carthage square sometime in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

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