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Candice Turner, who lives on County Road 20 north of Sarcoxie near a proposed hyperscale data center, asks a question at last weekend's town hall meeting. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Tools in the toolbox

Attorney meets with data center opponents to offer options

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

People opposed to the two data centers proposed for Jasper County met with an attorney and a geologist recently to discuss potential harms such a center could cause and options for stopping them.

Attorney Steve Jeffery, of Chesterfield, and geologist John Bognar, of Washington, Missouri, met with area residents to discuss a proposed data center in the Wildwood area of Joplin near the Kansas state line and a proposed solar farm and hyperscale data center park proposed for eastern Jasper County. About 75 people attended the meeting held at the Life Point Pentecostal Church in Joplin.

Susan Mitchell, an organizer of the meeting, said she and her group, Missouri and Neighbors Against Data Centers, hired Jeffery to talk to residents about political and legal options to stop data centers from coming to the area and to represent them in any legal



Attorney Steve Jeffery (left) listens as geologist John Bognar answers a question from the audience at a town hall meeting recently on the data centers being proposed for Joplin and eastern Jasper County. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

action they might take.

"I brought him in to give us answers and tell us what we can do to beat this, to beat these data centers," Mitchell said. "And then we brought in the water person (Bognar) to tell us all about the aquifers and what it means against our water supply. I think we had a great turnout, about 75 people at least. Everybody is interested, and I think we'll all stick together and we'll push them out of the county."

Residents have been forming groups on social media and holding meet-

ings to discuss the two proposed projects in Jasper County.

•**EARLIER THIS YEAR**, the city of Joplin annexed and re-zoned part of the Wildwood Ranch area on the west side of town along Central City Road to accommodate a possible data center. City officials are now developing a policy of standards and guidelines that property owners and/or data center developers would have to meet if they want to build one in Joplin.

•**GERONIMO POWER**, a company based in Minnesota, announced in March that

it planned to build a hyperscale park with multiple data centers on land just southwest of La Russell in eastern Jasper County. The company also announced plans for a 2,000-acre solar farm and battery stations for rural Jasper and Lawrence counties north and west of La Russell to partially power the data center park.

WATER CONCERNS

Bognar talked about some of the hazards involved in putting a

SEE **DATA**, 2A



Newton County Tourism Council President Steve Roark speaks at a meeting Friday at the Neosho Public Library about efforts to attract a space museum to Neosho. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Newton County Tourism Council gives update on space museum

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

NEOSHO, Mo. — Studies are telling the Newton County Tourism Council that a space museum in Neosho's downtown area can support itself, encouraging the group to push forward with a project that fell into its lap about a year ago.

Newton County Tourism Council President Steve Roark told a group of supporters and community leaders Friday that three completed feasibility studies were encouraging and pushed the organization to continue pursuing The Space Museum and Grissom Center, currently located in Bonne Terre, about 60 miles south of St. Louis.

Neosho became known as Space Town USA because the company Rocketdyne operated a factory on the south side of town near Camp Crowder to build rocket engines for NASA's space program from 1958-1968, including some engines that carried astronauts to the moon and back on the Saturn V rocket starting in 1969.

"All three of the studies were consistent in recommending that we move forward," Roark said. "You never know when you start asking people over feasibility studies what you'll get. But we got three back, and all three of them consistently recommended we move forward as a community toward getting this space center moved down here."

The Newton County Tourism Council learned that the museum in Bonne Terre was looking to move and was seeking a place with a space background.

Earl Mullins, founder of the Bonne Terre museum, said they opened their doors in 2003 in a 600-square-foot facility that was too small to display all the artifacts they had, which were mostly from Mullins' own collections.

It moved to a 5,000-square-foot building in Bonne Terre but that was too small, and the community itself is located far enough from any interstate to make attracting visitors difficult.

In addition to Mullins' collection, the museum houses the Grissom Center, a

SEE **SPACE**, 2A

Historical Neighborhoods Museum tells Victorian story through decor

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

The interiors of two historic houses in Joplin's Historical Neighborhoods Museum are decorated in elegant Victorian-era styles, a period of home decor that was popular when the houses were new.

These two brick bookends in the 400 block of Sergeant Avenue, part of the Murphysburg historic district, were owned by immigrants

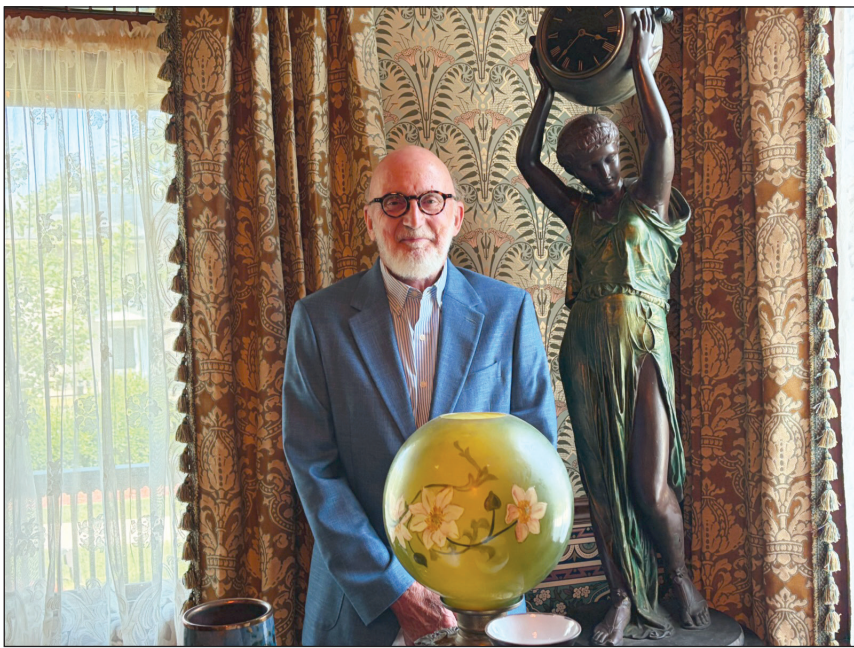
Charles Schifferdecker and Edward Zelleken. Both came from Germany to make their fortunes in America. They made money in numerous ventures from beer brewing to mine leasing.

Long after the two families were gone, though, the houses suffered from a lack of maintenance and one, the Schifferdecker house, was heavily damaged in a 1991 fire that killed its two occupants.

In recent years, the

Schifferdecker house underwent extensive repairs and restoration to ensure its structural integrity as one of the landmarks for those who found wealth during the region's era of lead and zinc mining in the last century. The Zelleken house also has been refurbished, though it was not damaged to the same extent as the neighboring Schifferdecker residence.

SEE **DECOR**, 2A



Brad Belk, executive director of Joplin's Historical Neighborhoods Museum, poses amid the wallpaper decor of the Zelleken home in Joplin. The museum provides visitors a glimpse of the lifestyle of those who earned wealth in the Joplin region during the 19th century. GLOBE | DEBBY WOODIN

