

APPOINTED: DNR chief named commissioner of administration. **2A**

FOOTBALL: MSSU falls in season opener. **1B**

La-Z-Boy announces \$23M expansion in Neosho

Up to 100 jobs
to be created

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

NEOSHO, Mo. — La-Z-Boy on Monday announced plans to invest \$23 million and create up to 100 jobs through a manufacturing

expansion and construction of a new distribution center in Neosho.

It is the company's second significant expansion in recent years.

The new 150,000-square-foot distribution center will serve as a centralized distribution hub within the company's U.S. supply chain network.

"As home to one of La-Z-

Boy Incorporated's oldest manufacturing facilities, Neosho has been an integral part of our company for more than 50 years," Melinda Whittington, board chair, president and CEO of La-Z-Boy said in a statement.

She said the Neosho plant manufactures a "significant portion of customized La-Z-Boy furniture."

"It was clear that expanding our presence in the city with a distribution center would deliver enhanced operational efficiencies for the enterprise and also fortify an already strong consumer experience," Whittington said.

According to the announcement, La-Z-Boy will benefit from the Missouri Works Program, which

provides access to capital through withholdings or tax credits for job creation. La-Z-Boy Inc. is estimated to receive \$356,304 through the Missouri Works Program subject to verification of program requirements, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"La-Z-Boy Incorporated's decision to expand in

Neosho is a tremendous win for the community and Southwest Missouri," Michelle Hataway, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, said in a statement. "This commitment reflects the strength of Missouri's manufacturing sector, our skilled workforce and the

SEE **NEOSHO**, 2A

'Really refreshing'



Teacher Lauren Quick works with her Project Lead the Way class on an assignment to investigate a crime scene.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Joplin High School earns accreditation from nonprofit

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

Joplin High School earned Accreditation with Merit from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission, the district announced Monday.

Cognia is a nonprofit organization that recognizes schools

around the world that meet its standards, which it said are focused on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation and effective leadership.

Principal Randy Oliver said the accreditation is another signal that Joplin High School "is doing a lot of great things as a school and students are learning."

"Teachers are taking care of things in the classroom, and they're always willing to get better," Oliver said. "And that's really what that report means to me — that we're doing a lot of things the way Cognia's accreditation sys-

tem viewed that it should be done. It was really refreshing to hear everything that they thought about our school because I obviously agreed with a lot of the things they said and because we want to do really, really well on a visit like that because it just shows the community all the great things that are going on in our school."

According to its website, <https://www.cognia.org>, Cognia has been serving educational institutions since 1895.

The district said in a written release that Accreditation with Merit is the second-highest level of accreditation, and

Joplin High School scored only 4 points below the highest level of Accreditation with Distinction.

"Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of ensuring all students can flourish in engaging and equitable learning environments," Cognia CEO Mark L. Elgart said in a statement. "We commend Joplin High School for meeting high standards and making progress on key indicators that impact student learning."

SEE **SCHOOL**, 2A

Joplin enacts burn ban

Hot, dry weather
expected to extend
into next week

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

While the Joplin area is caught in the grip of an unyielding late-summer heat and dry spell, the city of Joplin has enacted a burn ban.

A heat advisory has been issued for this week over all of Southwest Missouri by the National Weather Service at Springfield. That advisory projects that heat index values of up to 105 degrees will occur each afternoon with overnight lows dropping only into the middle 70s.

A large bubble of high pressure is expected to bring hot air and dry conditions into the Central Plains this week and into next week. The average high temperature for this time of year is around 85 degrees, but the 100-degree temperatures are expected to remain through mid-September, according to Springfield's National Weather Service office.

The Joplin fire marshal on Monday issued a ban of all open burning, including recreational and cooking fires within the city limits of Joplin, a city spokesman said. The ban will remain in effect until weather conditions improve and there is measurable rainfall across the entire region that will allow for conditions to improve.

Over the past few days, there have been some fires that grew out of control due to the dangerous weather conditions, according to the city. City officials have asked that Joplin residents abide by the fire ban and refrain from any activity that could result in an uncontrolled fire.

Meteorologist Justin Titus, of the Springfield office of the National Weather Service, said that the heat has been more persistent than usual, even for late summer, and can have some health effects if people cannot stay cool. He recommended that people stay hydrated and check on the well-being of neighbors, especially the elderly.

SEE **BAN**, 2A

Joplin Senior Center still not fully reopened

Building open only for
lunch as air conditioning
repairs continue

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

The Joplin Senior Center continues to operate with restricted hours because of

issues with the building's air conditioner.

Located at 2616 S. Picher Ave., the senior center is open this week from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch service only, according to the Area Agency on Aging Region X.

The building has experienced extended disruptions and partial closures since late July, when the air

Editor's note

FOR THE LATEST NEWS from the Area Agency on Aging, including a calendar of events for area senior centers and lunch menus, see pages 3A and 4A.

conditioning system quit working.

The center closed entirely starting July 27 during the onset of a triple-digit heat wave above because the air conditioner unit failed and replacement parts were not immediately available.

The building was open this month on a limited, lunch-only basis with no other activities scheduled in the building.

Home-delivered meal services have continued during this time, though. Efforts to repair the air conditioning unit have been ongoing since late July. The Joplin Senior Center is also listed as a cooling center on several websites during hot weather, but with the air conditioner being out, it will not be available this week.