

\$10,000: Children's Haven of Southwest Missouri receives grant. **3A** | **SOFTBALL:** Joplin defeats Carl Junction 8-5. **1B**

County clerks get word to use 2022 maps

Notice concerning congressional districts doesn't change anything for Jasper, Newton counties

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis said he received official notice from Secretary of State Denny Hoskins' office to use

the 2022 Missouri map of U.S. House districts as opposed to the map approved by lawmakers and signed by Gov. Mike Kehoe a year ago this month. "Following the United States Supreme Court's stay,

the only governing court order in effect is from the Missouri Supreme Court. In accordance with that order, my Office is directing local election authorities to use the 2022 congressional map," Hoskins told county clerks. The email was received by Davis at 12:34 p.m. Thursday. Newton County Clerk

Tami Owens said she received the same email at the same time. Both Owens and Davis said the email has little impact on the ballots they are preparing for use in the Nov. 3 general election. "We're all in the same 7th Congressional District," Owens said. "It didn't change anything before with the new map, and it doesn't

change anything back now." Davis said the final decision issued by the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday reversed Chief District Court Judge Stephen Clark's restraining order that ordered Missouri to use the new map approved by lawmakers in September 2025. He also said that provided clarity to the entire state. "We did have some

counties that had different congressional lines drawn in the special session in 2025 by the House Bill 1 map that changed the map drawn in 2022," Davis said. "So it provides clarity statewide on what maps everybody is supposed to use. For us, it was kind of irrelevant because we know we were

SEE **CLERKS**, 2A

Sheriff's stories



Producer and director Doc Elliott (left) helps makeup artist Ash Pizzini (center) work on Sean Bailey's makeup to make Bailey look like an older version of Sheriff Buford T. Justice.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Buford T. Justice series
filmed in Southwest
Missouri recently

BY JOHN HACKER
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WENTWORTH, Mo. — A television series paying tribute to fictional Sheriff Buford T. Justice from the "Smokey and the Bandit" movies is being filmed in Missouri for release in May 2027 on Netflix, and a home in Newton County has been given a starring part.

Producer, screenwriter, director and stunt coordinator Doc Elliott worked in Los Angeles for 40 years, including driving one of the dozens of patrol cars in the final 18-wheeler-versus-smokies battle of the second "Bandit" movie. He said he also was in a variety of projects from the 1970s and '80s such as "The Dukes of Hazard," "Knight Rider," "The Fall Guy" and several movies.

Now he's moved back home to Southwest Missouri and taking up the challenge to try to show how Sheriff Buford T. Justice, played in the movies by Jackie

SEE **SERIES**, 2A



Producer and director Doc Elliott (standing) speaks with actor Sean Bailey, playing Sheriff Buford T. Justice, in the bedroom of the home where Justice lives in the television series.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER



Carterville City Administrator Jonathan Cook addresses the Carterville City Council regarding the city's water and wastewater systems at the council's regular meeting Tuesday.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Carterville official seeks guidance on water systems

City has enough infrastructure work to keep larger public works department busy for years, administrator tells council

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTERVILLE, Mo. — In what a council member called "a more candid and more honest-than-normal" monthly report, Carterville City Administrator Jonathan Cook asked the City Council for direction on the future of the city's water and wastewater systems.

"What I need from the council is clear guidance on whether the staff should continue developing a long-term plan under municipal ownership or begin a formal and transparent evaluation of outside ownership," Cook said in a written report to the council that he read at Tuesday's council meeting. "What we're doing is remaining between those two paths, and it's becoming increasingly unsustainable."

Cook said the city's water system has needs that can't be fixed in even a few years under current city revenue estimates and current staffing. He said the city has four public works employees who work to maintain Carterville's entire infrastructure.

An audit of Carterville released last month by State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick found that from January to April 2025, Carterville's water system lost to leaks between 53% and 62% of water treated by the city's water treatment plant.

"Everywhere we look, something needs attention," Cook said. "Our needs include water, sewer, storm-water, sidewalks, curb and gutter, collapsing drainage structures, dangerous buildings, nuisance properties and approximately 19 miles of streets. We have four public works

SEE **CARTERVILLE**, 2A

Joplin district sets Sept. 21 event for real estate agents

Session intended to provide information so they can better assist clients with school-related questions

BY JASON PEAKE
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The Joplin School District is hosting an event for local real estate agents from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, at the Joplin High School Performing Arts Center.

The session is designed to equip real estate agents with school information to better assist clients with district-related questions. It will cover details on district athletics, fine arts, transportation, enrollment and staff satisfaction, while highlighting

new, innovative programs. "We're excited to see as many Realtors come in as possible," Superintendent Kerry Sachetta said Thursday. "The district has changed a lot in the last 20 years. There's a lot of things going on. And we just want our Realtors to know what's going on so they can give the right information or point people in the right direction. We want people to know about all of the good things that

are going on in Joplin Schools, including the myriad of activities and programs for our students. We know Realtors talk to a lot of people who decide to move in or decide not to move into the district. We just want to make sure the Realtors are providing the correct information or encouraging people to talk to a school administrator or a coach or a

SEE **SCHOOLS**, 2A

