

COOLER: Joplin Senior Center resuming normal hours. **2A** | **SOFTBALL:** Joplin beats Nixa; CJ shuts out Hillcrest. **1B**

Council endorses change in airport hub

Houston could be added if federal agencies agree

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Members of the Joplin City Council agreed in a special meeting Tuesday night to seek a change in airline destinations for Joplin flights, from Chicago to Houston.

Jeremy Hagerman, assistant director of the city's public works department, told the council that in late August the Federal Aviation Administration told airport and city officials along with the city's air service consultant that the agency was going to reduce the number of flights out of Chicago for safety reasons because of construction at that airport.

"As part of that, they are redoing their flight schedules at Chicago," Hagerman said.

What that means for Joplin area passengers is that starting in December, morning flights out of Joplin to Chicago would depart at 5 a.m. Return flights would depart Chicago at 7:40 a.m.

Additionally, flights with Joplin's air carrier, SkyWest Airlines, which provides service through an FAA subsidy program called Essential Air Service, or EAS, is to be rebid at the end of this year.

Options were to stay with the Chicago flights or for Joplin officials and SkyWest to submit a request to the FAA and the U.S. Department of Transportation to switch flights to Houston. The flights, like those for Chicago, would be provided seven days a week in and out of Houston. Hagerman said Joplin would have little choice; the decision would rest

with the federal transportation agencies because they pay the subsidies for the air service.

Flights to Denver are not affected, Hagerman said.

The Joplin Airport Board, after hearing the information at a recent meeting, made a recommendation that the change be accepted because a noon flight time from Houston would be

SEE **FLIGHTS**, 2A

Schreiber Foods plan moves forward

Carthage council approves tax abatement bonds for company's expansion

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Schreiber Foods confirmed Wednesday that it will invest \$267.5 million to build a new cheese manufacturing operation in Carthage.

The expansion will create 100 jobs in Carthage.

The announcement came a day after the Carthage City Council gave final approval to an agreement for the city to provide what are called Chapter 100 bonds to provide Schreiber with a property tax abatement on \$197.6 million of that investment.

Carthage Economic Development Corp. CEO Jeff Meredith said the proposed abatement is for a total of eight years starting in 2027 with 100% of the property taxes on that \$197.6 million investment canceled in years one through seven, or through 2033, and 82% of property taxes canceled in year eight, or 2034.

A cost-benefit analysis of the expansion prepared by the public finance consultant Gilmore Bell concluded that the abatement will save Schreiber Foods about \$20.3 million over that time with the taxing entities receiving a total of \$603,415 over that eight years, most of which — \$594,894 — will be paid in the eighth year when the abatement is only 82% of property taxes.

The taxing entities that will be affected by the abatement are the state of Missouri, Jasper County, the Developmental Disability Resource Board, Mental Health, the Carthage School District, the Carthage Road District and the city of Carthage.

Meredith said over the five years after the abatement ends in 2034 that the taxing entities will see about \$17.3 million in new property tax revenue with more coming in each year for the life of the plant.

Schreiber said in a statement Wednesday that the facility is expected to open in 2028.

"Our customers' ambitions help shape where we invest and how we grow,"

SEE **SCHREIBER**, 2A

On 'very last leg'



This view shows the change in slope at the top of the Oak Street bridge in Carthage.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Carthage 'Whee' bridge replacement moving toward construction

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — A Carthage icon on historic Route 66 likely has only about a year left before construction of its replacement begins.

The old wooden Oak Street railroad bridge has for more than a century prompted children to demand that parents "go faster, go faster" because of a hump in the middle of the bridge, but it has been on its last legs for several years as the 106-year-

old frame ages and deteriorates.

Carthage's engineer, Jason Eckhart, with Zanevan Engineering, said Missouri Department of Transportation inspectors who look at the bridge annually have been telling the city for the last few years that it has significant age-related deterioration.

"It's possible it could be closed before we can start construction," Eckhart said. "The inspectors have said for a while that the bridge is

SEE **BRIDGE**, 2A



Engineer Jason Eckhart looks over the the proposed plans to replace the Oak Street bridge.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Quapaw Nation report says 32 bison died in August

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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QUAPAW, Okla. — A Sept. 19 report to the Quapaw Nation business committee states that there were 32 bison that died Aug. 28.

The report states that "a serious bison incident was identified during August resulting in the loss of 32 bison."

Additionally, the statement says that "the incident was referred to the appropriate authorities and remains under review."

Officials with the Quapaw Nation could not be reached Wednesday.

An official at the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry confirmed Wednesday that the department is the in-

vestigating agency, but the agent in charge of the case could not be reached.

The tribe issued an earlier statement that said, "We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss. The health, safety, and responsible stewardship of the Quapaw Nation's bison herd are matters the nation takes very seriously. The circumstances surrounding the bison deaths

are currently under investigation, and the nation is working to gather and verify all relevant information.

"Because this is an active and ongoing investigation, the Quapaw Nation will not speculate regarding the circumstances or potential cause of the loss at this time."

There has been a tribal bison project involving bi-

son at Downstream Casino Resort, operated by the Quapaw Nation, for many years. In 2010, the tribe first began raising bison, roaming on land near the Downstream Casino Resort.

A herd of 31 bison from Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona were given a home with the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma in 2019.

The InterTribal Buffalo

Council, created in 1992, works in partnership with the National Park Service to help distribute the animals among Native American tribes that request live bison to help build up their own herds.

All of the Quapaw bison originated with national parks, including Theodore Roosevelt and the Badlands national parks.

