

THEATER: ‘Frozen’ production comes to Pittsburg venue. **3A** | **RUNNING:** Webb City cross-country sweeps invitational. **1B**

The late Robert Dale grand marshal of Maple Leaf Festival

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — The late Robert Dale, founder of the annual Maple Leaf Festival, will be posthumously honored as grand marshal during the 60th annual Maple Leaf Festival later this month.

Dale’s daughters — Kathy Atwood, Julie Dale and Sue Neely — will accept the honor on his behalf and will take part in the week’s festivities, riding in the

Maple Leaf Parade on Saturday, Oct. 17, according to an announcement by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.



Robert Dale

Reams, chamber president, said in a statement. “Sixty years ago,

he and a small group of dedicated leaders started something that has become a cherished part of who we are. This recognition is long overdue, and we are deeply grateful for his vision and his generosity of spirit. While Mr. Dale is no longer with us, it means so much to welcome his family as we celebrate this milestone anniversary together.”

Dale was born in Carthage Nov. 23, 1917, and grew up in the area.

SEE **DALE**, 2A



Alice Chorum, dressed as one of the Oompa-Loompas from “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” walks with her grandson, Gus Merrick, who played Charlie on the Willie Wonka float in the 2025 Maple Leaf Parade.

GLOBE FILE

Fresh water era



Neosho residents speak with Missouri American Water customer service agents at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting in Neosho.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Neosho, Missouri American, mark water, wastewater acquisition with ceremony

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

NEOSHO, Mo. — Neosho resident John Straughn said the city's water system has been “sketchy sometimes.” He’s hoping for better times ahead. “Systems are worn out.

We’ve got old pipes and it was that way for a long time when the city owned it,” Straughn said. “...I used to get mud in my faucet or cloudy water sometimes but that was when they were doing some construction. Hopefully it’ll be better. I’m sure it will.”

Straughn is hoping for a new era of water and wastewater service in Neosho now that Missouri American Water has taken over the city systems. Company and city officials marked the change Tuesday with a ceremony at the Lampo Building.

Area residents got to meet with customer service representatives from Missouri American during the event to make sure they were set up with the company’s bill-payment system and ask any other questions they might have.

“They’re supposed to do some improvements so that’s what I’m looking forward to,” Straughn said.

Jody Carlson, vice president of operations for Missouri American, was at the event.

“Neosho is a great community, it really is,” Carlson said.

“We’re really excited to be a part of it. I believe it’s a great thing for Neosho long term. Five, 10, 15, 20 years down the road, Neosho is going to see great investment in the community to help stability, to help fire service, water flow, growth as businesses continue to want to come to the area. We’re super excited to be a part of the community, it’s a good thing for us.”

Neosho’s systems have 5,400 water customers and the same number of wastewater customers.

SEE **WATER**, 2A



The existing intersection of Davis Boulevard and 32nd Street was closed Wednesday and will remain closed until the new intersection 1,000 feet to the east is finished in December.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Davis Boulevard closes for relocation of 32nd Street intersection

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

The first step in construction of a bridge to carry 32nd Street over the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad tracks between Range Line Road and Duquesne Road started Wednesday with the closure of Davis Boulevard at 32nd Street.

The Missouri Department of Transportation said Tuesday this phase of the project will move Davis Boulevard and its intersection with 32nd Street about 1,000 feet east of its current location to connect it with Stephens Boulevard.

Work actually started in July and workers have been building the road between Davis Boulevard and Stephens Boulevard without closing the intersection until now.

This work will close Davis Boulevard between 27th and 32nd streets for the duration of this phase, which is scheduled for completion by Dec. 1, MoDOT said in its statement.

Local traffic will be allowed to continue to businesses in the area.

MoDOT also said:

- **ACCESS** to the General Mills plant will be maintained throughout the project.

- **TRAFFIC** will be directed along a signed detour using 32nd Street and Range Line Road.

MoDOT and the city have been planning for this project since 2023. Public meetings were held to discuss the project in December of that year.

Adam Fields, resident engineer for the Joplin Project Office of MoDOT, said the Davis Boulevard intersection has to be moved east to give engineers space to build the bridge over the railroad tracks with the proper slope to get traffic up and over the tracks.

“This is to ensure clearance so the trains can pass under the bridge,” Fields said. “The bridge itself will extend past the existing intersection of Davis Boulevard and 32nd Street, so in order to keep traffic flowing

Race 4 Hope returns to Joplin on Oct. 18

BY ANDY OSTMEYER
aostmeyer@joplinglobe.com

The sea of pink that raced through downtown Joplin last fall returns Oct. 18.

That’s the day for the 17th annual Race 4 Hope, supporting early detection of breast cancer.

It is one of the most important fundraisers that the Hope 4 You Breast Cancer Foundation holds

annually and includes a 5K run and 1-mile walk in downtown Joplin. About 300 people participated last year.

“I don’t know what we’d do without community support,” said Sharon Clark, president of the board for the organization. “We just couldn’t do it without community support. It just continues to grow.”

SEE **HOPE**, 2A



Kimberly Clinton signs the banner for the Race 4 Hope survivor walk last year in downtown Joplin.

GLOBE FILE

SEE **DAVIS**, 2A

