

TEMPERATURES: September in Joplin sets records. **2A** | VOLLEYBALL: Missouri Southern falls in close match. **1B**



Three members of Sister-Corps work to fix a drill at the Vita Nova Village build Monday. They are (from left) Beth Fry of Raleigh, N.C., Cathy Miller, of Virginia, and Kim Wilson, of Arkansas.

GLOBE | DEBBY WOODIN

Volunteers building cottage for Vita Nova Village

All-woman team doing construction

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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When LeeAnn Moore retired, she didn't want a life of leisure. So this week, she's doing what she enjoys. She is on a build site working along with nine other women in the Sister-Corps construction crew. The team is working to frame up a cottage for Vita Nova Village.

The village, on land at 1201 Byers Ave., will eventually be filled out with tiny homes for people who are homeless.

Sister-Corps was in Joplin last October and worked on a previous project here for Loving Grace. Volunteers helped renovate a transitional home for young women. Loving Grace is a Christian home at 1414 Euclid Ave. It serves women ages 17-24 who are homeless, aging out of foster care, pregnant or recovering from domestic violence.

Sister-Corps is a nonprofit, nationwide all-women volunteer organization that provides construction labor and materials to repair or replace homes hit by natural disasters such as tornadoes, floods and fires. The group also will help in with charity projects such as Vita Nova and Loving Grace.

The crew here currently is being led by Moore, president and co-founder of Sister-Corps.

"We started after Hurricane Harvey," Moore said of the Sister-Corps group working in Joplin. That tropical cyclone swirled through southern Texas and across Louisiana in 2017, leaving large swaths of destruction.

The organization's roots grew from a women's camping group called "Sisters on the Fly," Moore said. They were camping at Port Aransas, Texas, when Harvey hit there and devastated the area. The hurricane then moved inland to Houston, moving public attention there and leaving people in Port Aransas without assistance.

There were some women at the time who had been camping together at

SEE **COTTAGE**, 2A

'Great following'



Lois Ring, of Carthage, teaches one of her water aerobics classes in the therapy pool at the Fair Acres Family Y in Carthage.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Carthage woman teaching water aerobics at 93 years old

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Lois Ring may be 93 years old, but she hasn't slowed down.

Ring still mows her own lawn, takes care of her own home and is in charge of funeral dinners at her church.

She recently celebrated her 93rd birthday at a restaurant in Carthage with more than 14 of her friends, many of whom attend the water aerobics classes she also teaches two days a week at the Fair Acres Family Y.

"I want to be like her when I grow up," said Heather Winesburg, a student in one of Ring's classes. "I made sure the



Lois Ring, of Carthage, sits front and center with members of her water aerobics classes at the Fair Acres Family Y in Carthage as they get ready to clean up from Ring's 93rd birthday party.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

lifeguards knew, like the young man who was there today. I said, 'Did you know it's Ms. Lois' birthday? Do you know how old she is? He was like, 'No.' I said, '93.' He said, 'Are you kidding?' ... It's just encouraging. She is amazing."

Ring said she has been taking care of herself since she got married and moved to the Kansas City area when she was 19 and

became a mom to two daughters.

Ring grew up in Jasper County and graduated from Sarcoxie High School before marrying her sweetheart, who was a Greyhound bus driver in Kansas City.

"We lived on a farm out by where the Circle E Family Market is now east of Carthage," Ring said. "That's where we met. He took a job with Greyhound

bus lines driving east and west out of Kansas City. He'd drive charters too, and those would go everywhere."

Ring said her husband died suddenly about 30 years ago.

"I was giving him CPR, and he died while I was giving it to him. It was one of those widowmakers," Ring said. "So I've been on my own, taking care of myself and everything else ever since.... I don't know. God has just been good to me."

Ring said she was still living in Kansas City when she was involved in a vehicle crash where a drunken driver hit the car behind hers and pushed that vehicle into her car, injuring her back.

She said doctors tried different pain therapies, drugs and treatments, and nothing seemed to work.

"Nothing helped, and finally they sent me to a sports rehabilitation place, and they had a big swimming pool," Ring said. "The lady there said,

SEE **CLASSES**, 2A

MSSU student newspaper prints first edition since 2020

Missouri Southern State University students Jesse Johnson and Matthew Bragg prepare to distribute copies of the first printed edition of The Chart in more than six years.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER



Publication trying to improve its visibility on campus

BY JOHN HACKER
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For the first time in more than six years, the Missouri Southern State University student news source, The Chart, printed a physical edition.

It comes out the week Southern is marking homecoming,

with campus events all week, a parade in downtown Joplin on Saturday, followed by a football game.

An award-winning newspaper for decades, The Chart has been an online-only news source since COVID-19 first closed down schools, including Southern, in 2020, but that changed, at least for the homecoming.

"It's 12 pages. The content is almost all from the students who produce the journalism," said Bryan Trude, assistant professor

in the communications department at MSSU and adviser to The Chart. "We have a couple of letters from President Dean Van Galen and the athletic director, but we also have stories on the new mental health program the athletics department started with the Ozark Center; we have a three-page spread highlighting every member of the football team. We have a story on a recycling program that's going on at

SEE **CHART**, 2A

