THE JOPLIN GLOBE

GLOBE'S KENNEDY GIVEN HONOR . A3 | MSSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DOMINATES. B1

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SHOWING GROWTH

Official: More homes built last year, more commercial building to come



Globe file photo

Watered Gardens officials and contractors break ground in September on the new tiny homes community called Freedom Village.

JERRY WILLIS
JWILLIS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Joplin's chief building official says that the city approved the building of more homes last year than the previous year and can look for a lot of commercial building in the year ahead.

"Last year was a good year, Bryan Wicklund, chief building official, said when discussing the city's year-end building permit report. "... On the residential side, we issued about 20 more permits than the previous year, so that's good. ... We had a few of the large projects, which is good. We've got some big projects coming up, but the permits haven't been issued yet. All the signs tend to show it is going to be a good year. A big part of that will probably be this Prospect Village project in this next year," he said.

Prospect Village is a $375 million mixed-use development planned on a section of the land along Geneva Avenue, east of Range Line Road, and from south of 20th Street to north of 32nd Street.

The project is planned to include an indoor sports complex of 135,000 square feet, two outdoor turf fields, a hotel, retail stores, apartment buildings and a public park. Recently, a dental office was added to the plan to be built south of the Planet Fitness and Home Depot area.

BUILDING TOTAL

Last year, construction in Joplin came to $168.6 million, compared to $173.4 million

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Globe | Jerry Willis

Kevin Gamez, left, and Jaoquin Mendoza, with Rink Systems, move walls into place for the ice ribbon that is a part of the Ewert Park renovation, a nearly $9 million project and the second-largest building project permitted by the city over the past year.

Ewert Park renovation continues

Ceremony set for Dec. 17 to celebrate Ewert Park reopening

JERRY WILLIS
JWILLIS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Workers were building a section of wall Tuesday for an ice ribbon that will weave around the splash park that is part of the nearly $9 million renovation at Ewert Park.

Work on the park was the second largest building permit issued by the city of Joplin in the last fiscal year.

The city of Joplin has scheduled a reopening celebration at the park for 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17. If the weather is cold enough long enough, visitors will be able to skate at the event.

"The project is going well. The park will open

See **RENOVATION** on A2

Carthage Board of Ed OKs commitment for Junior ROTC program

JOHN HACKER
JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

CARTHAGE, Mo. — The Carthage Board of Education on Tuesday unanimously approved sending a letter of commitment to the U.S. Army Cadet Command to start a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps for Carthage High School.

Carthage Superintendent Luke Boyer said one of the points made to voters in April 2026 to convince them to vote for a bond issue to build the new Carthage High School Performing Arts Center was the idea of freeing up space in the high school for the creation of a Junior ROTC program. This letter is the next step in that process.

Boyer said construction is progressing smoothly on the performing arts center, and the band, music and theater programs will be moved to classrooms in that building in summer 2027.

"In my opinion, Junior ROTC is the best leadership program and post high school opportunity that we don't offer at Carthage," Boyer said. "We have applied in the past and we've been granted the ability to add a Junior ROTC in the past, but we did not have the space that was required for the program. By moving the band and music programs to the performing arts center, we will have a space for a Junior ROTC so it just made sense that we could package that in, provide another incredible opportunity for our kids and really try to have a great Junior ROTC program here at Carthage."

Boyer said the letter of commitment was part of the application process.

"The letter says that we're just going to fulfill our commitments and a lot of that is space and time and scheduling and things of those nature," Boyer said. "And the School Board passed it on Tuesday with a 7-0 vote."

Boyer said moving those classes to the PAC will also free up room to give the student council its own space and to bring the virtual learning program back to the high school.

Boyer said military service can be a great opportunity for some students and Junior ROTC will give students an opportunity to see a sample of what military life is like.

"It's an opportunity that, unless students make contact with a recruiter who comes to the school occasionally, they just don't realize that's an option for them with some real benefits," Boyer said. "It's a leadership program that attracts kids that are athletes but it also attracts kids who are not athletes. It attracts kids that are in the arts and

See **CARTHAGE** on A2

Historic Webb City Clubhouse to be celebrated Tuesday

Once the hub for Electric Railroad, it's now a place for veterans

DEBBY WOODIN AND BILL CALDWELL
DWOODIN@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

WEBB CITY, Mo. — A celebration of one of Webb City's longest standing landmarks, The Clubhouse at 115 N. Madison St.,, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 24.

The Webb City Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting event at 9 a.m. to mark the service that the building, built 116 years ago.

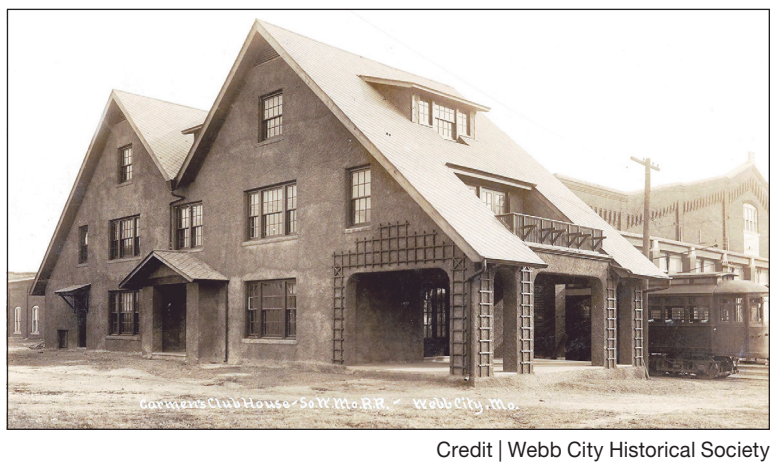
The Clubhouse was built in 1910 for the Electric Railroad Club. It has been in almost continuous use since, first as a clubhouse for the employees of the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company. It later served as the Jasper County Health Department, then as a place for history and gatherings when it was owned by the Webb City Historical Society. It has now the headquarters of a veteran support nonprofit, Charlie 22 Outdoors.

Historical markers for the building were funded by the Shellhorn Family Trust and placed by the Webb City Historical Society.

A.H. Rogers started the Twin City Railway Co., a 2-mile mule car line, between Webb City and Carterville in 1889. He electrified the line, renaming it the Southwest Missouri Electric Railway Co. in 1893. Then the Webb City Mayor, C.S. Manker, decided to include in an 1893 ordinance authorizing the franchise for Rogers' interurban line a provision that the "principal offices, power house, car barns, etc., should be located in Webb City."

That action made Webb City the hub of a new interurban transportation service instead of losing

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Credit | Webb City Historical Society

The clubhouse for the Electric Railway Club of the Southwest Missouri Railroad Co. was built in 1910 and dedicated later that year at the club's sixth annual banquet.

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