



MATI FESTIVAL

LABELLE CLOSES OUT WEEKEND OF MUSIC



LAURIE SKRIVAN, POST-DISPATCH

Patti LaBelle kicks off her heels while performing on the Field Stage on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at MATI (Music at the Intersection) Festival in Grand Center Arts District. For more from the festival, please see **Page A4**, and for more photos, please see **Page A5**.



LOOK: To see more photos from the final day of the MATI Festival, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU

Expanded health department site opens in Jefferson County

County was site of much strife during pandemic era

MICHELE MUNZ
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

HILLSBORO — The Jefferson County Health Department has opened a new clinic and headquarters here in a major expansion that began even as the office and its leaders were the target of vocal public mistrust, threats and protests during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jefferson County, the third-most populous county in the St. Louis metro area and majority politically conservative, was one of the most contentious spots in the region during the pandemic. People objected to mask mandates and more.

“I think this location is something that I’m hoping takes our mind off of some of the past and helps us look to the future, get our focus back together and do those things that we do the best,” said Steve Sikes, the Jefferson County Health Department’s executive director.

The 19,957-square-foot facility is more than twice the size of its 70-year-old location on



CHRISTIAN GOODEN, POST-DISPATCH

The new Jefferson County Health Department clinic is photographed on Monday in Hillsboro. The \$9.7 million facility, which also houses all the county’s health programs, replaces their old building that was built in the mid-1950s.

Main Street. It boasts five exam rooms, two laboratories, consultation rooms for talks with specialists and a drive-thru area where residents can get tested for infectious diseases or have their children’s car seats checked without having to get out of their vehicle.

Health department staff working in programs such as restaurant inspections, vector control and childhood lead exposure prevention have their

own wing rather than having to walk by exam rooms. They now have space for large meetings and trainings as well as plenty of spots in the parking lot for visitors.

The health department on Wednesday will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon and offer tours until 5 p.m. of its new \$9.7 million clinic and headquarters at 1515 Peach Tree Plaza Court in Hillsboro.

Sikes said throughout the

challenges they faced during the pandemic, the staff and the board remained committed to purchasing land and building a new health facility, a process that began in 2021, because it was so clearly needed to better care for residents.

“We went through a rough time, not just in public health, everybody went through a rough time,” he said. “But I think our message is strong ... that we’re doing the best that we can do for the citizens of this county.”

Regaining trust

Jefferson County, home to about 230,000 people, was not alone in its divisiveness and threats against public health officials during the pandemic but it was a local hotspot, said Spring Schmidt, who helped lead the St. Louis County Department of Public Health through the start of the pandemic.

In the summer of 2020, dozens of protestors gathered at Jefferson County health board of trustees meetings to oppose requiring masks in public places.

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Pushback is swift against new map

Effort underway to put redistricting proposal in front of Missouri voters

KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY — Opponents of a Republican-led effort to redraw the boundaries of Missouri’s eight congressional districts outlined plans Monday to torpedo the scheme by taking it directly to the voters for ratification.

People Not Politicians, which has already raised an estimated \$850,000 to bankroll the campaign, said Monday it is collecting signatures to give voters a say in the controversial gerrymandering push designed to secure one additional safe Republican congressional seat for President Donald Trump in next year’s midterm elections.

“We are out on the streets today gathering signatures with Missourians. We are prepared to let Missourians have the final say in this,” People Not Politicians executive director Richard von Glahn told reporters Monday.

The groups opposed to the new maps say elected officials shouldn’t get to pick who they represent.

“People should be at the center of our democracy, not politicians,” von Glahn said.

The announcement comes as progressive organizations also are fighting the GOP redistricting plan in court. The ACLU has filed two challenges to the new maps, while the NAACP was in a Cole County courtroom Monday asking a judge to rule that the special session called by Gov. Mike Kehoe to redraw the boundaries was illegal.

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FBI: DNA found with rifle a match

Vice president hosts Kirk’s Monday show

JESSE BEDAYN AND JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

OREM, Utah — DNA on a towel wrapped around a rifle found near where conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated matched that of the 22-year-old accused in the killing, FBI Director Kash Patel said Monday.

Investigators also used DNA evidence to link the suspect, Tyler Robinson, with a screwdriver recovered from the rooftop where the fatal shot was fired, Patel told Fox News Channel on Monday.

Authorities in Utah are preparing to file capital murder charges against Robinson as early as Tuesday in the killing of Kirk, a dominant figure in conservative politics who became a confidant of President Donald Trump after founding Arizona-based Turning Point USA, one of the nation’s largest political organizations.

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