

OPINION

SATURDAY

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL represents the view of The Joplin Globe's editorial board. Members of the editorial board are: **Dale Brendel**, publisher, dbrendel@joplinglobe.com; **Andy Ostmeyer**, editor, aostmeyer@joplinglobe.com; **Emily Younker**, managing editor, eyounker@joplinglobe.com; and **Jerry Willis**, page designer, jwillis@joplinglobe.com.

OUR VIEW

Good news!

A shoutout to the Carthage Community Foundation, which has been at it for two decades now.

That's 20 years of making a difference, including more than \$35,000 awarded this week to 16 groups that are working to improve the lives of area residents. Recipients of funding this year include Children's Haven of Southwest Missouri, the Community Clinic, the Carthage Crisis Center, and more.

What started with \$1,250 in 1999 has now grown to \$8.4 million in assets, and over 20 years the foundation has given more than \$7 million to various charities and worthwhile organizations.

Amazing.

There's a lesson for us all in the virtue of persistence over time paying off in a big way.

CREEKSIDE PLAZA

While we're at it, how about another shoutout for the proposal to reinvent Joplin Plaza at Seventh Street and Illinois Avenue. This is Joplin's oldest shopping center.

Newmark Moses Tucker Partners has renamed the 20-acre site "Creeside Plaza" and has a vision that includes a microbrewery, restaurants, a river walk and bike lanes linking Joplin parks.

They appear to have had success with projects in Fayetteville and Bentonville in Northwest Arkansas, as well as elsewhere. It calls itself the second largest commercial brokerage and management firm in that state. We're hopeful.

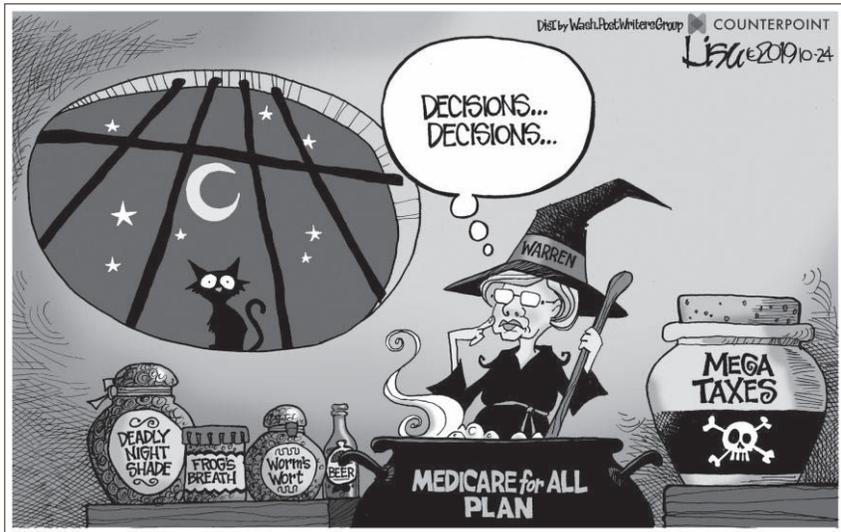
"There's an opportunity to do something really special here, to have a Northwest Arkansas-type of development here in Joplin," said Toby Teeter, president of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

We'd like to see more development that includes resurrecting Joplin creeks, reclaiming them from the ugly concrete drainage that they became.

SPEAKING OF CREEKS ...

As we review some of the week's positive news around the region, it might help to remember a last lesson from Johnny Cash.

Joplin will surely come close to setting a record for annual rainfall this year. The record is 65 inches, and if historic rainfall patterns hold, we will be at 62 to 63 inches. A toad strangler or



Weatherization good for families, companies

Southwest Missouri has many homes that are more than 60 years old, built before the knowledge we have now with regard to building codes, safety practices and cleaner, more efficient air systems.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program was created originally to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency; however, it has grown to so much more. Weatherization is based on local partnerships that help leverage weatherization services. Weatherization benefits American businesses, families and workers, and is made in America.

Economic Security Corp.'s weatherization partnerships with private businesses, manufacturing companies and local utilities have provided a huge, flexible base for our weatherization activities in Southwest Missouri. Here are a few examples of weatherization work we were able to do

because of our business partnerships:

- We were able to replace a leaking roof, which is not an allowed expense with weatherization. But because of our partnerships this was fixed, which allowed us to weatherize the home.

- Another home needed an electrical upgrade so we could install an energy efficient heat pump HVAC system.

- Using weatherization's partnerships allowed us to install a sump pump in a home that didn't have one. Why is this important? It reduced the home's moisture problem and also allowed weatherization to air seal under the house and insulate the floor.

Partnerships with utility companies, home improvement stores, home repair projects and utility assistance programs allow weatherization to provide a more comprehensive solution to keep Southwest Missourians safe and warm.

In Southwest Missouri, our most vulnerable neighbors pay more than 28% of their income toward energy costs. ESC weatherizes 103 homes an-

nually. Over the past 10 years, 1,030 homes are keeping Southwest Missourians warmer.

This is an energy conservation solution for our public- and privately-owned utilities that helps keep energy costs down for our communities.

Weatherization programs also hire American workers and contractors. Materials purchased from local businesses support their employees. Staff are professionally trained, efficient and treat your home as their own.

Weatherization makes a difference in our communities' housing stock, energy-related conservation methods and buys American products.

Every \$1 received for weatherization from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is leveraged with approximately another \$1.96 from local businesses, public utilities and other resources. This is almost a \$2 to \$1 match, locally.

What a lasting investment for Southwest Missouri.

RYAN PETERSON is weatherization director for the Economic Security Corp.