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SPECIAL REPORT



**Single-family
construction
growing amid
pandemic**

Page C5

LOOKING BACK



**Through lenses
of the past**

For images from past
events and historical
moments, see

Page A11

MISSOURI WATER SUPPLY

Lead problem lurks in older homes

By GREG KOZOL
News-Press NOW

Utilities are used to dealing with some eye-popping numbers. Statewide, Missouri American Water plans to spend \$400 million just to replace existing pipes that are at the end of their useful life.

But President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan makes that kind of investment look like a trickle. He wants to spend \$56 billion to upgrade water systems and another \$45 billion to replace every single lead pipe in the country.

"I think it's a great action by the president," said Mike Klender, chairman of the Missouri section of the American Water Works Association. "I don't know how many lead services lines are in the U.S. It'll take a bite at it."

The dangers of lead pipes were known for years, but the issue gained new urgency with

“Nationwide we’re rated between a D and a C-minus for water and wastewater across the country. So there’s an acknowledgment there that we certainly need to continue to invest for the health and welfare of the country.”

— JODY CARLSON,
Missouri American Water

the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Utility officials wouldn't mind a water cannon of federal funds to deal with the problem, but they point out that it could be a more painstaking process than other aspects of the infrastructure proposal, like highway construction.

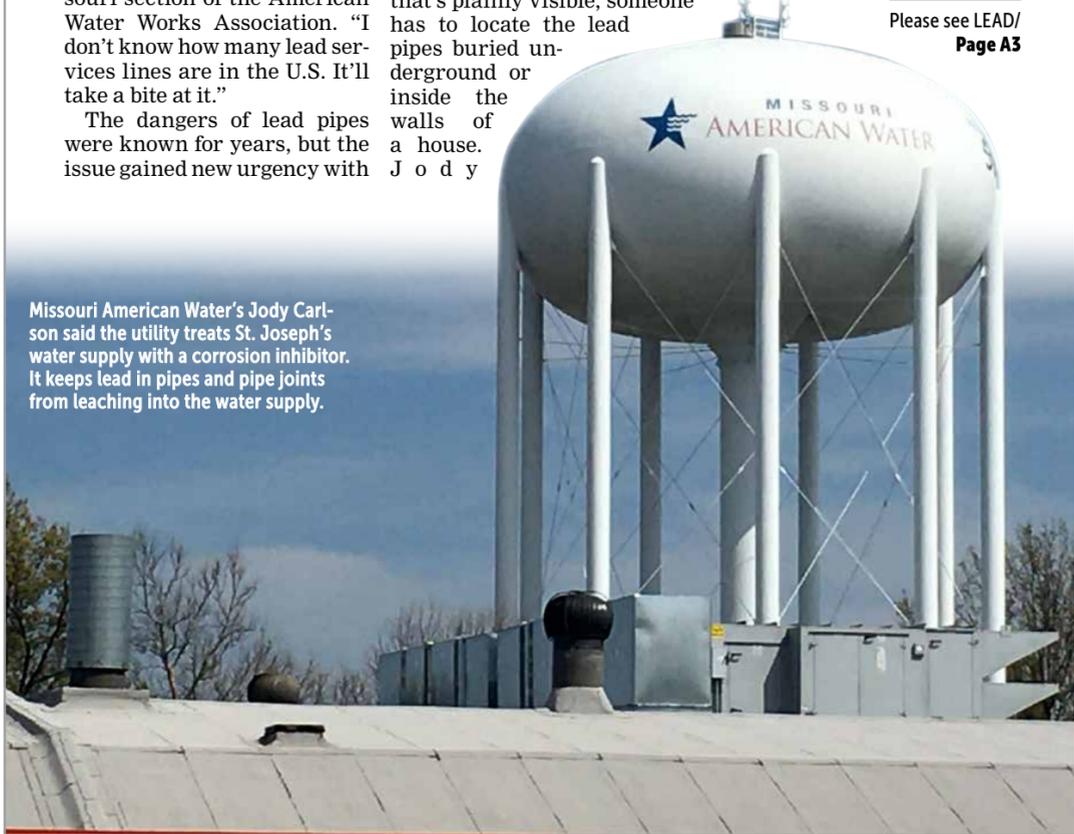
Unlike a dangerous bridge that's plainly visible, someone has to locate the lead pipes buried underground or inside the walls of a house.

Carlson of Missouri American Water said most lead pipes are concentrated in older homes, which are often located in poorer neighborhoods.

"It's not real common. We do have places throughout the town where it's plausible," said Carlson, the senior manager for field services

Please see LEAD/
Page A3

Missouri American Water's Jody Carlson said the utility treats St. Joseph's water supply with a corrosion inhibitor. It keeps lead in pipes and pipe joints from leaching into the water supply.



'I hope this isn't a one-shot:' Missourians react to Chauvin verdict

By MATT HOFFMANN
News-Press NOW

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is headed to prison, but local community leaders say change is only just starting.

Chauvin was convicted on murder and manslaughter charges in the killing of George Floyd.

"I was relieved," Loes Hedge, secretary for the St. Joseph chapter of the NAACP, said. "You know, the witnesses, I was impressed with them. "And the police officers and people who worked with him who thought that he was out of line."

Hedge hopes institutional change is coming to policing. While Chauvin's trial took place hundreds of miles away from St. Jo-



Matt Hoffmann | News-Press NOW

Loes Hedge, secretary for the St. Joseph chapter of the NAACP, reacts to the verdict in Derek Chauvin's murder trial.

seph, it captivated the nation.

"I heard the word inflection used a lot," Hedge said. "But we hope this isn't just a one-shot where this happens and then the situation with policing continues to happen in this negative way."

Hedge believes there's a push to charge officers

with crimes when they face misconduct instead of just internally disciplining them. St. Joseph Police Sgt. James Langston was charged with assault this week after slapping a victim who was in handcuffs.

"I'm sorry it had to be a killing, but it brought about a lot of change, especially among white Americans," Hedge said. "Many of them said, 'I didn't realize this was going on' and these are people who are 50 years old. At least they're open to it now and hopefully (the trial) helps everybody."

The Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph released a statement following the verdict, which could see Chauvin imprisoned 40 years or more if the judge finds aggravating circumstances. "Today's verdict cannot undo the pain or the grief, it cannot bring George Floyd back to his family," CAP officials said in a statement. "Today's verdict is a small step and small steps lead to change ... small steps lead to justice."

Please see CHAUVIN/Page A3



Marcus Clem | News-Press NOW

Jeff Bird, a loyal alumnus of Lake Contrary Elementary School, is resolved to see the building leave the purview of the St. Joseph School District rather than reopen for what he describes as misguided purposes.

Opponents push back on Lake Contrary pre-K plan

By Marcus Clem
News-Press NOW

A decision by the St. Joseph Board of Education to re-open and refurbish Lake Contrary Elementary School is causing some to question whether that plan needs to be reconsidered.

The board voted at the end of March to spend

\$312,000, most of which represents investments in new classroom technology and contingency funding, in order to consolidate all pre-K classes at one location for St. Joseph public school students. The plan is to realize this as early as the coming fall 2021 semester.

Please see CONTRARY/Page A3

MAIN NUMBER
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Drying out and warming
up for the weekend.

Details on PAGE A2

SATURDAY

HIGH: 65° | LOW: 42°

SUNDAY

HIGH: 72° | LOW: 57°



Classified.....D1 | Comics/Puzzles...E9 | Local news.....C1
Sports.....B1 | Opinion.....A4-5 | TV grids.....D3
Life.....E1 | Obituaries.....C3 | Around the World..A8

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