

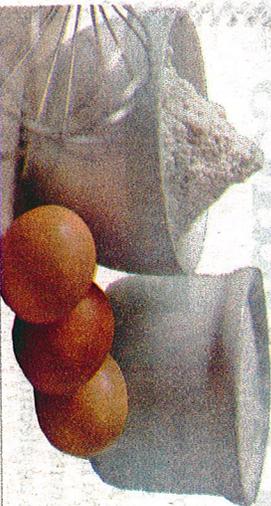
# The REPUBLIC MONITOR

Serving Republic, Mo., and the surrounding communities since 1894



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**ATTENTION  
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GO**  
Tigers return to Columbia in  
state title defense. Page 14

## Battlefield site considered for veteran's clinic

**Katie Barton**  
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It's been considered as

a potential location for a Price Cutter and later for a Menard's. Now, a piece of property at the corner of Highway M and Highway

EF is in the running to be the site of a new Veterans Administration medical clinic.

Battlefield City Administrator Rick Hess said

the proposed site is about 12 acres. Outlying spots would still be available for retail businesses.

Hess said he's aware of three other sites—all in Springfield—that are also under consideration.

"None of those, to the best of my knowledge, are improved sites," he said.

"They're just bare dirt that has to be graded and infrastructure put on it such as sewer, water, lights, pow-

er, roads, parking—things of that nature. Whereas, this site is completely improved. It's ready to build on right now."

Hess said he's hoping that will put the Battlefield site at the front of the race.

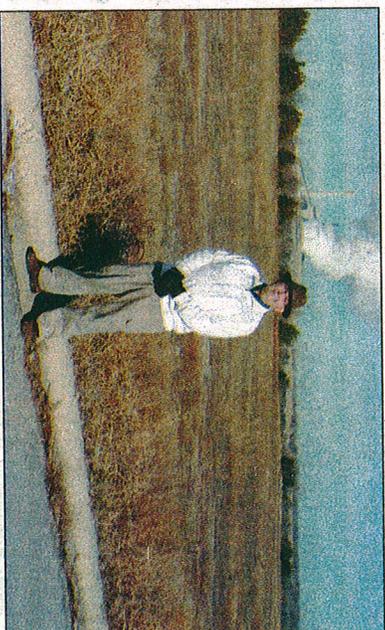
"We're hoping that, all else being equal, the VA will see Battlefield as a site that can get the center opened the quickest and at the least expense, because

the infrastructure is already in," he said.

Traffic is another advantage the Battlefield site has, Hess said.

"The traffic is not as heavy as the other three sites proposed," he said. "There are five ways on and off this particular site."

With the selection process ongoing, Hess said he is soliciting support from  
See CLINIC, 3



KATIE BARTON/THE REPUBLIC MONITOR

Battlefield City Administrator Rick Hess stands at a possible site for a new Veteran's Administration Medical Clinic.

# Clinic

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people in Battlefield and the surrounding area.

He said he's received a support letter from the Missouri Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Springfield Branch of Vietnam's Veterans of America, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and a variety of other sources. Republic's City Council voted at its March 10 meeting to support the Battlefield site for the clinic.

"The general thought is that it's not being considered for the city of Republic, so there's no

competition with us," Republic City Administrator Jim Krischke said at the meeting. "But, certainly in our area a Veteran's Administration Medical Clinic would be a nice thing to have. It generates a lot of traffic, it generates a lot of new jobs. So, there's quite a few benefits that would come along."

Among those benefits, Krischke spoke of the possibility of offshoots to other projects and growth in the area.

"We're looking at this as being right in our back door," he said. "(We're) looking at maybe we'll see some good growth along that Republic cor-

ridor leading back up to ZZ and the Republic High School area."

If the Battlefield site is the one selected, Hess said the retail establishments that would open in support of the clinic would do a lot for the city and the surrounding area.

"It will be a huge boost as far as sales tax revenue," he said. "It will open a lot of jobs for not only Battlefield residents, but also area residents. More jobs is always a good thing."

He's said he's hoping to know the final selection within the next 120 days. The clinic is slated to open in late 2015 or early 2016.

*Monitor*  
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