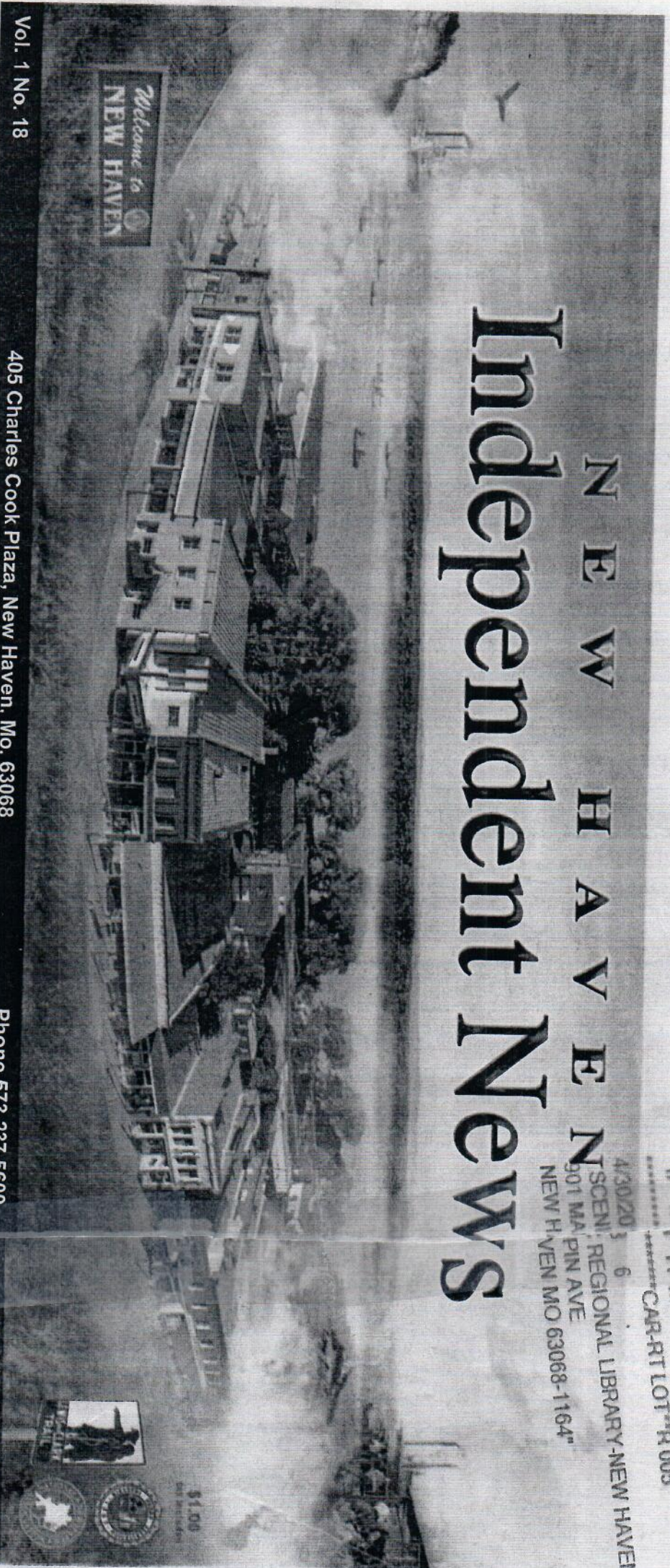


NEW HAVEN Independent News

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Vol. 1 No. 18

405 Charles Cook Plaza, New Haven, Mo. 63068

Phone 573-237-5600

ISSN 2572-8806 (print) ISSN 2572-8814 (online)

Wed., Aug. 2, 2017

Weekly, 12 Pages, 2 Sections, 1 Insert

Contract Awarded On New Library Building

The new Scenic Regional Library Branch in New Haven is slated to begin construction in late August and be completed by late May or early June.

Construction contracts for all seven Scenic Regional projects were awarded July 18 to a single general contractor, Wright Construction of St. Peters.

The New Haven branch was bid at \$1.66 million. Bids on all seven projects totaled more than \$12.5 million. Wright was the low bidder on five of the seven projects, including New Haven. The most expensive project is Sullivan at \$2.19 million.

Construction Starts This Month

"They're supposed to start in August and they'd like to finish them in eight months," said Scenic Regional Library Director Steve Campbell. "But they're telling us nine to ten months to be a little more conservative. We're hoping it gets done by the time summer reading program starts in May or early June."

With the bids about \$1.3 million over budget, the library plans to save about \$500,000 through "value" engineering—substituting less expensive materials than

originally designed or using different manufacturers. More cost savings will be realized through a staggered construction schedule, Campbell said.

"We're mainly switching out materials and manufacturers in terms of the building as it appears on our website," he said. "The branch design, the square footage, the meeting room, none of that's changing, it's all exactly what it looks like now."

He added, "The public's not going to notice any of those changes. Like the plumbing fixtures and plumb-