

THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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ON THE TABLE: Flour tortillas make fine chips with salsa. **3A** | **BASKETBALL:** Longhorns did not earn their spot. **1B**

Joplin City Council hears results of petition drive

Resident questions process involving city staff

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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There was no Joplin City Council vote Monday night on results of petitions seeking referendums to repeal city ordinances that allow annexation and zoning of land in Wildwood Ranch

for a proposed data or technology center.

The petitions were filed March 9 by Rebecca Collins, director of the Joplin Sustainable Technology Alliance, which had conducted a push in February and early March to obtain more than 5,000 signatures of registered voters to overturn the council decision made earlier this year.

Instead of a council vote, City Clerk Holly Nagy was

asked by Mayor Keenan Cortez to read a statement of insufficiency that was part of the ordinance.

Nagy read a statement that said, "The petition purports to contain 2,832 signatures. That is 2,200 short of the required number" needed to overturn the council's action to allow annexation of the Wildwood property. "Pertaining to the ordinance regarding annexation, the

number of signatures is certified as insufficient and does not qualify for further action on this petition," Nagy said, or an election.

The ordinance regarding zoning of the land to be annexed also required no further action, the clerk read, "because the petition contained 2,348 signatures, which was 2,684 short of the required number" to require an election.

"While we didn't hit the required goal of 5,032 signatures, we still showed the council that there is a lot of concern about data centers in the community," Collins said after submitting the petitions to the city.

The group collected signatures in hopes of placing questions on the August ballot that would change the result of the city's actions that will allow the

property owner to sell the land for a data center despite the negative experiences some other Missouri residents say they have had with data centers.

Joplin resident Marla LePage, who had previously spoken to the council about the process, spoke again Monday. She said that the city's zoning staff "had unilaterally placed

SEE **DATA**, 2A

Joplin Family Y names next president and CEO

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Jeremy Bumgardner has been named the new CEO of the Joplin Family Y, effective April 15.

The Y's board of directors made the announcement Wednesday, following a four-month search.

Bumgardner will be responsible for completing the Joplin Family Y refresh and remodel, increasing membership and family programs, as well as developing new initiatives to grow the Joplin Family Y.

He succeeds Cookie Estrada, who is retiring April 17 after 42 years, 38 of those years at the Joplin Family Y.

"During our search for a new CEO, we looked at candidates from throughout the United States but Jeremy Bumgardner stood out among the rest. His energy and vision for the Joplin Family Y is exactly what we were looking for in a leader. With Jeremy's experience in leading multiple YMCAs and his passion toward healthy living and community collaboration, we are convinced that the Joplin Family Y will have fantastic leadership for

SEE **CEO**, 2A

A twist on Lime

Scoters draw scrutiny from Carthage City Council members

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Those green-and-white scooters seen zipping around Carthage since 2021 have come under scrutiny from some members of the Carthage City Council as the city decides whether to renew the contract and bring them back for a fifth season.

A couple of council members and at least one resident have complained that the scooters provided by Lime, a national company, are being misused by people who are under 18 or who are riding them recklessly.

But a summary of a survey the city posted on its website showed that a majority of people who responded, 127 of them, or about 61%, were in favor of bringing the scooters back, while 74 people, or about



Lime scooters are parked near the Jasper County Courthouse in Carthage in 2021, when the program began. The city is deciding whether to renew the contract for them for a fifth season.

GLOBE FILE

35%, said they did not support bringing them back. The summary, provided Monday by Carthage public information officer Melissa Little, said six respondents

said they were unsure.

The summary said support is most often tied to transportation access, tourism activity and recreation value while opposition is largely

driven by concerns about safety, enforcement, accessibility and scooter placement. According to the survey,

SEE **LIME**, 2A

Poll: Ban on transgender care boosts measure to outlaw abortion

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

A ban on gender-affirming treatments for minors appears to be the strongest selling point in a Missouri ballot measure that would outlaw abortion, according to a new poll that suggests the issue could be key to persuading voters to back it.

And a year into new Republican administrations, President Donald Trump and Gov. Mike Kehoe have each lost about 10 percentage points in their approval ratings, though both remain net positive.

"Pretty much every political actor in our poll this time went down" in net approval, said Steven Rogers, an assistant professor of political science at Saint Louis University and director of the SLU/YouGov poll.

With only one statewide race this year, for state auditor, the poll examines views on questions certain or highly likely to be on ballots. Immense amounts are sure to be spent on campaigns to make abortion illegal, overturn gerrymandered congressional maps and eliminate the state income tax.

The SLU/YouGov poll surveyed 900 Missouri voters between Feb. 9 and Feb. 22. The poll has a margin of error of 3.6%.

It showed a narrow margin in favor of making abortion illegal and a statistical tie on gerrymandering. It also showed voters like the idea of eliminating the income tax but dislike adding sales tax to any of the services likely to be included in a bill replacing the lost revenue.

ABORTION RIGHTS

Lawmakers put the abortion ban on the ballot in order to

overturn a constitutional amendment narrowly passed in November 2024 that made abortion legal in the state.

The poll shows the proposal, which will be Amendment 3, is supported by a 47% to 40% margin.

Some provisions of the amendment, which would ban most abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to save a mother's life, are very unpopular, the poll shows. Almost 60% of Missourians support allowing an abortion before the eighth week of pregnancy and 47%

support it up to the 12th week.

But the section of the amendment banning transgender minors from receiving puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones or gender transition surgeries is overwhelmingly popular. The poll found that 67% of those surveyed oppose gender transition medications for minors and that 73% opposed gender transition surgeries.

Only Democrats among poll subgroups supported allowing gender transition medications,

SEE **BAN**, 2A

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2026 Favorites of the Four States

Nomination Period **NOW OPEN**



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