

THE JOPLIN GLOBE

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 1, 2026

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ON THE TABLE: Farmers markets set to open in area. **3A** | **BASEBALL:** MSSU defeats Newman in run-rule victory. **1B**



Brooks Blevins will be a featured speaker for the spring history symposium at Crowder College. COURTESY PHOTO

Historian to 'talk Ozarks' at Crowder College

BY AUSTIN DYE
news@joplinglobe.com

NEOSHO, Mo. — A professor and expert on the history and people of the Ozarks will bring his presentation, titled "How to Talk Ozark in Seven Simple Steps," to Crowder College on Thursday.

Brooks Blevins, award-winning author and the Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, will be presenting at Crowder as part of its spring history symposium. Born and raised in rural Arkansas, Blevins has written and edited numerous books, including "A History of the Ozarks," in three volumes, "Hill Folks" and "Ghosts of the Ozarks."

He also works with several local groups, including the Missouri Historical Review, to share local history.

"Everybody has a dialect," Blevins said, "so it's kind of fun to come compare."

He said his talk will be an informal presentation looking at the Ozark dialect, its background, how it has "died out or softened," and some of its unusual pronunciations and vocabulary.

"That's what I like about presentations like this. History, it's fun and ridiculous," he said.

The free event will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Wright Conference Center inside the Arnold Farber Building on the campus of Crowder College, 601 Laclede Ave. in Neosho.

"We are very excited to be able to welcome such a prestigious scholar of Ozark history to our symposium series. We have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of accomplished scholars over the years, and Dr. Blevins will be an exceptional addition to the series," Denna Clymer, Crowder College social science division chair and instructor, said in a statement.

Hopefuls offer views

Joplin City Council candidates weigh in on goals for the city

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

Joplin voters will fill three general seats on the Joplin City Council on April 7.

There are four council members who did not opt to run again. They are Gary Shaw, who represented Zone 1; Mark Farnham, of Zone 4; and two who hold general seats who did not file for reelection, Doris Carlin and Doug Lawson.

Candidates for the three general seats are Josh DeTar, Brian Cowles, Jamie Hammond, Natasha Klue-Michael, Mary Price and Matthew Wolsey.

Wolsey did not respond to the Globe's questionnaire or attempts to get information.

Two candidates are unopposed for the zone seats. They are Rob O'Brian and Eli Moran.

The Globe asked all of the candidates, including the unopposed, their views on specific issues.

QUESTION: The council adopted six goals in 2021 aimed at trying to improve the community. Those goals are to improve community appearance and public properties, address declining neighborhoods, increase economic opportunities for all, address homelessness, reduce crime and increase safety, and to improve city service levels and maintain infrastructure. What are your thoughts on how well you believe the city has performed on those goals so far? What, if anything, would you do differently if you could?

DE TAR: "I believe the city has made



Jamie Hammond, a candidate for a general council seat, speaks at a Joplin City Council forum at Joplin Avenue Coffee Co. on Friday as the other candidates wait their turn. Shown are (from left) candidates Brian Cowles Sr., Hammond, Eli Moran, Mary Price, Natasha Klue Michael, Josh DeTar and Rob O'Brian.

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meaningful progress toward the goals of improving our community. The city does an excellent job of utilizing various funding sources — whether through sales and use taxes or by securing grant funds from the state and federal levels — to accomplish these goals. As we continue moving forward, it is important for the council to periodically review our goals to ensure they continue to address our community's evolving needs."

HAMMOND: "In my opinion, I have yet to see any of their goals be achieved. As someone who is in community

'houselessness' work, I have seen things get worse, not better. It continues to break my heart to see no solution when several plans have been proposed but never executed. I hope we can change that."

PRICE: "The city's six goals adopted in 2021 are moving along as planned and voted on by prior council members and I will not discredit anything they have done and accomplished."

KLUE-MICHAEL: "As far as improving community appearance, the city has

SEE GOALS, 2A

Council candidates give opinions on city and homelessness

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

Candidates for Joplin City Council expressed their views on the city's handling of homelessness and other issues during a televised forum broadcast Monday night by the KGCS television station from City Council chambers at City Hall.

The station's general manager, Lisa Olliges-Green, and MSSU public policy students formulated questions on a variety of topics and conducted the forum. As the forum opened, Olliges-Green asked candidates what they thought of the city's actions and policies to address homelessness.

A building block for those efforts was the commission of a \$92,000 study two years ago to address rising homelessness. One of the report's recommendations was to form the Regional Commission on Homelessness.

The commission works to coordinate services, improve data collection and manage available resources to address local homelessness and coordinate communitywide services.

Josh DeTar, a retirement

investments adviser, is an incumbent seeking a second term for a general seat on the council. He said city actions regarding homelessness have included passing ordinances banning camping in public places, and formation of the Homeless Coalition for services provided to those in need as well as the Regional Commission on Homelessness. While a previous homeless commission director was hired but left the job shortly after that, the city has now hired a new director

SEE CITY, 2A

Schifferdecker, Zelleken houses live yet again in Joplin

Tickets go on sale Wednesday; tours by appointment start Thursday

BY DEBBY WOODIN
dwoodin@joplinglobe.com

Two entrepreneurial immigrants instrumental in building early day Joplin are at work again, even though they died more 100 years ago.

Visitors to the Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum can take a visual step back in time and see some familiar faces of the past while learning what life was like for two families in the late 19th and early 20th centuries intertwined by business, wealth and friendship.

The museum, which includes the former homes of neighbors Charles and Wilhelmina Schifferdecker and Edward and Margaret Zelleken, are in the 400 block of Sergeant Avenue.

It took nine years of construction and craftsmen of all kinds to bring

the houses back to their former glory of the 1890s and early 1900s, but the quality of the materials and craftsmanship was intended to keep the houses in good condition for a long period, said Brad Belk, restoration director and principal historian of the museum.

"It's a different level of museum that is state-of-the-art, and it's just going to be absolutely amazing," said Patrick Tuttle, director of Joplin's Convention and Visitor Bureau. "The

SEE TOURS, 2A



Brad Belk, preservation director and curator at the Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum, gives a tour of the Zelleken house recently. GLOBE FILE



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