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THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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LAMAR: Warehouse to be site of new YMCA. 3A

GOLF: Missouri Southern men's team ties for 10th in MIAA. 1B

Missouri Senate passes tax overhaul

Bill approved 18-11 in late-night vote

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

After unveiling a new plan just before midnight to replace Missouri's income tax with a broader sales tax, Republican leaders in the state Senate moved quickly to push it to passage early Thursday morning.

Democrats unanimously opposed the proposal, but only one said anything against it — and then only briefly. The harshest criticism came from Republican dissidents, who were numerous enough, along with the missing votes of absent members, that the measure had a bare 18-vote majority in the 34-member chamber.

"It is 15 minutes after midnight," said Sen. Joe Nicola, a Republican from Independence. "The people are not here to watch, to listen, to take part in the process."

Two other Republicans — Sens. Mike Moon of Ash Grove and Lincoln Hough of Springfield — joined Nicola in opposition. The bill came up at 11:30 p.m. Wednesday and passed 18-11 a little more than an hour later.

The plan to replace income tax with an expanded sales tax that could be imposed on "any goods or services" is unneeded, puts the state in a potentially dangerous financial position and implementation, if passed by voters, will dominate legislative debates for years to come, Nicola said.

"It is appalling to me that we're going to remove some of the constitutional limits and ask the people to trust us to figure this out," Nicola said.

HOW THE PLAN WOULD WORK

Finding a path to eliminating the state personal income tax is Gov. Mike Kehoe's top priority for the year. The key to all versions of the proposal is expanding the state sales tax to previously untaxed services, such as labor for auto and home repairs, and goods now exempt, such as prescription drugs or gasoline.

The legislation, if approved in a final Missouri House vote, would go to voters later this year as a proposed constitutional amendment.

Republican Sen. Curtis Trent of

SEE **SENATE**, 2A

SHARING IDEAS

Grant Dennis, chief financial officer with Schuber Mitchell Homes, speaks to the crowd at the Joplin Thrive summit hosted by One Joplin on Thursday.
GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Thrive Joplin speakers address community issues

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Discussions opened Thursday on the four-year project intended to propel community efforts addressing issues including poverty, health, education and literacy.

Called the Thrive Joplin Project, the effort is being led by One Joplin and TEConomy Partners.

One Joplin is a nonprofit that identifies needs in the community and accommodates conversations about how to address the issues and needs of those who live in the Joplin area. TEConomy Partners is a firm specializing in economic development, innovation and technology-based economic development strategies. The firm previously recommended that community leaders strengthen health care and higher education sectors to foster long-term growth in the region.

Peyton Struble, with Missouri Southern State University, and Debby Darby, with the Jasper County Health Department, listen to speakers at the Thrive Joplin summit Thursday.
GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

A Thrive meeting held Thursday morning drew about 220 community representatives to hear presentations on barriers that could affect such things as health and wellness, said One Joplin Executive Director Nicole Brown.

Working in groups after hearing the speakers, audience members then brainstormed ways to create community improvement that could bring lasting change for residents.

HOUSING

Topics presented at the summit included ways to build more affordable housing and strategies for providing opportunities for buyers to afford housing in the current market.

Grant Dennis, chief financial officer of Schuber

SEE **SUMMIT**, 2A

JHS head vocal teacher to cap career with 'Wizard of Oz'

Macie Hale, a senior, plays Dorothy in Joplin High School's upcoming presentation of the musical "The Wizard of Oz."
GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Musical production set for Friday, Saturday, Sunday

BY KIMBERLY BARKER
news@joplinglobe.com

Monica Brown, head vocal teacher at Joplin High School, will cap off her teaching career by helping direct her favorite musical, "The Wizard of Oz," before retiring at the end of the school year.

Brown has been an educator in Joplin for 28 years, and she has taught both choir and show choir at Joplin High School for the past 14 years.

"The Wizard of Oz" will mark her 20th and final production as a teacher at the district. She is serving as the musical director.

"We have so much talent, and we are excited to show our students off," Brown said. "They worked really hard. We're very proud of what they're doing."

Adapted from L. Frank Baum's tale, "The Wizard of Oz" will take center stage at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday at the Joplin High School theater. Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at **tinyurl.com/jhswoz** or in person at the door.

Brown said she will miss working with the high school students as well as her former elementary school student, Ashley Trotnic, who now serves as the theater teacher and play director at Joplin High School. Brown was her music teacher, and the two have been

SEE **MUSICAL**, 2A

Volume 130 | Number 180

INDEX: News to Go, 3A | Celebration of Life, 4A | Opinion, 5A | Sports, 1B | Family Fun, 2B | Weather, 3B | Classified, 5B