

THE JOPLIN GLOBE

FRIDAY | MAY 29, 2026

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SUDSTOCK: Event returning to Carthage in late June. **3A** | **SOCCER:** Carl Junction girls team back in state tourney. **1B**

Carthage council nixes scooters

Members vote 5-4 against bringing vehicles back for summer

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo — Lime scooters, which have been buzzing around Carthage since 2021, will not be an option this summer.

The Carthage City Council on Tuesday voted 5-4 against bringing back the scooters even with geofencing limiting them to neighborhood parks and not allowing them to run on the square or out to Kellogg Lake Park, as proposed by council member Juan Topete.

Voting against scooters were council members Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Ron Wells and Susan Fierro-Reddy. Voting in favor were Topete, Robin Harrison, Alan Snow and Beth Kang.

The vote came following a 20-minute discussion after the Lime scooter contract was not voted out of the council's Public Services Committee meeting May 19. The vote in that four-person committee was 2-2 with Kang and Topete voting "yes" and Perkins and Thorn voting "no."

Topete made a motion at Tuesday's council meeting that the scooter proposal be considered by the entire council, and the council voted to have the discussion by an 8-1 vote.

Wells and Perkins have spoken against the scooters at a number of council meetings since the start of 2026, saying they're being misused by people who were under the company's age minimum of 18 and who are riding them recklessly.

They've also complained about scooters being left in yards for more than a couple of days when the company said they would be picked up more often.

City officials have said earlier this year the city took in \$5,861 in 2025 and \$7,362 in 2024 from the scooter contract.

Carthage public information officer Melissa Little presented in March results of an informal survey the city conducted on its website in February and March that

SEE **SCOOTERS**, 2A

'Makes my day'



JoAnn House (from left), James Moran, Carol Cook and Mary Sutherland play cards Thursday at the Webb City Senior Center.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

City, volunteers keep Webb City Senior Center operating

BY JOHN HACKER
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WEBB CITY, Mo. — The city and a number of volunteers are keeping the Webb City Senior Center open despite a decision in March by the Area Agency on Aging to stop providing services there because of budget difficulties.

City Administrator Carl Francis said the need to

keep the center open for older area residents was obvious but took the shuffling of some city funds to make it happen.

The center is at 211 N. Pennsylvania Ave.

"The city has always owned the building that the Webb City Center is in," Francis said. "It was built in 1982, and in 1983, the Area Agency on Aging took over serving meals.... The Webb City Senior Center Advisory Board has always been

there and raised a small amount of funds through things like bingo and some minor improvements.

They bought a TV, they bought the sign out front, that kind of stuff. When the Area Agency moved out and quit serving the meals, the City Council, of course, wanted to make sure that meals were continued to be served and that the building was continued to be used as a senior center."

Francis said the council agreed to hire April Cloud, the former center manager under the Area Agency on Aging, on a part-time basis to continue to man-

age the center and help the advisory board.

"She works about five hours a day and helping the board with the organization," Francis said. "She takes phone calls and sets up the schedule for events. She's a city employee on a part-time basis, and right now, I think it's operating fantastically."

Francis said the center accepts donations for things such as daily lunches and activities.

John Joines, secretary on the advisory board, said the center continues to provide meals for a

SEE **CENTER**, 2A



In 2022, Joplin Mayor Doug Lawson (center) recognizes Mark Rains, Joplin Outlaws president, and wife Edwina, Outlaws secretary, for the contributions the Outlaws made to the Joplin community.

GLOBE FILE

Former Outlaws owner affected countless lives

The Joplin sports world and the Joplin community lost a giant Sunday when former Joplin Outlaws owner Mark Rains died.

He worked tirelessly and passionately not only to field a quality baseball team for the entertainment of Joplin but also to bring together people as a community.

I don't propose to have been a close friend, but as a former Parkwood classmate, I knew Mark for a while and would like those who never had the pleasure of



LAURIE SISK

Columnist

He did the big things well, but he also was a master at

spending time with Mark to know that he had an impact on countless lives in both big ways and small.

His philanthropic deeds are well documented as he worked to support charities around Joplin.

small, random acts of kindness.

Bishop Desmond Tutu once said, "Do your little bit of good where you are — it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Mark did that for just about everyone he met.

For me, it was as simple as him offering me a cold iced tea on a hot summer day covering an Outlaws game. It wasn't the iced tea I enjoyed so much as the warmth with which it was offered — always with a joyful smile.

The first season after he sold his beloved Outlaws, I saw Mark sitting in his truck on the street outside the stadium. He motioned me over. I said he should go in and watch the game. I got the impression from him that he wasn't quite ready for that.

He looked a bit sad, as I recall. He just wanted to know that the Outlaws players and fans were happy under the new ownership.

Mark never quit caring.

SEE **RAINS**, 2A



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