

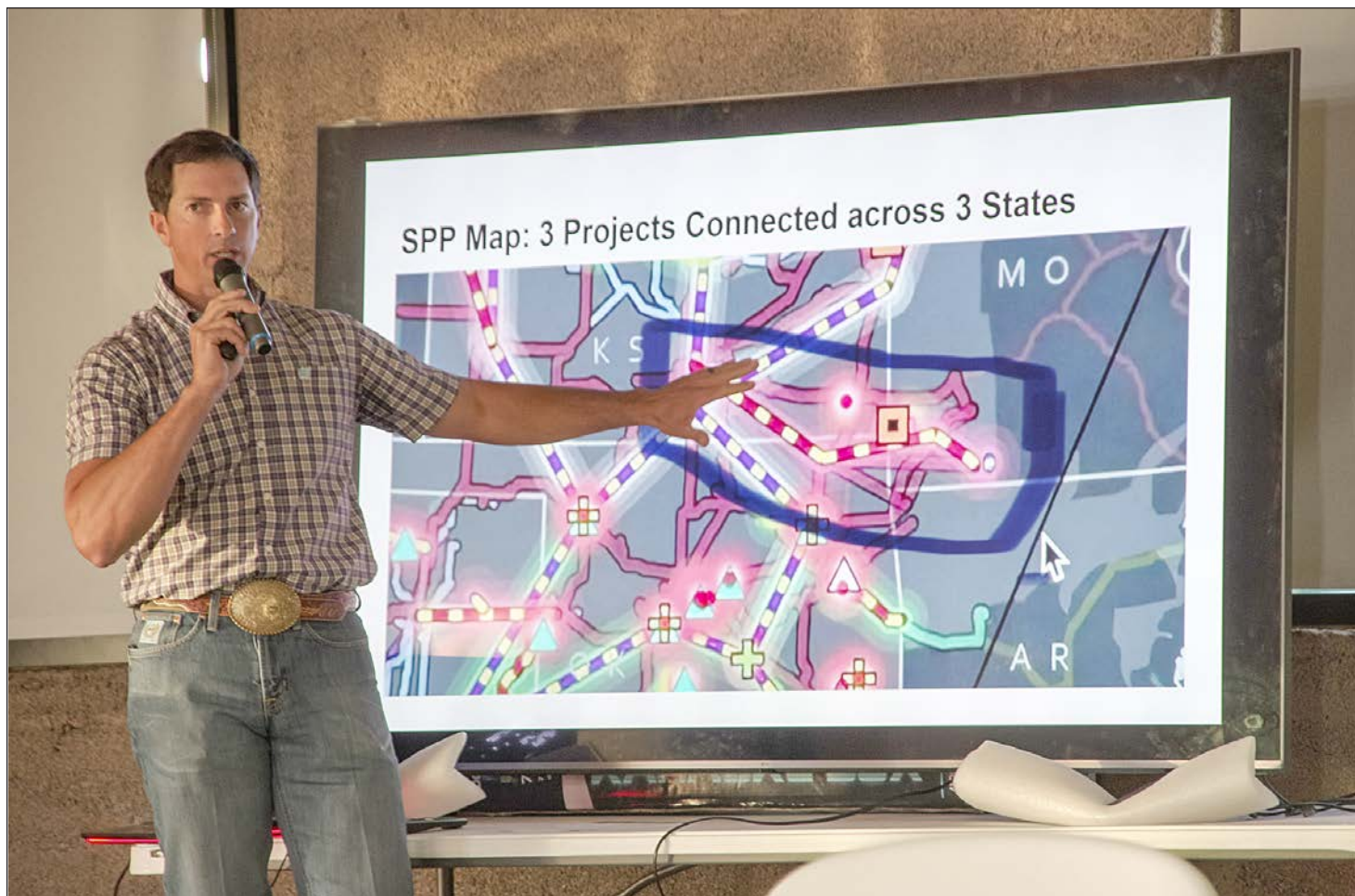
# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

THURSDAY | JUNE 11, 2026

joplinglobe.com | \$2.50

**MEDICAID:** Paperwork problems cost thousands coverage. **4A** | **JAILBIRDS:** Record now 7-2 with win over Nevada. **1B**

## MILES OF LINES



Ben Bullard, a founder of Protect Rural Oklahoma from Craig County, Okla., speaks last month to Newton County landowners in the path of a proposed transmission line planned by Liberty. GLOBE FILE

## Meeting on ballot measure to be held

Event set at Carthage Memorial Hall

BY JOHN HACKER  
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Supporters of Amendment 5, one of four constitutional amendments on the Aug. 4 ballot, will hold a town hall-style meeting on the issue from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Carthage Memorial Hall, 407 S. Garrison Ave.

The town hall will feature state Rep. Cathy Jo Loy, R-Carthage, and amendment sponsors state Rep. Bishop Davis, R-Republic, and state Sen. Curtis Trent, R-Springfield, discussing the amendment that would phase out Missouri's income tax and replace it with a sales tax and use tax revenue.

The event is sponsored by Americans for Prosperity and other supporters.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

"Rep. Davidson, who carried the legislation and has worked on it for the last four years, and Sen. Trent will be explaining how the how the bill is going to work, what it exactly does, what our hopes are," Loy said Wednesday. "And then we'll leave plenty of time for questions and answers."

Loy said she hopes people will come and hear that lawmakers do have a plan for if this passes and how the tax code will be changed. She also said she asked the organizers to bring this program to Southwest Missouri.

"When I have gone across the state and gone to these events, they've just really been helpful for people to understand the nitty gritty details," Loy said. "Because people keep saying there's no plan. Well, there is a plan. There are lots of plans. We could get rid of the income tax right now, but we wouldn't be able to replace (the revenue). We want to make sure that we're doing this in a thoughtful way."

The language on the ballot for Amendment 5 will be:

"Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Require legislative phase-out of the individual state income tax based on revenue growth, and authorize the expansion of sales and use taxes;
- Curtail constitutional limits on taxing goods and services; and
- Require local tax rate cuts without reducing school funding if local sales tax revenue increases?"

## Liberty to use more existing easements east of Newton County

BY JOHN HACKER  
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

**A** Liberty project to build new electrical transmission lines and rebuild existing ones from Seneca to Branson will use more existing right of way in the counties east of Newton County, something residents of Newton County have asked about at meetings as many express their opposition to the project.

The new transmission lines, part of a project to improve electrical distribution infrastructure in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, will be installed on poles that are between 80 feet and 120 feet tall in easements that will be around 150 feet wide and cut through farms and ranches in rural Newton County.

Liberty has said it needs 26 miles of new right-of-way easements out of a total length of 90 miles of new 345-kilovolt transmission line. The Joplin-based utility also will upgrade 76 miles of 161-kilovolt lines.

The total cost is \$500 million to \$600 million for the higher voltage line and \$200 million to \$300 million for the lower voltage line.

Nate Morris, vice president for transmission planning and operations for Liberty, said in March in Neosho that

SEE LIBERTY, 2A



The Kansas Corporation Commission, shown here in a June 2025 hearing, recently set limits on Evergy's construction of a transmission line, stopping it from crossing prairie grasslands in south-central Kansas. KANSAS REFLECTOR | MORGAN CHILSON

## Kansas regulators stop line's path through grasslands

Commissioners say Evergy must reconsider that portion

BY MORGAN CHILSON  
Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas utility regulators handed a win last month to landowners concerned about a transmission line bisecting large swaths of prairie grassland in the state's south-central region.

The Kansas Corporation Commission voted unanimously to approve part of Evergy's proposed construction of a 133-mile transmission line. But the three-member commission stopped

short of allowing the line to cross U.S. Highway 77 east into the Flint Hills, saying Evergy must reconsider that portion of the line.

"The order notes that the commission takes seriously any activity that has the potential to permanently and adversely affect the Flint Hills or other unique ecological regions of the state," said Tristan Kimbrell, assistant general counsel for the commission, who summarized the order.

"The order also notes that the commission takes seriously the potential impact the transmission line may have on oil and gas operations, and indicates that Evergy should have made greater efforts

SEE KANSAS, 2A

## Joplin man gets 19 years on charges of trafficking, resisting arrest

2 sentences to be served consecutively

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

A Joplin man has been sentenced to 19 years in prison following a plea deal, the Jasper County prosecuting attorney's office has announced.

Joseph W. Hood had pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree trafficking of drugs, a Class B felony, and one count of resisting arrest, a Class E felony.

As part of the plea agreement, he was sentenced to 15 years on the drug charge, which is the maximum, and four years for resisting arrest, which is also the maximum. The sentences are to run consecutively.

Two counts of tampering were dismissed, and another felony case alleging possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest also was dismissed.

Hood was charged March 22, 2024, following his arrest after a high-speed chase. During the pursuit, Hood, who was driving, was seen throwing baggies from the vehicle. The baggies were retrieved by the

Joplin Police Department and sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab.

A police news release at the time said that an officer tried to stop the car for traffic violations when the suspects were near Zora Street and Minnesota Avenue. But the Toyota Yaris fled west out of the city into Kansas before eventually returning to Joplin and being stopped

near 20th Street and Malang Road with the aid of tire deflators.

According to the news release, the occupants discarded items out of the car in the course of the pursuit. Among items recovered by police were a bag containing 2.59 grams of heroin, another containing 64.6 grams of fentanyl and 35 pseudoephedrine pills. The car proved to have

been stolen in Cabool.

Theresa Kenney, prosecuting attorney, said in a statement: "This plea agreement reflects the seriousness of these crimes, and the danger they pose on our community. As the Prosecuting Attorney, I remain committed to holding offenders accountable and protecting the safety of the citizens of Jasper County."

