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# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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## Official to be introduced, Allo Fiber to give update to council

BY DEBBY WOODIN  
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Joplin's new director for the Joplin Regional Commission on Homelessness will be introduced Monday at a meeting of the Joplin City Council.

Layne Bourgeois has been selected for the position and moved to Joplin recently. His role will be to coordinate community efforts to address homeless and work with organizations such as the Joplin Homeless Coalition in addition to the regional commission.

He recently served as executive director of the Southeast Idaho Council of Governments, a federally designated economic development district, where he led community and economic development initiatives, oversaw community-based aging services programs, and worked across government, nonprofit and private sectors to strengthen community systems and support vulnerable populations.

Bourgeois began in his role in April. The city of Joplin, the Regional Commission on Homelessness and the Homeless Coalition have partnered to address homelessness in the Joplin area. In 2025, the partners adopted the Community Plan to Address Homelessness, a city-chartered study that gathered information and data from community groups to identify priorities of the homelessness services community. One of the first agreed-upon goals was to hire a director of homelessness response to align and coordinate community efforts.

Eric Arganbright had started the job July 14, 2025, but resigned soon afterward.

### ALLO FIBER

Joplin residents attending or watching the meeting will also hear an update on the status of installing fiber cable from Allo Fiber for broadband services.

The telecommunications company was contracted by the city to be a Joplin broadband provider in 2024, broke ground later that year and this spring went live with its first customer.

Joplin is one 50 communities in four

SEE CITY, 2A



Ethan Beaver, a schoolteacher in Carthage, speaks during a forum on Amendment 5 Thursday in Carthage. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

## Touting 'Road to Zero'

Lawmakers promote Amendment 5 in Carthage town hall

BY JOHN HACKER  
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Missouri voters on Aug. 4 will decide whether to change the way state government is funded. They are being asked to eliminate the Missouri income tax and replace it with sales or use taxes on a number of goods and services that are not taxed currently.

Supporters of Missouri constitutional Amendment 5 came to Carthage on



State Sen. Curtis Trent (left) listens as state Rep. Bishop Davidson talks about replacing Missouri's income tax with sales taxes. Amendment 5 to do so will be on the ballot on Aug. 4.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Thursday to hold a public forum at Memorial Hall they called "Road to Zero," arguing for eliminating

the state income tax and replacing the revenue with sales and use taxes.

The event was hosted

by state Rep. Cathy Jo Loy, R-Carthage, and featured state Rep. Bishop Davidson, R-Republic, who sponsored the House version of the legislation creating Amendment 5, and state Sen. Curtis Trent, R-Springfield, who carried the legislation in the Senate.

About 50 people turned out for the event.

Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe also has been a supporter of the proposal.

The Missouri Association of Realtors has donated \$1.9 million to the campaign opposing Amendment 5, according to the Missouri Independent; Missouri Promise PAC, which supports Amendment 5,

SEE ZERO, 2A

## Joplin announces cleanup of stretch of Joplin Creek

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

The city of Joplin has announced a comprehensive debris and litter removal project along about 1.2 miles of the Joplin Creek corridor adjacent to Murphy Boulevard in Landreth Park beginning June 22.

The city has retained a cleanup contractor, Williams Diversified Material.

The work will begin on East

Fourth Street and move northwest along the corridor to North Main Street until complete. Previous work was completed in 2017 south of Seventh Street, and a section near Fourth Street and Murphy Boulevard was completed in 2025 with the assistance of Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway teams.

The initiative, one of a series of beautification efforts, is designed to improve the health, appearance and environmental quality of the stream while creating a

cleaner and more attractive space for the community. This project will focus on the removal of trash and discarded debris lodged in brush, undergrowth, wooded areas and tree lines along the creek banks.

Joplin Creek is also one of the numerous creeks and branches that serve as stormwater channels and flow across Joplin through both commercial and residential areas, the city said in a statement.

"This is a substantial brush and

debris removal and stormwater improvement for Joplin Creek, which flows through the heart of the city and multiple parks," Assistant City Manager Tony Robyn said in a statement. "Clean streams impact both the health and appearance of our community. We're looking forward to seeing the outcome of this effort and other areas under consideration."

Motorists are asked to remain alert and exercise caution when traveling through the area. Driv-

ers are encouraged to reduce speed, watch for contractor vehicles and equipment working in the area as they enter and exit roads near the creek, and obey any temporary traffic control signs or directions from project personnel.

The work is expected to take about 30 days, depending on site conditions and weather.

For information, contact the Joplin Parks and Recreation Department at 417-624-0820, ext. 1515.

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