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THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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IRAN: VP says talks have led to 'good foundation.' 2A

CARTHAGE: Chiefs linebacker holds football camp. 1B

Town hall on Amendment 5 scheduled

Meeting on ballot proposal set for next week at Joplin City Hall

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

A town hall meeting focused on Amendment 5, a

proposal by the Missouri Legislature that would replace the state income tax with increased sales and use taxes, will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, July 29, at Joplin City Hall.

The town hall is not a city event, with the fifth floor of City Hall, 602 S. Main St., being used simply as the venue.

It is being organized by Rep. Lane Roberts, R-Joplin.

The bill's sponsors, Rep. Bishop Davidson, R-Republic, and Sen. Curtis Trent, R-Springfield, will provide information and hold a question-and-answer session.

Amendment 5 is a proposal slated for the Aug. 4 ballot.

A similar event was hosted recently in Carthage by Rep. Cathy Jo Loy, R-Carthage.

For more information on the Joplin event, contact Roberts' office at 417-540-8185 or 573-751-3791.

Proponents of Amendment 5 argue that Missouri is losing high-paying jobs to states without income

taxes, such as Texas, and that phasing out the state income tax will make Missouri more competitive and attract more investment.

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

However, groups such as the Missouri Association of

SEE **AMENDMENT**, 2A

Liberty gets OK to build turbine

Utility has said it expects construction to start in late 2028 or early 2029

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Liberty has received permission from the Missouri Public Service Commission to go forward with a 250-megawatt natural gas turbine at its State Line Power Station in Joplin.

The PSC issued its order last week permitting the Joplin-based utility to "construct, install, own, operate, maintain and otherwise control" the turbine.

In a statement, the PSC said it "found that the proposed gas generation facility is needed to support Liberty's resource adequacy obligations as required by Southwest Power Pool. The Commission also found that Liberty has the operational experience and financial ability to construct and operate the facility, and that the project promotes the public interest with the conditions set forth in the agreement."

Liberty announced its proposal last fall.

The State Line plant currently generates just under 700 megawatts of power through a gas turbine generator and a combined-cycle generator. The plant was built in 1995.

The utility said in its application for state permission that it expects construction to begin in late 2028 or early 2029 and the generator to be available for service in the second quarter of 2030.

Aaron Doll, senior director of energy strategy for Liberty Central Region, said last fall that years of planning influenced by changing capacity requirements in the Southwest Power Pool, the electric grid for states such as Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, went into preparing the proposal.

Under the terms of the agreement, Liberty must:

- **SEEK** to enhance low-income customer participation in energy programs.
- **USE** applicable sales tax exemptions for equipment used in the construction of the new electric generation facility and evaluate opportunities to minimize property taxes associated with the project.

- **PROVIDE** quarterly updates on the development and

SEE **LIBERTY**, 2A

Road adventure



Paul Olsen (left) and Kemco Waller, both from California, put the roof up on their 1964 Cadillac Eldorado in Joplin during some light rain Sunday. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Vintage cars of 2026 Hemmings Great Race stop in Joplin

BY JOHN HACKER
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The 2026 Hemmings Great Race stopped overnight in Joplin on Sunday as drivers traveled from Collinsville, Illinois, on the Mother Road.

Officials say 142 classic cars are participating in the Great Race as well as celebrating the 100th anniversary of the creation of Route 66. The vintage vehicle years

range from 1911 to 1974.

It's the third visit of the race in Joplin in five years.

The race wraps up June 28. Cars were parked on Main Street in Joplin in a classic car show for a few hours during the stopover.

Roger Smith, driver, and his son-in-law, Eric De Jong, navigator, made the trip in Smith's restored 1953 Ford F-100 truck. Smith said his truck was restored several years ago after it was found in a fruit field

near Cashmere, Washington, where it had likely sat for over 20 years.

"It's got a flathead eight-cylinder engine, a three-speed transmission and 16-inch tires," Smith said. "It's just a beautifully running truck."

Smith said a friend of his wife's completed the work, including restoring the frame and changing the electrical system from 6 volts to 12 volts.

De Jong said he's always dreamed about what a great American road trip would be like and that this one has been quite an adventure, beginning with bringing the

truck from Washington to the start of the Great Race.

During the race, each car has a navigator and a driver and the navigator guides the driver on the specific turn-by-turn directions provided by race organizers.

In the race, winners are not determined by speed. It is a combination of time, speed and distance in which a course master has driven and mapped the course and provides precise instructions on how fast competitors should drive and what turns to take. The drivers take off one

SEE **RACE**, 2A

19th century cemetery dedicated at bike park

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Lemon family name occurs with different spellings over the years.

BY KIMBERLY BARKER
news@joplinglobe.com

A 19th century mining family, whose gravesite was discovered during construction of Momentum Bike Park in Joplin, was remembered with a special ceremony Saturday by the

Jasper County Cemetery Preservation Society.

Surrounded by a wooden fence in Momentum Bike Park, Lemons Cemetery is the final resting place of miner Kenyon Mortimer Lemons and his wife, Sarah Ellen Lemons, and will be preserved.

Saturday's ceremony was a culmination of decades of search efforts by the Lemons family, as well as

research conducted by local historians and volunteers.

Rikki Smith, president of preservation group, was joined at the cemetery by several members, volunteers and a granddaughter of the Lemmons family, Mary Ellen Lemmons, of California. Other members of the Lemmons family attended the ceremony virtually.

"On behalf of myself,

Sarah and Kenyon's other grandchildren, which by the way goes down to at least five or six levels of grandchildren, especially those who weren't able to be here today, I want to thank the Jasper County Cemetery Preservation Society and everyone else who helped get this restoration done," Mary Ellen Lemmons said.

SEE **CEMETERY**, 2A



Rikki Smith, president of the Jasper County Cemetery Preservation Society, and her grandson, Grant Marsh, 2, place flowers at Lemons Cemetery in Momentum Bike Park in Joplin. GLOBE | KIMBERLY BARKER

