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ROUNDUP: Suits against maker of herbicide blocked. 4A | SPRINGFIELD: Area athletes honored by commission. 1B

Kehoe gets out-of-state support for Amendment 5

Missouri governor has opposed such funding in arguing for Amendment 4

BY JEREMY KOHLER
ProPublica

Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe has spent months telling voters that the

state constitution is under threat from "out-of-state special interests" using ballot initiatives to bypass the Republican-controlled Legislature and enact



Kehoe major policy changes. The measures have included legalizing recreational marijuana, expanding Medicaid and restoring abortion rights.

That argument is at the center of Kehoe's support for Amendment 4, a measure in the Aug. 4 primary that would make it harder for Missourians to amend their constitution through resident-led ballot initiatives.

"Our constitution shouldn't be the victim of

out-of-state special interests who spend millions to deceive voters and pass out-of-touch policies," Kehoe said in a video posted to the social media site X.

But when it comes to a different constitutional amendment central to his own agenda, Kehoe is benefiting from financial

support provided by a Delaware nonprofit that does not disclose the identities of its donors.

Kehoe has slated Amendment 5, which would put Missouri on a path toward eliminating the state income tax, on the ballot for

SEE KEHOE, 2A

ISSUE OF TIMING



All parking spots on the inside of the Carthage square are blocked on the north and south sides to allow for the cranes brought in for the reroofing of the Jasper County Courthouse.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Courthouse roofing project stirs ire of business owners on Carthage square

BY JOHN HACKER
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Jasper County commissioners are putting a new roof on the courthouse in Carthage, but some business owners on the square are not happy about the timing of the project.

Jasper County Associate Commissioner Mike Landis said the project started June 15 and is expected to last five to six weeks. He also said the project took several weeks to put



A Mayberry Construction worker puts roofing debris in a dump basket hung from one of two cranes being used to help with the reroofing of the courthouse in Carthage.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

together and that June is a month when roofers work the most because of weather conditions.

"What does it do in the spring? It rains and is windy," Landis said. "Typically, your best time to roof is June because it's not as hot so you want to get it on and that gives you July and August when it's really hot for the

shingles to really seal it down properly. You don't want to do it in the fall because what does it do in the fall? It rains and is windy. And you don't want to do it in the winter, and we couldn't wait for next spring to do it."

Carthage business owners with the

SEE ROOF, 2A

Panel OKs sale of Neosho water, sewer systems

Missouri American Water to pay \$34.5 million

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

NEOSHO, Mo. — Missouri American Water can go forward with acquisition of the Neosho water and wastewater systems, the Missouri Public Service Commission ruled this week.

The PSC on Wednesday announced it has issued an order approving an agreement and granting certificates of convenience and necessity for Missouri American.

The Neosho City Council had approved the deal last summer.

When considering whether to grant a certificate, the PSC takes into consideration criteria including whether there is a need for the service, whether the applicant is qualified to provide the service, whether the applicant has the financial ability to provide the service, whether the applicant's proposal is economically feasible and whether the service promotes the public interest.

The PSC said in a statement: "In this case, the commission found that the proposed agreement addresses this criterion. There is a need for service to the existing customer base in Neosho and there is a lack of another provider in the area. Missouri American Water currently operates other utility systems. It has shown its financial ability to operate and improve the systems it currently owns. The project is economically feasible in that sufficient projected revenues will be enough to cover the cost of service and Missouri American Water has backing from its parent company, American Water. Finally, the public interest requirement is met due to the ongoing need for service and the need for investment in replacing and repairing aging infrastructure in Neosho."

The PSC also ordered that existing Neosho water and sewer rates remain in effect until a future general rate case. In August, the Neosho City Council gave final approval to an increase in water and wastewater rates. Water went from \$6.33 per thousand gallons to \$7.77, and wastewater went from \$5.33 per

SEE NEOSHO, 2A



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Volume 130 | Number 229



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