

STORM: Assistance available for cleaning up debris. **3A**

BASEBALL: Joplin Jailbirds fall 6-5 in extra innings. **1B**

Council discusses camping ordinance

Health inspections
also on agenda
at Monday meeting

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin's "camping ordinance," which sparked controversy because it involved

issuing citations for people who were accused of misusing city parks and benches, was back on the agenda of the Joplin City Council on Monday.

Also on the agenda was the Joplin Health Department's food inspection process.

85 CITATIONS

There have been 85 cita-

tions issued by the city of Joplin alleging violations of the city's camping ordinance since enforcement of it started last October.

City Prosecutor Joseph Crosthwait reported on the ticket numbers and provided information about enforcement actions at the meeting.

City Manager Nick Edwards opened the

discussion by saying the ordinance, which created questions and concerns when first adopted last year, "applies to everyone in the community. It was not targeted to particular individuals."

Police Chief Richard Pearson said the ordinance "was for the benefit of all residents" and to protect the intended uses of city facili-

ties such as parks and park benches.

In the first month of its use, October 2025, 35 citations alleging violations of park and park bench accommodations were issued.

"We haven't reached that number since then" in one month, Crosthwait said.

SEE **COUNCIL**, 2A

Jasper gets loan from Missouri DNR

\$364,000 intended
for work on drinking
water system

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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JASPER, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Natural Resources on Tuesday announced an award of a \$364,000 loan to the city of Jasper for planning and design work related to its drinking water improvement project.

The DNR said in a statement, "These funds will provide vital interim financing to cover early engineering and administrative costs while the city works with the department to secure a larger loan and grant funding package for the project."

The project, set to start in 2027, will cost \$3.5 million.

The DNR said that the early planning phases of infrastructure projects can represent a financial burden for some communities with water and wastewater needs. The state loan is an alternative to private financing.

The state's planning and design loans bear no interest and come with a five-year term. The DNR estimates its funding will save the city's ratepayers approximately \$77,000 in interest over the loan's five-year term.

"While we often take it for granted, adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to the quality of life of every Missourian and the sustainability of communities and industries throughout the state," Kurt Schaefer, director of the DNR, said in statement.

The department's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund finances improvements to water treatment plants, distribution systems and water storage and supply facilities. The fund also finances system interconnection and consolidation projects. Communities that borrow from the fund benefit from the below-market interest rate and from assistance a project manager provides throughout the project.

'READY TO GO'



Lacy Haile (left) supervises as daughter August Haile, 18, with the Carthage FFA and Avilla 4-H, shears her sheep named Maximus for Wednesday's market sheep show and Saturday's market sale at the Jasper County Youth Fair at Carthage's Municipal Park.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Local kids showing, learning at Jasper County Youth Fair

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — The Jasper County Youth Fair is a place where the experts are some of the youngest people.

It's a place where those interested in knowing where some of their food comes from can learn about animals that make those products possible from an elementary, middle school or high

school student who raised that cow, calf, goat or chicken.

The fair is entering the home stretch with some of the biggest shows and events on the schedule the next three days and evenings.

On Wednesday, judges were roaming through rows of agricultural engineering projects and interviewing young people throughout the fair for different contests.

And young people were washing and caring for their animals and looking forward to the market shows later in the day.

FUTURE AG TEACHER

August Haile, 18, with the Avilla 4-H and Carthage

SEE **FAIR**, 2A



Trapper McCoy, 13, with the Jasper 4-H, shows his cow-calf pair Wednesday at the Jasper County Youth Fair in Carthage.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Healthcare sales tax not off table in Amendment 5 proposal

Prescription drugs,
doctor visits
currently exempt

BY BRAM SABLE-SMITH
KFF Health News

ST. LOUIS — Missouri healthcare advocate Leslie Ortals and her husband want to start a family, but she worries they can't afford it. The 27-year-old said she

takes 10 medications daily to manage multiple chronic illnesses.

Now she worries the cost of those drugs could rise — not because of price increases, but because of a tax system revamp put on the ballot by the state's Republican-dominated Legislature and backed by the Republican governor.

Prescription drugs and doctor visits are currently exempt from taxes in the state. But in August, Missou-

ri voters will weigh in on a proposed constitutional amendment to give the Legislature the power to replace the state's income tax with expanded sales taxes, including on goods and services currently exempt.

"Politicians want Missourians to trust them when they say not to worry about our medications and healthcare being up for grabs," Ortals said at a June press event organized by Progress MO, a progressive advocacy group.

"I have spent enough time in Jefferson City to know better," said Ortals, who works for a Democratic state legislator but was speaking in her personal capacity. "I have watched them speak about protecting life while making lifesaving healthcare less accessible."

Taxes on healthcare are unusual in the United States but not unprecedented. Most states already tax over-the-counter drugs. Illinois is the only state to also tax pre-

scription drugs. Delaware, Hawaii, New Mexico and Washington all have taxes on services by physicians, dentists, out-of-hospital nursing providers and medical laboratories.

Critics of the amendment to eliminate income tax in Missouri say it'd be difficult to make up the lost revenue without also imposing taxes on healthcare. Nearly two-thirds of the state's general revenue budget comes from income taxes, about \$8.7

billion in 2026. Failing to make up that revenue could lead to steep cuts in state services.

The proposed tax cut comes at an already precarious time for the state budget. Gov. Mike Kehoe restricted about \$440 million in spending in this year's budget over concerns of lagging revenues. The Legislature has passed a series of tax cuts since 2022, including

SEE **AMENDMENT**, 2A

