THE JOPLIN GLOBE

FRIDAY | JULY 24, 2026 joplinglobe.com | $2.50

MIDEAST: Oil producers step up plans to bypass strait. 4A | **NEOSHO:** Wrestling, other sports highlighted on square. 1B

Nevada hospital seeks dismissal of suit

Joplin alleges harm caused by hospital bringing nonresidents to city

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Attorneys for the Nevada Regional Medical Center have filed a motion asking a Jasper County court to dismiss two counts of a lawsuit filed by the city of Joplin against the medical center late last year that alleged homeless patients were being dumped in Joplin.

No action has yet been taken by the court or the city of Joplin in response to the motion, Jasper County court records show.

Joplin officials said in October that the lawsuit was filed after they confirmed numerous instances over the past two years of agencies from outside the city sending or bringing transients who have nowhere to stay and no connection to Joplin to the city and abandoning them.

City officials sent a cease-and-desist order to the Nevada Regional Medical Center about delivering individuals to Joplin who have no place to stay. After that, the City Council passed an ordinance "prohibiting the displacement of transient individuals."

The city said in its summary of the ordinance that the agencies dropped off transients at Joplin shelters and in one instance at a convenience store within the Joplin city limits.

"Displaced transient individuals have put a strain on public resources and led to increased crime, drug activity, and other health and safety concerns," the summary said. "Additionally, displaced transient individuals deplete the already limited resources available to local residents experiencing homelessness. This ordinance is designed to prioritize citizens, resources, community health and safety, and deter other jurisdictions from the reckless displacement of problematic transient individuals."

The City Council in

SEE **SUIT**, 2A

PUBLIC INPUT

Mathias Cowen, of Carthage, talks with Randy Rouson, with CDM Smith Consulting and Planning, about the proposed west bypass around Joplin and upgrading the Highway 249-Highway 171 corridor to interstate status during a public meeting Tuesday in Carthage.
GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

MoDOT studying 2 major highway projects around Joplin

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Transportation is studying two major highway projects in Jasper County and got a heavy dose of public opinion this week on both.

Public meetings were held to talk about a study looking at the potential challenges and benefits of two separate projects, one to bring highways 249 and 171 from 32nd Street to the Interstate 44/ Interstate 49 corridor up to interstate status and the other to build a new west Joplin bypass. The latter would be built somewhere in a corridor between the Kansas state line and Central City Road from I-44 on the south to somewhere on Highway 171 in the vicinity of the roundabout at Highway 96 and Route YY.

The intersection of Highway 171 and Interstate 49 at Carthage would have to be rebuilt or a new interchange built probably to the north for the Highway 249/171 corridor to have a chance to be designated an interstate.
GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Craig Switzer, project manager for the study, said it is supposed to "evaluate how these two corridors can support the long-term transportation needs and economic development potential of the area."

No funding has been identified or allocated for upgrades or construction along either of these two corridors, according to MoDOT.

MoDOT spokesman Dave Mitchell emphasized that there were no plans at this

SEE **MODOT**, 2A

Early voting period opens with rush

Turnout in Missouri primary could be high

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

The first day of early voting in Missouri indicates a strong primary turnout, comparable to or possibly exceeding past primaries where hotly contested ballot measures drew more votes than candidate races.

Four times as many voters cast ballots in St. Charles County on Tuesday than on the first day of early voting before the 2024 primary, Director of Elections Kurt Bahr said.

In Boone County, roughly 3% of registered voters took advantage of the opening of the "no-excuse absentee" period where any voter can cast their ballot through Monday, Aug. 3, County Clerk

SEE **VOTING**, 2A

Absentee voting surges in area

Jasper, Newton counties see increase

BY JOHN HACKER
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Both Jasper and Newton counties are seeing an increase in early voting for the Aug. 4 primary.

Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis said the elections office in the Jasper County Courthouse, where voters can cast absentee ballots in person, had seen 421 voters as of Thursday, since the start of absentee voting in late June.

SEE **ABSENTEE**, 2A

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