

DISEASE: Joplin issues advisory on cyclospora outbreak. **3A** | **FOOTBALL:** Area high school teams prepare for season. **1B**

Joplin's
Sunshine
Lamp
Trolley
picks
up pas-
sen-
gers
earlier
this
year
at a
stop in
downtown
Joplin.
GLOBE
FILE



Joplin's trolley service needs to expand, council members told

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin's trolley service needs to expand because of increasing passenger loads and the need for more destinations, the city's transportation coordinator told the City Council on Monday night.

"Our system is struggling for

the citizens and for our drivers, and we need to be able to respond to what our citizens need," said Gina Thompson, transportation coordinator.

She proposed expanding the system from three routes to five in order to serve an increasing number of passengers to get to the locations they need.

Some of the existing routes

would be extended. The green route, for example, which currently goes to the Walmart store on 15th Street, will leave there and go to Davis Boulevard in the Joplin Industrial Park, Crowder College's Advanced Training and Workforce Center and Sam's Club.

Another route be extended on

SEE **TROLLEY**, 2A

GORILLA RISING

Ribbon cut on \$51.2M project in Pittsburg

BY JOHN HACKER
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PITTSBURG, Kan. — It was a big day for both the city of Pittsburg and Pittsburg State University as they cut ribbons on a new building for the Kelce College of Business and new student housing in the renovated century-old Besse Hotel, both in downtown Pittsburg.

The two ribbon-cuttings followed a decade of fundraising and planning for the \$51.2 million "Gorilla Rising" project.

"Today has been the culmination of a long dream that started in the early teens here," said Lynn Murray, associate dean of the Kelce Undergraduate School of Business. "We knew we needed new facilities for our students and for our faculty, and we've gone through a couple of iterations, a lot of fundraising and a lot of



The second of two ribbon-cuttings of the day takes place with Pittsburg State University officials, students and community leaders at the Besse Hotel, 121 E. Fourth St.

COURTESY | PSU

friendmaking to end up here."

Murray said the new 60,000-square-foot building at 216 N. Broadway in Pittsburg will change how students learn and how professors teach.

"What we're really excited about is what it means for our students," she said. "There are 200 seats in this building outside of

classrooms for students to hang out and to study and to meet with faculty, to meet with their fellow students and to interact with the community. We're in the middle of the heart of downtown, and so it's really going to change how we approach education and what our students leave with."

PSU President Thomas

Newsom, who took over as university president in 2025, congratulated former Pitt State and community leaders who helped make the ribbon-cuttings possible.

"This project as well as the Besse Hotel renovations evolved over more than 10 years," Newsom

SEE **PROJECT**, 2A



Dean Van Galen, president of Missouri Southern State University, welcomes physician and scientist Dr. Baona Afberts from the University of Milano-Bicocca to campus Tuesday. The two universities will exchange medical students next year.

GLOBE | DEBBY WOODIN

Exchange between MSSU, Italian university planned

Effort will continue international mission

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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A new partnership that will lead to an exchange of students next year between Missouri Southern State University and the University of Milano-Bicocca in Italy was celebrated Tuesday at the MSSU campus, where university officials said the effort will further MSSU's international mission.

Through a partnership with two Italian academics and a university in Italy, five or six Italian students will be sent here to study next summer at the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center on the campus and at Freeman Health System. In turn, MSSU will send a like number of local medical students to study at the University of Milano-Bicocca.

Representatives of each school have been instrumental in arranging the exchange — Dr. Baona Afberts, a physician scientist, board-certified neurologist and assistant professor from the University of Milano-Bicocca, and MSSU biology professor Dr. Alla Barry.

All three pillars of Southern's mission to expand global learning opportunities will be achieved with the exchange,

SEE **MSSU**, 2A

Missouri Supreme Court seeks swift action on redistricting

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

The Missouri Supreme Court wants a quick resolution in lower courts of a lawsuit that will decide if voters will see a congressional redistricting referendum on the Nov. 3 ballot.

In a Monday letter to Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green, Chief Justice W. Brent Powell noted that state law requires the case to be moved to the front of the docket "and heard and decided... as quickly as possible."

Whatever Green decides, Powell wrote, the case is likely to be appealed.

"Accordingly, the matter must be handled expeditiously to ensure sufficient time for expedited appellate review to be completed," Powell wrote. "Your cooperation in ensuring a timely resolution of this matter in both the circuit and appellate courts is appreciated."

The trial court must act quickly because state law doesn't allow the courts to add anything to the ballot after Sept. 8.

ONGOING FIGHT OVER GERRYMANDERING

The case over whether the referendum will be on the ballot is the last chance for the campaign to overturn the gerrymandered redistricting plan that Republicans pushed through the Legislature last year under pressure from President Donald Trump. Through more than a dozen lawsuits, opponents of the plan have lost or been stymied as they questioned the legality of the map passed to favor Republicans in the

5th Congressional District.

On Aug. 4, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins blocked from the ballot a referendum petition submitted by a political action committee called People Not Politicians that contained more than 300,000 signatures. At the same time, he declared that a proposed constitutional amendment, submitted by initiative petition, will not be on the ballot because it improperly includes more than one subject.

Hoskins declared that the

SEE **CASE**, 2A

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