



# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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**FUNDRAISER:** Literacy Liftoff rescheduled for Sept. 10. **3A** | **FOOTBALL:** High school season to kick off on Friday. **1B**

## Joplin City Council rolls back data center setback regulations

BY DEBBY WOODIN  
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After voting Aug. 17 to increase setback distance requirements for data centers near residential and other populated areas, the Joplin City Council on Monday night rolled those back, citing problems that could result from the widened buffer zones.

Mayor Rob O'Brian said the council asked that a

public hearing be scheduled to discuss an amendment to last week's version of the data center ordinance. At that meeting, the council voted to widen the setback requirements from 300 to 600 feet in residential areas and where there are churches and daycare centers.

At this week's meeting, Rebecca Collins, director of the Joplin Sustainable Technology Alliance, said, "While physical setback and

native tree landscaping requirements work together to provide a basic visual buffer, distance alone is not a complete shield against industrial impacts."

She said the low frequency noise, like cooling fans, can travel half a mile.

Collins said that strict decibel limits for data center noise would be better controlled or reduced by the decibel limits rather than by wider setback requirements.

She said that would give the city enforceable standards for noise control.

Councilman Josh Bard said a city ordinance with performance metrics such as decibel limits is more enforceable than setback requirements. He said there are 21 specific performance standards and those reduce the need for setbacks. He sought to return the distance to 300 feet.

Councilman Brian Cowles

proposed having a 300-foot setback bordering residential and sensitive properties such as daycare centers and churches. He said setback measurements should apply to each point of the data center. He also sought a 100-foot setback for industrial and commercial areas. Setback requirements could be made shorter in areas that are not located near sensitive properties, he said.

Councilman Josh DeTar

said the ordinance last week was confusing on where measurements are to be taken on data center properties.

Troy Bolander, the city's planning director, said the setback measurements, under last week's ordinance, would apply from streets and roads as well as other structures.

The mayor said he

SEE **CITY**, 2A

## Shoal Creek Village treasurer on probation for theft

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
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NEOSHO, Mo. — A Joplin woman who served as treasurer of Shoal Creek Drive Village has been sentenced in Newton County Circuit Court for the theft of money from the village's treasury.

Katrina Gourley, 44, on Monday was given a suspended sentence of seven years in prison on a stealing charge. She was charged in 2024 with felony stealing for theft of at least \$25,000 from the treasury between Aug. 2 and Sept. 19, 2022.

During a sentencing hearing Monday, Judge Charles Genesio placed her on probation for five years on conditions that she does not use alcohol or controlled substances except those prescribed for her.

As part of a plea agreement, she also is to make restitution to the village of \$41,524.24 in payments of \$450 per month plus court costs, according to on-line court records.

Newton County Sheriff's Capt. Jerry Hornback said in a probable-cause statement that Gourley stole the money over a period of a little more than a month from village board bank accounts.

Hornback wrote that a member of the

SEE **THEFT**, 2A



Traffic on Interstate 44 makes its way through the Fidelity interchange south of Carthage and east of Joplin on Tuesday. The Missouri Department of Transportation has posted on its website a rendering of current plans to replace the cloverleaf design of the interchange with a combination of smoother traffic ramps and roundabouts.

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## Improving safety

New MoDOT rendering shows proposed changes to Fidelity interchange

BY JOHN HACKER  
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A new animated rendering by Missouri Department of Transportation

shows the scope of changes planned for the Fidelity interchange where Interstate 44 connects with Interstate 49 to the north and Missouri Highway 59 to the south.

The video shows what MoDOT calls "turbine" ramps connecting I-44 and I-49 to the north toward Carthage and eventually Kansas City, while a pair of roundabouts

allows drivers to go south on Highway 59 to Diamond and Neosho.

Kristi Bachman, director of MoDOT's Forward 44 project, which covers improvements from the Oklahoma state line to St. Louis, said the Fidelity interchange is a major part of the total project that is expected to cost \$471 million.

MoDOT held a ground-

breaking to kick off the Forward 44 project Monday in Springfield.

The animated rendering of the Fidelity interchange as well as interchange work at Missouri Highway 13 and I-44 in Springfield can be seen at <https://www.modot.org/projects/forward-44-southwest>

SEE **ROAD**, 2A



Members of the area chapter of 100 Women Who Care present a check for \$5,925 on Tuesday to the Community Clinic of Southwest Missouri.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

## 100 Women Who Care gives to Community Clinic of SWMO

BY JOHN HACKER  
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The Community Clinic of Southwest Missouri is the latest beneficiary of 100 Women Who Care, a local chapter of a worldwide group dedicated to helping those in need.

Valerie Doerr, founder of the Jasper/Newton County chapter, said the group meets quarterly and invites three local charities to give a presentation with the possibility of receiving a donation from the group.

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"Today, we are honoring our third charity for the year by giving them a check," Doerr said. "After they have presented at our meeting, we vote. The charity that tugs our hearts the most wins the most votes, and therefore receives at least \$100 check from each one of our members."

Tuesday's gift of \$5,925 will help women who fall through the cracks with medical visits and vital examinations, said Stephanie Brady, executive

director of the Community Clinic of Southwest Missouri.

"This is going to help us reach women who need a well-woman visit," Brady said. "And with a well-woman visit, we're doing a cervical and uterine cancer screen. We're doing mammograms, we're doing clinical breast exams, and we're able to also provide some of that follow-up care whenever somebody is diagnosed. We're able to

SEE **100**, 2A

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