

JASPER COUNTY: Commissioners approve burn ban. 2A | SOFTBALL: Webb City logs run-rule win in home opener. 1B

Man charged in Grand Falls shooting

23-year-old Pittsburg resident in stable condition, police say

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Charges have been filed against a 19-year-old Lamar man who allegedly was involved in a dispute that resulted in a shooting early Wednesday at Grand Falls. Authorities were called to

the site at 2:59 a.m. when the Joplin Emergency Communications Center began receiving 911 calls reporting gunshots at the falls along Shoal Creek, according to police. It was reported that a Pittsburg, Kansas, man had sustained gunshot wounds. Police administered emergency aid and carried the man to a waiting Newton County ambulance that responded to the scene. The person who was wounded was identified as

Devin Madison, 23, of Pittsburg. Police said he was taken to a local hospital and is listed in stable condition. Kaidence Wise, 19, of Lamar, is charged in Newton County with assault or attempted assault, two counts of armed criminal action, kidnapping and inflicting injury on Madison, and unlawful use of a weapon. The probable-cause statements allege that Wise and three others, including two girls, were at Grand Falls

when Wise assaulted Madison, alleging that Madison had tried to engage in a relationship with a minor. Madison denied that he knew the minor was 16, saying that she had told him on social media she was older. A verbal dispute broke out and when Madison attempted to leave the area he allegedly was prevented from doing so. The verbal disturbance then escalated and became physical, Joplin police reported. During

the physical altercation, one man produced a firearm and several shots were fired. As a result of the initial investigation, two firearms were seized and four people were arrested and transported to the Joplin City Jail. The investigation remains open and active and the Joplin Police Department asks that anyone with information regarding the shooting contact Detective John Watkins at 417-623-3131, ext. 1603.

GOP calls on Ross to withdraw from race

Missouri House candidate arrested, held with no bond

BY JOHN HACKER
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State and local Republican leaders are calling on Thomas Ross to withdraw as Republican nominee for Missouri House District 161, which represents most of Joplin.

Ross has been arrested and was being held in the Joplin City Jail as of Wednesday afternoon, but no one in law enforcement would say why he was arrested.

The city's online jail roster confirmed that Thomas Christopher Scott Ross was arrested on an "unspecified warrant" Wednesday and that he was being held on no bond.

Joplin police Capt. Austin Wolf referred questions about Ross to FBI public affairs specialist Dixon Land.

Land replied, "The FBI has no comment at this time."

A call to a cellphone listed in Missouri Ethics Commission documents as belonging to Ross was unanswered, and no one responded to a message left on that phone as of 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Ross won the Republican nomination in August to replace Lane Roberts, who wasn't running because of term limits. Ross won by just 31 votes over Joplin real estate agent Louise Secker, 1,586 to 1,555.

In the November general election, Ross faces Democrat Aaron Metzger, who ran unopposed in the primary and got 1,212 votes.

Missouri Republican Party Chairman Peter Kinder released a statement on Facebook regarding Ross: "I was deeply troubled to learn of the arrest of Thomas Ross this morning. While Mr. Ross is entitled to due process and the facts surrounding this matter must be allowed to come to light, the circumstances of his arrest are serious and deeply troubling. Being the Republican nominee for public office carries with it a responsibility to the voters, the community and the principles our party represents. The people of the 161st District deserve a nominee who can devote his full attention to earning their trust and representing

SEE ROSS, 2A

Continuing journey



Neosho historian Charlie Brown (left) points to a spot on an aerial photo of Camp Crowder before the end of World War II. The photo is held by Sheena StandingBear and Mike Roberson.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Camp Crowder documentary to be released in June 2027

BY JOHN HACKER
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NEOSHO, Mo. — Uncovering the history of Camp Crowder has become a journey for historians, filmmakers and the Newton County Tourism Council. And the journey continues. Steve Roark, president of the

council, announced last week that the release of the documentary titled "The Middle of Everywhere" is now planned for the 83rd anniversary of the D-Day amphibious landings at Normandy in France, on June 6, 2027. "Have you ever gone on a road trip and didn't know

SEE CAMP, 2A



"The Middle of Everywhere" documentary director Mike Corcoran (left) and digital creator Drew Kimball talk recently about the release of the documentary.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Court questions effort to keep redistricting referendum off ballot

Missouri justices must rule by Tuesday

BY RUDI KELLER
Missouri Independent

Judges of the Missouri Supreme Court on Wednesday repeatedly pressed attorneys defending Secretary of State Denny Hoskins to explain why voters should

not see a referendum on congressional redistricting on the November ballot. The case over the gerrymandered congressional redistricting plan forced through by Republicans in a 2025 special session is the final legal battle to be

settled before the November election. The result means more than just whether the plan will be on the ballot — it will determine the district lines used Nov. 3 and potentially affect the fight over control of Congress. The court also heard an appeal Wednesday in a separate case over when petitioners may begin col-

lecting signatures on a referendum. More than 100,000 signatures were not checked on the referendum petition because they were collected before the form of the petition was approved. The court must rule by Tuesday on whether the referendum, which would be Proposition A, will be on the ballot. The case over

signatures is not as pressing because there is time to check additional signatures and there is no dispute that the referendum had enough signatures to qualify for the ballot without them. On Aug. 4, Hoskins declared the referendum petition insufficient. He said the Missouri Constitution does not explicitly allow a

statewide vote on a congressional redistricting plan and that the U.S. Constitution does not allow it, attaching an opinion from Attorney General Catherine Hanaway. Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green agreed with Hoskins, and People Not Politicians, the political action

SEE COURT, 2A

